

POLITICAL SCIENCE, M.A.

The Department of Political Science offers graduate study leading to the doctor of philosophy in political science. The department does not admit for master's degrees, accepting students for the Ph.D. program only. Once admitted to the Ph.D. program, it is possible to obtain a master's degree through work en route to the Ph.D.

The department has a national and international reputation for the high quality of its faculty and for the diversity of their approaches and interests. It has long been known for its acceptance of a broad range of approaches to the study of politics and for its collegiality. The subfields of political science found in the department are American politics (<http://polisci.wisc.edu/fields/american-politics/>), comparative politics (<http://polisci.wisc.edu/fields/comparative/>), political theory and philosophy (<http://polisci.wisc.edu/fields/political-theory/>), international relations (<http://polisci.wisc.edu/fields/ir/>), and political methodology (<http://polisci.wisc.edu/fields/political-methodology/>). Political science shares faculty with the Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs (<http://www.lafollette.wisc.edu/>), the Law School (<http://www.law.wisc.edu/>), and the Department of Gender and Women's Studies (<http://womenstudies.wisc.edu/>). The presence of programs and centers such as the African Studies Program (<http://africa.wisc.edu/>), the Center for European Studies (<https://europe.wisc.edu/>), the Center for Jewish Studies (<http://jewishstudies.wisc.edu/>), the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia (CREECA) (<http://www.creeca.wisc.edu/>), Integrated Liberal Studies (<http://ils.wisc.edu/>), the International Studies major (B.A (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/institute-regional-international-studies/international-studies-ba/>), and B.S. (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/institute-regional-international-studies/international-studies-bs/>)), Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies (<http://www.lacis.wisc.edu/>), and others is also beneficial to graduate students, providing opportunities for the advancement of interdisciplinary approaches in student research.

ADMISSIONS

Students may not apply directly for the master's, and should instead see the admissions information for the Ph.D. (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/political-science/political-science-phd/>) This master's program is offered for work done en route to the Ph.D.

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (<https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/>) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

The department funding guarantee applies to all students admitted to the Ph.D. program. Support may be in the form of fellowships, teaching assistantships, or as an assistant to a faculty research project.

The department does not admit for a master's degree in political science. Please see admissions information for the Ph.D. (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/political-science/political-science-phd/>)

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirements>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/ Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	No	No	No	No

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students are able to complete a program with minimal disruptions to careers and other commitments.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW-Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirements Detail	
Minimum Credit Requirement	30 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	30 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	Half of degree coursework (15 credits out of 30 total credits) must be completed graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university's Course Guide (https://registrar.wisc.edu/course-guide (https://registrar.wisc.edu/course-guide/)).
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.00 GPA required.
Other Grade Requirements	No other grade requirements.
Assessments and Examinations	No formal examination required.

Language Requirements No language requirements.

REQUIRED COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
General Structure of the Program		
POLI SCI 800	Political Science as a Discipline and Profession	1
POLI SCI 817	Empirical Methods of Political Inquiry	3
Statistical Methodology Coursework-Graduate Level		3
At least 18 of the 30 credits must be earned in graduate courses in Political Science at the 800 level or above.		18
No more than 3 credits of POLI SCI 999 may count toward the degree.		
Meet the minimum graduate credit requirement.		5
Maintain minimum of B average in coursework.		
Courses taken outside the department must be chosen in consultation with a student's advisor and must be at a level (300 or above) for which graduate credit is available.		
Total Credits		30

POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (<https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/>) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Work from Other Institutions

No credits from graduate work from other institutions may count toward the degree.

UW–Madison Undergraduate

No credits from a UW–Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to count toward the degree.

UW–Madison University Special

No credits from a UW–Madison University Special student career may count toward the degree.

PROBATION

The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who earned grades of BC, C, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course (300 or above), or grade of U in research credits. This review could result in academic probation with a hold on future enrollment or in being suspended from the Graduate School.

1. Good standing (progressing according to standards; any funding guarantee remains in place).

2. Probation (not progressing according to standards but permitted to enroll; loss of funding guarantee; specific plan with dates and deadlines in place in regard to removal of probationary status).
3. Unsatisfactory progress (not progressing according to standards; not permitted to enroll, dismissal, leave of absence or change of advisor or program).

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

All students are required to meet with their advisor to discuss the first year review.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credits

TIME CONSTRAINTS

Master's degree students who have been absent for five or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/>)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure>)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/>)
 - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (<https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/>)
- Dean of Students Office (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/>) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
- Employee Assistance (<http://www.eao.wisc.edu/>) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
- Employee Disability Resource Office (<https://employee disabilities.wisc.edu/>) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
- Graduate School (<https://grad.wisc.edu/>) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions)
- Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/>) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (<https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/>) (for conflicts involving students)
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (<http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/>) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)
- Title IX (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>) (for concerns about discrimination)

Students should contact the department chair or program director with questions about grievances.

OTHER

The department currently guarantees at least five years of financial support to all students admitted to the doctoral program, assuming they are making satisfactory progress toward their degrees. This funding may be in the form of fellowships, teaching assistantships, or project assistantships. All appointments receive valuable fringe benefits such as excellent health insurance and tuition remission.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources (<https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/>) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Develop an appreciation of the diverse subfields of political science.
2. Learn to articulate questions of importance to the field that can be answered using the methods of political science.
3. Learn to select and utilize methods of political inquiry appropriate to particular research questions.
4. Learn to constructively critique existing work in political science.
5. Develop an understanding of political science from an historical context.
6. Recognize and apply principles of ethical and professional conduct in research, teaching, and service.

PEOPLE

Faculty: Professors: Avramenko, Burden, Canon (Chair fall 2020), Cramer, Copelovitch, Kapust, Hendley, Herrera, Kydd, Marquez, Martin, Mayer, Owens, Pevehouse, Ringe, Schweber, Shelef, Straus (Chair starting spring 2021), Tripp, Weimer, Yackee, Weeks, Zumbunnen; Associate Professors: Bhavnani, Powell, Renshon, Simmons, Tahk, Johnson; Assistant Professors: Brooke, Lei, Lo, Lindsay, Schwarze, Shalaby

More information can be found here: <https://polisci.wisc.edu/faculty-2/>