APPLIED POLITICS

The Master of Applied Politics, in cooperation with the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics, is one of the few programs in the United States focusing on practical politics. It is designed for students interested in efforts to influence political decisions. This includes activities to capture elective public office in partisan contests, influencing legislation, and political organization.

Admission Requirements

Admission is open to students who have completed a four-year undergraduate degree and who fulfill the admission requirements of the Graduate School. Three letters of recommendation (at least one from a faculty member who has worked with the student in the past two years, if applicable) and a personal statement outlining the expected fit between the student’s skills and objectives and the department’s programs and resources are required. No specific field of undergraduate major is required for admission. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required. The program is designed to accommodate students taking course work on a part-time basis.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Degree Requirements

Complete 39 credits of graduate work, including the following:

Core courses - 18 credits
- 3700:570 Campaign Management I (3 credits)
- 3700:571 Campaign Management II (3 credits)
- 3700:600 Scope & Theories of Political Science (3 credits)
- 3700:601 Research Methods in Political Science (3 credits)
- 3700:672 Seminar: Political Influence & Organizations (3 credits)
- 3700:695 Internship in Government & Politics* (3 credits)

* Three credits required: additional credits will be counted toward elective credit.

Elective courses - 21 credits (6 credits must be at the 600-level)
Six credits from the following:
- 3700:540 Survey Research Methods (3 credits)
- 3700:572 Campaign Finance (3 credits)
- 3700:574 Political Opinion, Behavior & Electoral Politics (3 credits)
- 3700:577 Lobbying (3 credits)
- 3700:655 Campaign and Election Law (3 credits)
- 7600:575 Political Communication (3 credits)

Fifteen credits of additional course work from above or from approved courses in Political Science, Communication, Public Administration, or other departments.

Prepare an applied politics portfolio containing:
- At least two major papers prepared for required courses.
- An applied politics capstone project assigned by the student’s advisor.

Pass an oral defense of the applied politics portfolio.

J.D./Master of Applied Politics

Admission Requirements

This joint J.D./Master of Applied Politics degree combines the two degrees while allowing students to complete requirements with fewer credits than taking the degrees separately. To be accepted into the program, a student must meet the admission requirements of the School of Law, the Graduate School, and the Department of Political Science.

Degree Requirements

Students must complete the following:

J.D. required courses - 44 credits
MAP required courses - 24 credits (18 credits core courses; 6 credits required electives)

Joint Law School/Political Science Course - 3 credits
- 3700:655 Campaign and Election Law/9200:655 Election Law (3 credits)

J.D. Elective Courses - 32 credits
At least three credits from the following courses:
- 9200:623 Administrative Law (3 credits)
- 9200:642 Alternative Dispute Resolution (3 credits)
- 9200:644 Supreme Court Seminar (3 credits)
- 9200:645 Property (3 credits)
- 9200:659 Negotiation (1 credit)
- 9200:662 Law Firm Administration Seminar (3 credits)
- 9200:664 Local Government Law (3 credits)
- 9200:684 Seminar in Selected Legal Problems (3 or 4 credits)
- 9200:698 Individual Studies & Research (2-3 credits)

MAP Electives - 6 credits
Choose two from the following courses:
- 3700:502 Politics and the Media (3 credits)
- 3700:540 Survey Research Methods (3 credits)
- 3700:572 Campaign Finance (3 credits)
- 3700:574 Political Opinion, Behavior & Electoral Politics (3 credits)
- 3700:577 Lobbying (3 credits)
- 3700:620 Seminar in Comparative Politics (3 credits)
- 3700:630 Seminar in National Politics (3 credits)
- 3700:668 Seminar in Public Policy Agendas & Decisions (3 credits)
- 3700:690 Special Topics in Political Science (Applied Politics focus) (3 credits)
- 3700:695 Internship in Government & Politics (3 credits) (in addition to required three credits)
- 7600:575 Political Communication (3 credits)

Prepare an applied politics portfolio containing:
- At least two major papers prepared for required courses.
- An applied politics capstone project assigned by the student’s advisor.

Pass an oral defense of the applied politics portfolio.