

# Political Science, MA, MS

**Department:** Political Science Department

**College:** College of Humanities and Social Sciences

## Overview

### About This Degree

Students in the graduate program in political science at USU become experts in the topics they study related to government, public policies, political processes, and more as they work with award-winning faculty that foster classroom environments where engaging discussion and research are required.

The program welcomes students with a wide range of career goals. Some students wish to continue on to positions in government, lobbying, or with think tanks, while others are preparing to enter the Foreign Service or international political careers. Many students also are accepted to top PhD programs at other universities.

The **MA** degree requires students to gain proficiency in one or more foreign languages. The **MS** degree requires students to incorporate a quantitative competency into their research in lieu of a foreign language. A course plan will be developed for each student with their committee in their first year.

The program offers two tracks. Students must choose one.

- **Public policy track:** This examines the process and strategies of public policy development with an emphasis on which policies can succeed both substantively and politically in different policy arenas.
- **Conflict and cooperation track:** In this track, students explore human propensities for war, peace, and progress through examination and comparison of militant groups, nations, states, empires, and international relations. Students study the causes of warfare and terrorism, national and international policies for security, as well as conditions and policies for peace, stability, nation-building, and democratic practice.

## Career Options

This degree is designed to prepare students for careers as policy analysts in government or in the private sector, and as professional political scientists (much of the curriculum is tailored for entry into doctoral programs), who teach and conduct research at the college or university level.

## What it takes

### Admissions Requirements

The department will consider applications from students with undergraduate degrees in subjects other than political science. Acceptance in these cases may require fulfilling certain course prerequisites.

#### Application Requirements:

- Complete the [online application](#)
- Pay the \$55 application fee
- Score at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile on the GRE
- Have a 3.0 or higher GPA on your last 60 semester or 90 quarter credits
- Provide transcripts of all college/university credits
- Provide three contacts for letters of recommendation

International students have [additional admissions requirements](#).

### Admissions Deadlines

The department accepts new students each fall and has the following application deadline:

- Fall semester - February 1
- Applicants who submit applications after the February 1 deadline may still be admitted to the program; however, they will not be considered for financial assistance.

## Master's Degree Plan Options

Students can receive the **MS** or **MA** by pursuing the following option:

- The **Plan B** option, which requires the production of a paper or creative work of art and is expected to reflect equivalent scholarship standards as a thesis.

## Financial Assistance

The department normally appoints a number of [teaching assistants](#), each with about \$7,000 annual stipend. Most appointments are for one year, but renewable for a second if performance is satisfactory. Research assistantships and government assistantships are sometimes available as well.

A variety of additional funding opportunities are available, including [fellowships](#), [scholarships](#), [tuition awards](#), and [travel support](#). Additionally, students may be eligible for subsidized [health insurance](#) through qualifying assistantships.

## Program Requirements

[Click here](#) to see course requirements for the **Master of Arts**.

[Click here](#) to see course requirements for the **Master of Science**.

Students may complete up to three credits of internship work. The department can help students find internship opportunities, or they are free to arrange their own. The internship is not required for graduation, however.

## Contact

### Advisor(s)

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## Get Involved

### Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

**American Political Science Association:** This is the leading professional organization for the study of political science and serves more than 15,000 members in over 80 countries. With a range of programs and services for individuals, departments and institutions, APSA brings together political scientists from all fields of inquiry, regions, and occupational endeavors within and outside academe in order to expand awareness and understanding of politics.

### Labs, Centers, Research

**Center for the Study of American Constitutionalism:** The Center for the Study of American Constitutionalism conducts research and offers programs and activities on topics related to American Constitutionalism. The Center's core mission is to explore the meaning of liberty in the American constitutional system with specific emphasis on the Founders' commitments to limited and responsible government, free markets and strong national defense.

**Institute of Government and Politics:** IOGP aims to enhance understanding of government institutions and the political process by providing opportunities that bridge practical skills and academic training. The nonpartisan IOGP engages students, faculty, political and community leaders, and citizens in the discussion of policy development through its internship program, visiting speakers, seminars, and policy forums.