

# POLITICAL SCIENCE M.A.

## Master of Arts - Political Science Summary

Code	Title	Hours
Core Courses		18
Thesis/Non-Thesis Options		12-18
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>30-36</b>

### Degree Specific Credits:

Thesis Option: 30

Non-Thesis Option: 36

**Required Cumulative GPA: 3.0**

### Notes

- The Political Science M.A. Program provides students a rich learning environment in which to explore their interests and develop their skills and knowledge. Our M.A. Program offers students a high degree of flexibility in their graduate studies to enable them to pursue their goals for learning, research and career preparation.
- The M.A. Program develops students' knowledge of political science, policy and politics, as well as critical thinking, communications, and research skills. This means our students gain excellent preparation for a wide range of careers in the research-based "knowledge economy", and for applying to highly selective graduate and law schools. Our MA graduates develop the tools to be effective in government and public service, nonprofits and community organizations, media and journalism, and research and teaching.
- Students can choose from two paths to the degree: a Thesis Option and a Non-Thesis Option.
- The MA Core Requirements for both Options are to:
  - Complete six graduate seminar courses (18 credits) with at least one course in each of the following four subfields - (PSCI 580 can count for one of these subfields with the consent of the instructor).

Code	Title	Hours
<b>American Politics</b>		
PSCI 524	Management and Policy Skills	3
PSCI 540	American Government	3
<b>Comparative Politics</b>		
PSCI 520	Comparative Government	3
PSCI 582	Politics of the World Economy	3
PSCI 521	Globalization	3
<b>International Relations</b>		
PSCI 530	International Relations	3
PSCI 521	Globalization	3
PSCI 582	Politics of the World Economy	3
<b>Political Theory</b>		
PSCI 553	Modern Political Theory	3
PSCI 557	Political Science Theory Graduate Seminar	3

- Complete a Comprehensive Exam with both written and oral components set by three faculty in two or more of the core subfields of Political Science (the student may retake the exam once if a non-passing grade is received the first time).
  - Complete additional Elective courses - 18 for Non-Thesis Option, 12 for Thesis Option. 50% of all credits must be 500-level or above; 400-level courses may be used for credit if the course's graduate increment is successfully completed. See additional specific Non-Thesis / Thesis requirements below
- Non-Thesis Option Electives: 18 credits, of which up to 12 may be taken outside the Political Science department. Up to six credits may be in Internships (PSCI 598) and up to six credits may be in Independent Study (PSCI 596)
  - Non-Thesis Option requires 3 professional-quality research papers:
    - At least two Political Science faculty as paper advisors
    - Topics in at least 2 subfields of political science
    - 25 pages with references
  - Thesis Option Electives: 12 credits, of which up to 6 may be taken outside the Political Science department. Up to six credits may be in Internships (PSCI 598) and up to six credits may be in Independent Study (PSCI 596). Six credits maximum can be in thesis development (PSCI 599, one credit per semester)
  - Thesis Option: Writing the Thesis
    - Form a Thesis Committee of 3 or more faculty members. The thesis committee chair and 1 other committee member must be from the PSCI department and one faculty member from another department related to your thesis. In consultation with the committee chair, formulate a plan for your thesis, and complete the thesis in consultation with your committee.
    - Complete two oral exams: a thesis prospectus oral exam and a thesis defense. The Thesis must be completed and delivered to the Graduate School *before* the oral exam.

## Courses

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Core Courses</b>		
Complete six of the following courses, at least one each in the four major subfields:		18
PSCI 580	Research Goals and Strategies Graduate Seminar (can count for any one of the four subfields with prior consent of the instructor)	
<b>American Politics:</b>		
PSCI 524	Management and Policy Skills	
PSCI 540	American Government	
<b>Comparative Politics:</b>		
PSCI 520	Comparative Government	
PSCI 521	Globalization	
PSCI 582	Politics of the World Economy	
<b>International Relations:</b>		
PSCI 530	International Relations	
PSCI 521	Globalization	
PSCI 582	Politics of the World Economy	
<b>Political Theory:</b>		
PSCI 553	Modern Political Theory	
PSCI 557	Political Science Theory Graduate Seminar	

**Non-Thesis Courses**

Complete 18 additional credits: which may include credits taken in 400-level courses if graduate increment completed: up to 18 18

Credits taken outside the Political Science Department - up to 12

PSCI 596 Independent Study (up to 6)

PSCI 598 Internship (up to 6)

**Thesis Courses**

Complete up to 12 credits: which may include credits taken in 400-level courses if graduate increment completed: up to 12 12

Credits taken outside the Political Science Department - 6 hours

PSCI 596 Independent Study

PSCI 598 Internship

PSCI 599 Thesis

**Total Hours 48**

Minimum Required Grade: C