

Political Science

College of Arts & Sciences

Admission Requirements

Candidates for admission to the graduate program in political science must apply using the Graduate College online application system, which is available at https://app.applyyourself.com/AYApplicantLogin/fl_ApplicantConnectLogin.asp?id=ukgrad. Required information includes (1) a copy of transcripts and GRE scores; (2) a one- to three-page Statement of Purpose explaining why the student wishes to pursue a Ph.D. degree; (3) three letters of recommendation from persons familiar with the applicant's academic performance; (4) a sample of writing on a topic relevant to political science; (5) a resume or curriculum vitae, and (6) TOEFL scores if the applicant's first language is not English. Applications will only be considered for the fall semester.

Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of the Department's judgment of the likelihood of their success in the program as compared with other applicants and considering the limited number of applicants accepted to the program. In evaluating candidates, the Department will consider the totality of their records, including grades, test scores, letters of recommendation, writing samples, and other relevant information. The department usually only accepts applicants to the Ph.D. program. Students who do not have political science undergraduate majors are welcome in this program.

Degree Requirements

The Political Science Department offers both the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. The M.A. degree may be earned under either of two plans: Plan A requires at least 24 hours of course work and a thesis; Plan B requires at least 30 hours of course work and examination in three fields of political science, or in two fields of political science and one outside field. Under either plan, the student must take at least two-thirds of the required semester hours in political science, and at least half of the political science work must be in courses open only to graduate students. A candidate for the Plan B master's degree must pass a foreign language requirement or an analytical skills requirement.

The Ph.D. program is divided into a general phase and a specialized phase. Entering students spend their first year in the general phase, which includes proseminars in methodology and in at least four major fields of political science. Students who have previously taken graduate work may be exempt from some of these proseminars. At the end of the first year of graduate work, the student is evaluated by a departmental committee which determines whether the general phase has been satisfactorily completed.

During the specialized phase of the graduate program, the student's work is based on a program of study prepared with their Advisory Committee. The student takes advanced work in at least two substantive fields in political science. The student completes qualifying exams prior to defending the prospectus for the dissertation. The qualifying examination in political science consists of a written and oral examination in each of the two substantive fields specified in the student's program. The examination is given by the Field or Advisory Committee. The student then writes a dissertation and defends it in a final oral examination.

Candidates for the Ph.D. in political science must demonstrate proficiency in a research skill. The required research skill will consist of additional quantitative skills or proficiency in a foreign language that is directly pertinent to the student's research interests.

Additional details about requirements may be secured from the Department of Political Science.

Graduate Courses

PS 411G	Comparative Government-Parliamentary Democracies I	(3)
PS 415G	Comparative Judicial Politics	(3)
PS 417G	Survey Of Sub-Saharan Politics (Same As AAS 417G)	(3)
PS 419G	The Governments And Politics Of Eastern Asia	(3)
PS 420G	Governments And Politics Of South Asia	(3)
PS 428G	Latin American Government And Politics	(3)
PS 429G	Government And Politics In Russia And The Post-Soviet States	(3)
PS 430G	The Conduct Of American Foreign Relations	(3)
PS 431G	National Security Policy	(3)
PS 433G	Politics Of International Economic Relations	(3)
PS 436G	International Organization	(3)
PS 437G	Dynamics Of International Law	(3)
PS 439G	Contemporary International Problems	(3)
PS 441G	Early Political Theory	(3)
PS 442G	Modern Political Theory	(3)
PS 456G	Appalachian Politics	(3)
PS 461G	Civil Liberties	(3)
PS 463G	Judicial Politics	(3)
PS 465G	Constitutional Law	(3)
PS 470G	American Political Parties	(3)
PS 472G	Political Campaigns And Elections	(3)
PS 473G	Public Opinion	(3)
PS 474G	Political Psychology	(3)
PS 475G	Politics And The Mass Media	(3)
PS 476G	Legislative Process	(3)
PS 480G	Government And The Economy	(3)
PS 489G	The Analysis Of Public Policy	(3)
PS 538	Conflict And Cooperation In Latin American Relations	(3)
PS 545	American Political Thought	(3)
PS 557	Kentucky Government And Politics	(3)
PS 566	Constitutional Interpretation	(3)
PS 584	The American Presidency	(3)
PS 620	Comparative Politics: Theory And Method	(3)
PS 671	Strategies Of Inquiry In Political Science	(3)
PS 672	Introduction To Techniques Of Political Research	(3)
PS 674	Proseminar In Theories Of International Politics	(3)
PS 680	Proseminar In Political Institutions And Process	(3)
PS 681	American Political Behavior	(3)
PS 684	Proseminar In Policy Studies	(3)
PS 685	Proseminar In Public Administration And Policy	(3)
PS 690	Proseminar In Contemporary Political Theory	(3)
PS 711	Topical Seminar In Political Science (Subtitle Required)	(3)
PS 731	International Security/Conflict Analysis	(3)
PS 732	Comparative Foreign Policy (Subtitle Required)	(3)
PS 733	International Political Economy	(3)
PS 734	Great Books Of World Politics	(3)
PS 735	Democracy And International Affairs	(3)
PS 737	Transnational Organizations And Processes	(3)
PS 748	Master's Thesis Research	(0)

PS 749	Dissertation Research	(0)
PS 750	Political Parties And Elections In America	(3)
PS 756	Regional Politics (Subtitle Required)	(3)
PS 759	Comparative Political Behavior	(3)
PS 760	Seminar In Judicial Politics	(3)
PS 767	Dissertation Residency Credit	(2)
PS 768	Residence Credit For The Master's Degree	(1-6)
PS 769	Residence Credit For The Doctor's Degree	(0-12)
PS 772	Advanced Problems In Research Methods	(3)
PS 775	Seminar In Public Policy	(3)
PS 780	Legislative Behavior	(3)
PS 795	Special Problems In Political Science	(1-3)
PS 796	Directed Research In Political Science	(1-3)