Political Science, MA

The MA program offers students the ability to craft programs of study that meet their individual interests. This program has particular strengths in campaigns and elections, ethnic and religious conflict, women and politics, human rights, and Latino politics. The student to faculty ratio (approximately 2:1) is one of the best in the nation.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MA Political Science

The MA program in political science provides advanced education for students preparing for teaching, research or applied careers in political science. This degree program may be taken as a terminal program or as a step toward eventual fulfillment of the requirements for the PhD. Students who plan to obtain the doctorate at ASU should apply directly to the doctoral program.

At a Glance

- **College/School**: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- **Location**: Tempe campus

Accelerated Degrees

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's and master's degree with:

- Global Studies, BA
- Political Science, BA
- Political Science, BS

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students will be advised by their academic departments to apply.
Degree Requirements

30 credit hours and a portfolio, or
30 credit hours and a thesis

A minimum of 30 credit hours is required for the degree. This program includes two options: a thesis and portfolio (nonthesis).

All candidates must take POS 503 Empirical Political Inquiry (3) and the core courses in the student's major field. Coursework in other units beyond the six credit hour maximum may be taken with permission of both the director of Graduate Studies and the faculty advisor. Six credit hours of reading and conferences (POS 590) or independent study (POS 592) may count toward the 30 credit hour requirement. Additional credit hours must be taken in graduate-level courses and seminars each semester until coursework is completed.

If the thesis option is followed, the program must include six credit hours of thesis (POS 599).

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. personal statement
4. writing sample
5. GRE scores
6. three letters of recommendation
7. list of political science courses taken
8. proof of English proficiency
Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.

To assist in evaluating all candidates, the applicant should list titles and related information for all previous undergraduate and graduate courses or coursework in political science or related fields. The file must be saved in a .doc, .rtf or .txt format and uploaded with the online graduate admission application. The information should be in a table with the following column headings: Crs Title, Undergrad Credit Hrs, Graduate Credit Hrs, Grade, Institution, Year.

Undergraduate coursework in political science is not a prerequisite for admission. However, master's degree students should have a basic understanding of elementary statistics and the undergraduate content of the political science fields of concentration that they wish to study. Students should allow sufficient time to acquire such a background.

Application Deadlines

Fall

Contact Information

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