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)

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
- 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)

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.