

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Political Science

Degree Program

The doctoral program in Political Science emphasizes policy studies, and in particular public policy making. The program fosters a thorough knowledge of diverse analytical skills, alternative approaches to the study of politics, and impartial analysis of political institutions and processes.

Coursework: A minimum of 60 semester hours of coursework beyond the baccalaureate degree.

- Core courses include 18 credit hours in the areas of research methodology, policy process and institutions.
- In addition, students will select a minimum of 12 credit hours in the disciplinary scope of political science.
- The student completes 18 credit hours in a subfield of political science and, within that subfield, an area of specialization.

Research Tools: To ensure sufficient background for doctoral-level courses, students must demonstrate appropriate competence in quantitative research methodology during their course of study.

Qualifying Examination: The general examination consists of three sections: research methodology, policy process and institutions, and subfield and specialization.

Internship (optional 6 credit hours): Offers an opportunity to gain first-hand experience in select research and administrative positions.

Dissertation: All students must defend orally a written dissertation proposal to their dissertation committee. A dissertation embodying the results of original research must be accepted by the faculty and the Graduate School after an oral defense of the completed written dissertation.

Program Website

<http://umsl.edu/go/PoliSci-PhD>

Application Requirements

1. Application <http://umsl.edu/go/Apply-Now>
2. Official Transcripts From All Universities Attended:
 - a. Successful applicants must have completed at least a baccalaureate degree with a background in social science before beginning the program.
3. Entrance Examinations:
 - a. Acceptable score on the Graduate Record Examination (<http://www.gre.org/tiindex.html>).
 - b. International students are required to document English proficiency by providing scores from an internationally accepted standardized examination before a decision is made on admission.
4. Grade Point Average:
 - a. Minimum of 3.0 overall and in major on 4.0 scale.
5. Three Letters of Recommendation:
 - a. Letters from persons qualified to evaluate the applicant's recent academic work are required.
6. Statement of Purpose indicating why the student is applying to the Ph.D. program
7. Writing Sample, such as a paper from a prior course

Application Deadline

Fall Semester Admission: February 15 Spring/Winter Semester Admission: October 15

Application Fee

\$50 for domestic applicants; \$40 for international applicants

Assistantships

The Department of Political Science offers teaching assistantships that include educational fee scholarships from the Graduate School. Please apply directly to the Graduate Program Director. Award decisions are made at the time of application review.

Graduate Program Director

Dr. David Kimball

Phone: (314) 516-5521

Email: umslpolisci@umsl.edu