

University of Missouri-St. Louis
THE MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
2007-2008

Department of Political Science
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THE MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Master of Arts in Political Science is a general post-baccalaureate degree that gives students a broad understanding of political science through intensive study of several fields within the discipline. In the general program it is possible to specialize in urban politics, policy processes and institutions, American political behavior, political economy, public administration, comparative politics, international relations, public law, and political theory. The Master of Arts is useful for students who are already in or planning on a career in secondary education, public policy, or politics. It is also useful for students who are considering doctoral education. It is particularly valuable for students simply interested in learning more about subjects that interest them.

Admission Requirements. For admission, a student should have a baccalaureate degree with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 overall and in major on a 4.0 scale, and an undergraduate background in social sciences. Students whose total undergraduate GPA and major GPA are between 2.75 and 2.99 may be admitted on a restricted basis. The Graduate Record Examination is required; scores should be submitted at the time of application. Two letters of recommendation are also requested for each student applying to the program. Students who do not meet these requirements may be admitted upon approval of the department and the dean of the Graduate School. Application materials may be obtained from and should be returned to the office of the Director of Admissions. Deadlines are July 1 for the fall semester, December 1 for the winter semester, and May 1 for the summer term.

Degree Requirements. The department requires a minimum of 27 semester hours of course work and 6 hours of exit project work.

Course work

18 hours must be at the 6000 level

12 hours must be in core courses in political science, including:

PS 6401: Introduction to Policy Research

and three of the following political science courses:

PS 6410: Introduction to Policy Analysis

PS 6420: Proseminar in Public Law

PS 6430: Proseminar in American Politics

PS 6440: Proseminar in Public Policy Administration

PS 6450: Proseminar in Comparative Politics

PS 6460: Proseminar in Political Theory

PS 6470: Proseminar in Urban Politics

PS 6480: Proseminar in International Relations

Students can plan their degree program to reflect one or more of the following six emphasis areas:

American Politics
Comparative Politics
International Politics
Political Process and Behavior
Public Administration and Public Policy
Urban and Regional Politics

Exit Projects. Students must also select one of the following exit projects: a six-hour thesis, a six-hour internship, or six hours of additional course work and an approved paper.

Registration. Students should consult with the Director of Graduate Studies about their course schedule and specific questions about the curriculum. The Director of Graduate Studies approves registration forms. Students receive registration materials from Registration by mail, or can arrange to obtain materials on campus. You may also register by using the Touch-Tone Registration and Inquiry Network (T.R.A.I.N.) at (314) 516-7000 or The Student Terminal Access and Registration (STARUMSL).

Advising. The Director of Graduate Studies advises all graduate students in the Master's program. *After the first semester*, students are encouraged to choose a faculty member in their area of concentration for advice about specific course work, certificate programs, exit projects, Ph.D. programs, other professional degrees and job opportunities.

Students are encouraged to design a program of study consistent with their interests and goals as early as possible in the program. This program should reflect consultation with a faculty member whose primary teaching and research interests coincide with the student's interests.

Midprogram Review. Students will have a midprogram review at the end of 12-15 hours of course work. At this review, students will discuss their academic performance and program with a three member faculty committee and determine the most appropriate exit project. Each candidate is given a final oral review conducted by a faculty committee and focused on the course work completed and the student's chosen exist project.

Final Oral Review. Each candidate for a Master of Arts degree is given a final oral review conducted by a student's Master's committee on the course work completed and the student's chosen exist project.

Graduation. The Department must file forms with the Graduate School before a candidate can receive a degree. It is the student's responsibility to inform the Director of Graduate Studies of graduation plans and to see that these forms are completed and turned in to the Graduate School. Candidates for graduate degrees who have completed degree requirements and are not registered during the term they plan to graduate are required to register for a **Final Semester Incidental Fee** intended to cover the costs of processing records, filing theses, etc.