

POLITICAL SCIENCE - M.A.

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Political Science
www.kent.edu/polisci

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

Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
 - In person
- **Location:**
 - Kent Campus

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

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Application Deadlines

- **Fall Semester**
 - Priority deadline: February 15
Applications submitted by this deadline will receive the strongest consideration for admission.

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements		
POL 60002	SCOPE AND EPISTEMOLOGY	3

POL 60003	QUANTITATIVE METHODS I	3
POL 60010	QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS	3
<i>Culminating Requirement</i>		
Non-Thesis or Thesis Option, choose from the following: ¹		9
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

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
POL 60101	STATUS OF THE FIELD: AMERICAN POLITICS AND POLICY	3
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

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
POL 60901	FOUNDATIONS OF CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT	3
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	

Advisor-Approved Electives	
Minimum Total Credit Hours:	12

Transnational and Comparative Politics Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
POL 60501	STATUS OF THE FIELD: TRANSNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE POLITICS AND POLICY	3
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