

POLITICAL SCIENCE (M.A.)

<https://cola.unh.edu/political-science/program/ma/political-science>

Description

Since 1948, the Graduate Program of the Department of Political Science has been educating students, scholars and civic leaders in all domains of political life. Encompassing a range of research fields, our graduate program allows students to explore the nature and distribution of political power and resources at the individual and community levels, as well as federal, state and local governments, electoral politics, and in the international arena.

The Department of Political Science at UNH offers the **Master of Arts in Political Science**. The program provides advanced study in international relations and American and comparative politics. The program serves students interested in working in government, public service, nonprofit management, electoral politics, education and research, and in preparing for Ph.D. programs. It gives students the flexibility to tailor their coursework to individual interests within a curriculum that ensures a strong foundation in international and domestic politics, research methods, and analysis. Faculty engage in teaching and research activities encompassing the fields of international and comparative politics, American politics, and political thought.

The program is offered to full- and part-time students.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Students may choose between the Thesis option and Non-Thesis option.

Both options require a minimum of **35 credits and 10 courses of at least 3 credits** each.

M.A. with Thesis Option

Master's degree students must complete a minimum of **35 credits and 10 courses of at least 3 credits** each for the degree: ten courses, two of which may be thesis credits (POLT 899 Master's Thesis). Of the ten courses, two are required seminars: Pro Seminar (POLT 800 Political Science Pro-Seminar) and an introductory statistical analysis course (e.g., PPOL 908), and are to be taken during the student's first year.

Students are encouraged to work with the MA program director to identify relevant courses of interest across the College of Liberal Arts graduate offerings. The MA program director must provide course approval for courses offered outside the department. Successful completion and defense of a 8-credit master's thesis is required.

| Code | Title | Credits |
|--|--|---------|
| POLT 800 | Political Science Pro-Seminar ¹ | 4 |
| Select one introductory course on statistical analysis | | |
| PPOL 908 | Quantitative Methods for Policy Research | 3 |
| Thesis | | |
| POLT 899 | Master's Thesis | 8 |
| Select six additional courses from the following: | | |
| POLT 801 | Courts and Public Policy | 24 |
| POLT 805 | Elections in the United States | |
| POLT 809 | Reforming American Government | |
| POLT 821 | Feminist Political Theory | |
| POLT 840 | States and Societies in the Middle East | |

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| POLT 842 | Beyond Bollywood: Politics of India & South Asia |
| POLT 848 | Food and Wine Politics |
| POLT 851 | Comparative Environmental Politics and Policy |
| POLT 860 | Theories of International Relations |
| POLT 862 | International Political Economy |
| POLT 878 | International Organization |
| POLT 897B | Seminar in American Politics |
| POLT 897C | Seminar in Comparative Politics |
| POLT 897E | Seminar in International Politics |
| POLT 898B | Seminar in American Politics |
| POLT 996 | Independent Study |

¹ To be taken during the student's first year

M.A. Non-Thesis Option

Master's degree students must complete ten courses totaling a minimum of **35 credits and 10 courses of at least 3 credits** each for the degree. Of the ten courses, two are required: Pro Seminar (POLT 800 Political Science Pro-Seminar) and an introductory statistical analysis course (e.g., PPOL 908), and are to be taken during the student's first year. In their final semester, students will enroll in a capstone course, and may choose from POLT 995 Capstone Research Project or POLT 990 Internship Capstone. Students should consult with their faculty mentors to select the capstone experience that will best align with their long-term professional goals.

Students are encouraged to work with the MA program director to identify relevant courses of interest across the College of Liberal Arts graduate offerings. The MA program director must provide course approval for elective courses offered outside the department.

| Code | Title | Credits |
|--|--|---------|
| POLT 800 | Political Science Pro-Seminar ¹ | 4 |
| Select one introductory course on statistical analysis | | |
| PPOL 908 | Quantitative Methods for Policy Research | 3 |
| Select seven additional courses from the following: | | |
| POLT 801 | Courts and Public Policy | 28 |
| POLT 805 | Elections in the United States | |
| POLT 809 | Reforming American Government | |
| POLT 821 | Feminist Political Theory | |
| POLT 840 | States and Societies in the Middle East | |
| POLT 842 | Beyond Bollywood: Politics of India & South Asia | |
| POLT 848 | Food and Wine Politics | |
| POLT 851 | Comparative Environmental Politics and Policy | |
| POLT 860 | Theories of International Relations | |
| POLT 862 | International Political Economy | |
| POLT 878 | International Organization | |
| POLT 897B | Seminar in American Politics | |
| POLT 897C | Seminar in Comparative Politics | |
| POLT 897E | Seminar in International Politics | |
| POLT 898B | Seminar in American Politics | |
| POLT 996 | Independent Study | 4 |
| Capstone Experience | | |
| POLT 995 | Capstone Research Project | 4 |
| or POLT 990 | Internship Capstone | |

¹ To be taken during the student's first year

Accelerated Master's

This graduate program is approved to be taken on an accelerated basis in articulation with certain undergraduate degree programs.

General Accelerated Master's policy, note that some programs have additional requirements (e.g. higher grade expectations) compared to the policy.

Please see the Graduate School website and contact the department directly for more information.

Student Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

- Building advanced skills in analyzing, processing, and communicating complex information, using qualitative and quantitative approaches.
- Effectively and persuasively presenting analysis and findings in written, oral, and graphical form.
- Facilitating student exploration of thematic, regional, and methodological areas of specialization and interest. Areas of strength include the study of public opinion, international politics and international relations, political economy, environmental politics, Latin American politics, Middle Eastern politics, Asian politics, and American politics.