



## 55th Washington Policy Seminar Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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### OVERVIEW INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

Q: Where and when is the 55<sup>th</sup> Washington Policy Seminar taking place?

A: WPS will begin on Wednesday, March 13 at 1:00pm and will conclude on Saturday, March 16 at 12:00pm. WPS will take place at the [Washington Marriott Wardman Park](#) located at 2660 Woodley Road NW, Washington, DC 20008. The hotel is located right next to the [Woodley Park Metro station \(red line\)](#), which also has a bus stop for both [WMATA busses](#) and the [DC Circulator](#).

Q: How can I register for WPS?

A: WPS registration will take place online. You will receive an e-mail from [epfp@iel.org](mailto:epfp@iel.org) on Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The deadline for Fellows to register is January 14<sup>th</sup>. Alumni registration is open from January 15<sup>th</sup> to January 31<sup>st</sup> on a first-come first-served basis.

Q: What if I have dietary restrictions or require special accommodations?

A: You will be able to note dietary restrictions and/or special accommodations on the WPS registration form. Our National EPFP Staff will be in touch regarding any logistical arrangements to help you access and enjoy the conference!

### ON SITE INFORMATION

Q: When do I check-in for WPS?

A: Fellows can check in for WPS on the Mezzanine level of the [Washington Marriott Wardman Park](#), outside of the Thurgood Marshall Ballroom, on Wednesday, March 13 between 10:30am and 1:00pm to receive their nametags, conference program, and other materials. Check-in will likely be busiest between 12:30-1:00pm, so we encourage Fellows to check in earlier during the check-in period, if possible. Please note that all Fellows must check in for their hotel reservations separately at the front desk in the lobby.



If you are arriving after WPS check-in time or on a later date, you can still receive your materials at the registration/information desk, which will be located outside of the Thurgood Marshall Ballroom, on the Mezzanine level, throughout the conference.

Q: What is the dress code?

A: The dress code for WPS is business casual. Please keep in mind that the meeting rooms are often kept cooler than normal room temperature.

Q: What is the EPFP Twitter handle and event hashtag?

A: Follow us @epfp\_iel and join the conversation using #epfpWPS

### HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Q: How can I reserve a hotel room at the Marriott Wardman Park for WPS?

A: We have a room block at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel for EPFP Fellows and coordinators attending WPS. You will receive the reservation link for our room block in your registration confirmation email. Rooms in our Marriott Wardman room block are at a group rate of \$289 per night, plus tax, with upgraded room options for a higher rate (per hotel availability).

The hotel will honor the group rate for an additional 3 days pre/post WPS *based on availability*. The hotel is already fully committed for several days in March, so we strongly encourage making reservations as soon as the registration opens. We strongly encourage Fellows to consider sharing rooms. A quarter of our block's inventory is comprised of double bed rooms.

Q: Can I share a room?

A: Yes, you may double-up with other participants as you prefer. When making a hotel reservation, select 2 (or more) occupants and specify in the "comments" section whether you require 2 beds.

Q: What are my payment options for hotel reservations?

A: Credit Card or Debit Card. Please note: at time of check in a hold will be placed on the given method of payment for Room, Tax and incidentals for all nights.

Cash or Personal Check to cover Room and Tax. Please note: an additional deposit of \$25 per day will be required for incidentals of which whatever is not utilized will be returned/credited back at checkout.

Company Check. Mailed to the hotel prior to arrival to allow enough time for the check to clear. Check can be made payable to Washington Marriott Wardman Park and sent to the following address: 2660 Woodley Road NW, Washington DC, 20008 Attn: Accounting Dept. (it is strongly suggested to use a mailing service that provides a tracking number, such as



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certified mail via USPS, UPS, FedEx )

Third-Party Credit Card Authorization. A Company or Personal Credit Card/Debit Card can be utilized as a method of payment if the cardholder/authorized signer will not be present with the card during the check in process. A requested Credit Card Authorization link will be sent out by email. To obtain the link for the credit card authorization form please send a request to [Laurie.A.Velasco@marriott.com](mailto:Laurie.A.Velasco@marriott.com).

Q: Where can I find more information about Starwood Database Security?

A: <https://answers.kroll.com/>

### OPTIONAL WPS ACTIVITIES

Q: What are the pre- and post-conference activities?

A: We will be offering optional pre-conference tours on Wednesday, March 13, from 10:30am-12pm, and post-conference site visits on Saturday, March 16, from 1:00-3pm. We will be offering the following pre- and post-conference activities:

Wednesday, March 13, 10:30am-12pm

Pre-conference Site Visit to the [US Department of Education](#) (limited spots available)

Sunday, March 16, 1:00-2:30pm

Post-conference Site Visit to the [U.S. Capitol Visitor's Center](#) (limited spots available)

Q: How can I register for these pre- and post-conference activities?

A: Sign up for pre- and post-conference site visits will open in 2019. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Those confirmed for a tour will receive an email with logistical instructions.

### VISITING WASHINGTON, DC

Q: What restaurants and bars are near the Marriott Wardman?

A: You can find a list of restaurants and bars within walking distance of the Marriott Wardman [here](#).

Q: What is public transportation like in DC?

A: The [Metro](#) is the subway system in DC and is perhaps the best way to get around the city efficiently and inexpensively. We recommend that you purchase a SmarTrip card, refillable at any Metro station. Metro fares vary depending on your destination. The closest Metro station to the Marriott Wardman Park is Woodley Park (red line).

The [DC Circulator](#) is a bus service with routes to many popular areas around the city, including the National Mall, Georgetown, Union Station, Capitol Hill, and Nationals Park.



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You can use a SmarTrip card or cash to pay the \$1 fare. The Woodley Park-McPherson Square route stops right outside the Woodley Park Metro Station.

Taxis are very common in DC and tend to be easily hailed on most main streets and at hotels, Union Station, and airports. Most DC taxis are red. Ridesharing programs like [Uber](#) and [Lyft](#) are also widely used in DC.

Q: What will the weather be like in March?

A: March weather in DC is typically Spring-like but will still have colder days. Daytime temperatures tend to be in the low 50s and 60s. Overnight temperatures can drop below freezing. It is recommended that you bring a warm jacket, prepare for the possibility of rain, and consider dressing in layers, especially if you will be out and about for extended periods of time. Please check the weather forecast prior to arrival.

Q: I'm interested in sightseeing around DC. Where can I find information about tours and landmarks?

A: Visit [Washington.org](#), DC's official visitor website, for more information about sightseeing. Please note that Spring is prime tourist season in DC, and the city is very busy throughout the month, particularly if the cherry blossoms are in bloom. Activities requiring reservations or tickets may have limited availability and/or higher prices during this time of year, so it is recommended to plan activities early.

If you are interested in scheduling a tour of the U.S. Capitol, please contact the office of your local U.S. Representative.

Q: Will the cherry blossoms be in bloom during WPS?

A: The peak bloom for the cherry blossoms that line the Tidal Basin changes each year depending on weather, but peak bloom is typically in early April. To find out when peak bloom for cherry blossoms is expected this year, please visit the National Cherry Blossom Festival's [Bloom Watch page](#).