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: eight courses and a 6-credit master’s thesis (POLT 899 Master’s Thesis). Of the eight courses, two are required seminars: Pro Seminar (POLT 900 Political Science Pro-Seminar) and Introduction to Statistical Analysis (POLT 905 Introduction to Statistical Analysis). The remaining six courses must be selected from the course offerings outside the department, with at least nine credits in political science courses or courses offered in related disciplines. Students are encouraged to work with their advisor 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.

Nine credits must be completed at the 800 or 900 level from political science courses or courses offered in related disciplines. 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. Successful completion and defense of a 6-credit master’s thesis is required.

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 also required to take electives totaling 9 credits. This must include two courses in the student’s major subfield (Comparative Politics, International Politics, and American Politics/Public Administration). One course in a minor subfield is also required for this degree option.

Fifteen credits must be completed at the 800 or 900 level from political science courses or a related discipline. 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.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLT 900</td>
<td>Political Science Pro-Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLT 905</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistical Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select 6 additional courses</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>POLT 899</td>
<td>Master’s Thesis</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select 9 credits of electives</td>
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</tbody>
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1 To be taken during the student’s first year
2 This must include two courses in the student’s major subfield (Comparative Politics, International Politics, and American Politics/Public Administration).