

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. Both options require a minimum of **40 graduate credits**.

M.A. with Thesis Option

Master's degree students must complete a minimum of **40 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 800 Political Science Pro-Seminar) and an introductory statistical analysis course (e.g., PPOL 908), 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 8-credit master's thesis is required.

Code	Title	Credits
POLT 800	Political Science Pro-Seminar ¹	4
Select one introductory course on statistical analysis		
PPOL 908	Quantitative Methods for Policy Research	3
Thesis		
POLT 899	Master's Thesis	8
Select six additional courses from the following:		
24		
POLT 801	Courts and Public Policy	
POLT 805	Elections in the United States	
POLT 809	Reforming American Government	
POLT 821	Feminist Political Theory	
POLT 840	States and Societies in the Middle East	
POLT 842	Politics of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India	

POLT 848	Food and Wine Politics
POLT 850	Politics of Poverty
POLT 851	Comparative Environmental Politics and Policy
POLT 860	Theories of International Relations
POLT 862	International Political Economy
POLT #865	Security Intelligence Study
POLT 878	International Organization
POLT 897B	Seminar in American Politics
POLT 897C	Seminar in Comparative Politics
POLT 897E	Seminar in International Politics
POLT #897I	Seminar in Political Thought
POLT 898B	Seminar in American Politics
POLT 996	Independent Study

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 **40 credits** for the degree. Of the ten courses, two are required: Pro Seminar (POLT 800 Political Science Pro-Seminar) and an introductory statistical analysis course (e.g., PPOL 908), and are to be taken during the student's first year. In their final semester, students will enroll in a capstone course, and may choose from POLT 995 Capstone Research Project or POLT 990 Internship Capstone. Students should consult with their faculty mentors to select the capstone experience that will best align with their long-term professional goals.

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.

Code	Title	Credits
POLT 800	Political Science Pro-Seminar ¹	4
Select one introductory course on statistical analysis		
PPOL 908	Quantitative Methods for Policy Research	3
Select seven additional courses from the following:		
28		
POLT 801	Courts and Public Policy	
POLT 805	Elections in the United States	
POLT 809	Reforming American Government	
POLT 821	Feminist Political Theory	
POLT 840	States and Societies in the Middle East	
POLT 842	Politics of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India	
POLT 848	Food and Wine Politics	
POLT 850	Politics of Poverty	
POLT 851	Comparative Environmental Politics and Policy	
POLT 860	Theories of International Relations	
POLT 862	International Political Economy	
POLT #865	Security Intelligence Study	
POLT 878	International Organization	
POLT 897B	Seminar in American Politics	
POLT 897C	Seminar in Comparative Politics	
POLT 897E	Seminar in International Politics	
POLT #897I	Seminar in Political Thought	
POLT 898B	Seminar in American Politics	
POLT 996	Independent Study	
Capstone Experience		
4		
POLT 995	Capstone Research Project	
or POLT 990	Internship Capstone	

¹ To be taken during the student's first year

Accelerated Master's

This graduate program is approved to be taken on an accelerated basis in articulation with certain undergraduate degree programs.

General Accelerated Master's policy, note that some programs have additional requirements (e.g. higher grade expectations) compared to the policy.

Please see the [Graduate School website](#) and contact the department directly for more information.

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.