POLITICAL SCIENCE - M.A.

About This Program
The Master of Arts in Political Science offers a deeper understanding of the field, with opportunities for specialized study and research. With experienced faculty and a supportive community of scholars, you’ll be prepared for a variety of career paths, including teaching, research and public service. Read more...

Contact Information
- Program Coordinator: Ryan Claassen | rclaasse@kent.edu | 330-672-2060
- Connect with an Admissions Counselor: U.S. Student | International Student

Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries*

Political science teachers, postsecondary
- 4.9% about as fast as the average
- 19,800 number of jobs
- $85,760 potential earnings

Political scientists
- 6.1% faster than the average
- 7,000 number of jobs
- $125,350 potential earnings

Social sciences teachers, postsecondary, all other
- -0.3% little or no change
- 19,300 number of jobs
- $69,340 potential earnings

Social science research assistants
- 5.8% faster than the average
- 40,100 number of jobs
- $49,210 potential earnings

Social and community service managers
- 17.0% much faster than the average
- 175,500 number of jobs
- $69,600 potential earnings

Social scientists and related workers, all other
- 0.8% little or no change
- 38,800 number of jobs
- $87,260 potential earnings

Legislators
- 6.2% faster than the average
- 53,700 number of jobs
- $33,200 potential earnings

* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

For more information about graduate admissions, visit the graduate admission website. For more information on international admissions, visit the international admission website.

Admission Requirements
- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- Minimum 2.750 undergraduate GPA on a 4.000-point scale
- Official transcript(s)
- GRE scores (no longer required starting with spring 2024 admission)
- Résumé or curriculum vitae with cover letter is required starting with spring 2024 admission
- Goal statement
- Writing sample
- Three letters of recommendation
- English language proficiency - all international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions) by earning one of the following:
  - Minimum 550 TOEFL PBT score (paper-based version)
  - Minimum 79 TOEFL IBT score (Internet-based version)
  - Minimum 77 MELAB score
  - Minimum 6.5 IELTS score
  - Minimum 58 PTE score
  - Minimum 110 Duolingo English test score

For more information about graduate admissions, visit the graduate admission website. For more information on international admissions, visit the international admission website.

Application Deadlines
- Fall Semester
  - Priority deadline: February 15

Program Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POL 60002</td>
<td>SCOPE AND EPISTEMOLOGY</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Political Science - M.A.
POL 60003 QUANTITATIVE METHODS I 3  
POL 60010 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS 3  

Culminating Requirement  
Non-Thesis or Thesis Option, choose from the following:  
1  
Non-Thesis Option  
POL 60099 CAPSTONE SEMINAR  
Electives (6 credit hours)  

Thesis Option  
POL 61199 THESIS I  
Elective (3 credit hours)  

Concentrations  
Choose from the following: 12  
American Politics and Policy  
Conflict Analysis and Management  
Transnational and Comparative Politics  

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 30  
1 Students intending to pursue a Ph.D. degree are advised to choose the thesis option  

American Politics and Policy Concentration Requirements  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POL 60101</td>
<td>STATUS OF THE FIELD: AMERICAN POLITICS AND POLICY</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Concentration Electives, choose from the following: 9  
POL 60102 | AMERICAN POLICY PROCESS                         |              |
POL 60103 | CONGRESS, THE PRESIDENCY AND THE COURTS         |              |
POL 60105 | FEDERALISM AND STATE POLICYMAKING               |              |
POL 60106 | URBAN POLICY AND POLITICS                       |              |
POL 60108 | AMERICAN POLITICAL BEHAVIOR                     |              |
POL 60191 | SEMINAR IN AMERICAN POLITICS AND POLICY         |              |
| Advisor-Approved Electives  |

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 12  

Conflict Analysis and Management Concentration Requirements  
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<tr>
<td>POL 60901</td>
<td>FOUNDATIONS OF CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT</td>
<td>3</td>
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| Concentration Electives, choose from the following: 9  
POL 60507 | CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION AND RECONCILIATION       |              |
POL 60902 | POWER, CONFLICT AND THE POLITICS OF GENDER      |              |
POL 60903 | IDENTITY DRIVEN CONFLICTS                       |              |
POL 60904 | SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND NONVIOLENT CONFLICTS       |              |
POL 60906 | POLITICAL VIOLENCE                              |              |
POL 60907 | TERRORISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS                       |              |
POL 60991 | SEMINAR IN CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT      |              |

Transnational and Comparative Politics Concentration Requirements  
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POL 60501</td>
<td>STATUS OF THE FIELD: TRANSNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE POLITICS AND POLICY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Concentration Electives, choose from the following: 9  
POL 60502 | GLOBAL GOVERNANCE                              |              |
POL 60503 | FOREIGN POLICY ANALYSIS                         |              |
POL 60510 | POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT                         |              |
POL 60511 | INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY                 |              |
POL 60591 | SEMINAR IN TRANSNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE POLITICS AND POLICY |              |
| Advisor-Approval Electives  |

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 12  

Graduation Requirements  
• Minimum 30 credit hours required for graduation  

Program Learning Outcomes  
Graduates of this program will be able to:  
1. Understand the theoretical underpinnings of political science and be able to address real world issues and problems.  
2. Attain research and methodological skills that will further their research and make them attractive to future employers.  
3. Effectively communicate research findings and implications to a range of audiences including scholars, practitioners and citizens.  

Full Description  
The Master of Arts degree in Political Science focuses broadly on the dynamics surrounding representation, equity, conflict, human rights, development and conflict resolution. Students delve into the scholarship on these dynamics (among others) in an interdisciplinary and theoretically sophisticated way, thinking about how the political process and government policy-making affect the lives of citizens, and how citizens influence those processes.  
The Political Science major comprises the following concentrations:  
• American Politics and Policy  
• Conflict Analysis and Management  
• Transnational and Comparative Politics