

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.

M.A. with Thesis Option

Master's degree students must complete a minimum of **30 credits** 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 900 Political Science Pro-Seminar) and Introduction to Statistical Analysis (POLT #905 Introduction to Statistical Analysis or PPOL 908 Quantitative Methods for Policy Research), 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 6-credit master's thesis is required.

Code	Title	Credits
POLT 900	Political Science Pro-Seminar ¹	3
POLT #905 or PPOL 908	Introduction to Statistical Analysis ¹ Quantitative Methods for Policy Research	3
POLT 899	Master's Thesis	6
Select 6 Additional Courses		18
Total Credits		30

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 **30 credits** for the degree. Students must also pass a comprehensive exam. Of the ten courses, two are required, Pro Seminar (POLT 900 Political Science Pro-Seminar) and Introduction to Statistical Analysis (POLT #905 Introduction to Statistical Analysis or PPOL 908 Quantitative Methods for Policy Research), 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 elective courses offered outside the department.

The comprehensive examination must be successfully completed in the student's final year of study.

Code	Title	Credits
POLT 900	Political Science Pro-Seminar ¹	3
POLT #905 or PPOL 908	Introduction to Statistical Analysis ¹ Quantitative Methods for Policy Research	3
Select 8 Additional Courses		24
Comprehensive Exam		
Total Credits		30

¹ To be taken during the student's first year

Student 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.