

POLITICAL SCIENCE, MA

Political Science, MA

Admission Requirements

Admission is open to students who have completed a four-year undergraduate degree with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 and who fulfill the admission requirements of the Graduate School. Three letters of recommendation (at least two 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.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

The Master of Arts in Political Science allows students to focus their study in one of four concentrations: American Politics, Criminal Justice, Security Studies, or International Politics.

Students may also work toward certificates in Applied Politics in conjunction with their graduate studies in Political Science.

Political Science - Intelligence and National Security Studies Track

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Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Students may also work toward certificates in Applied Politics in conjunction with their graduate studies in Political Science.

Degree Requirements

Complete 30 credits of graduate work, including 24 credits at the 600 level, as follows

Code	Title	Hours
POLIT 600	Scope & Theories of Political Science	3
POLIT 601	Research Methods in Political Science	3
POLIT 603	Advanced Analytic Writing and Briefing	3
Select two additional departmental seminars (neither Independent Study nor Internship credit counts as a graduate seminar)		6
Select two track-required seminars depending on the track chosen		6
Select nine additional graduate Political Science credits (500 or 600 level)		9
Total Hours		30

Pass a comprehensive written examination covering one concentration: American Politics, Criminal Justice, or International Politics.

Complete the following writing requirement:

- An Essay of Distinction is a single, article-length, scholarly research paper. This writing requirement will encourage our students to learn how to participate in the debates central to our discipline and complete the program with a superb writing sample that can serve as a foundation for continued graduate work, a conference presentation, a published article, or a deliverable policy analysis.

To complete an Essay of Distinction, students are also required to orally defend their paper to their Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC). All FAC members must approve the topic and pass the paper and oral defense.

Political Science - Intelligence and National Security Studies Track

Degree Requirements

Complete 30 credits of graduate work as follows

Code	Title	Hours
Department Required Courses		
POLIT 600	Scope & Theories of Political Science	3
POLIT 601	Research Methods in Political Science	3
POLIT 603	Advanced Analytic Writing and Briefing	3
Track Required Seminars		
POLIT 610	Seminar in International Politics	3
POLIT 612	Seminar in US National Security Policy	3
Electives		
Select 15 credits of the following:		15
GEOG 505	Geographic Information Systems	
POLIT 500	Political Extremism & Violence	
POLIT 510	International Security Policy	
POLIT 513	Global Public Health Threats	
POLIT 514	Wealth and Power Among Nations	
POLIT 517	Environmental Security and Climate Politics	
POLIT 518	Weapons of Mass Destruction	
POLIT 519	Homeland Security Policy and Process	
POLIT 545	Al Qaeda and ISIS	
POLIT 546	National Security Intelligence	
POLIT 547	Counterterrorism	
POLIT 548	Intelligence Analysis	
POLIT 563	Human Rights in World Politics	
POLIT 611	Seminar in War and Insurgency	
POLIT 620	Seminar in Comparative Politics	
POLIT 622	Seminar in Alternatives to Violence at Home and Abroad	
POLIT 695	Internship in Government & Politics	
Total Hours		30

Additionally, the following non-credit Milestones need to be completed by the end of the program:

Capstone Intelligence Assessment

Capstone Intelligence Assessment Defense