



Political Science Department
Langdale Hall
38 Peachtree Center Avenue, Suite 1005
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(404) 413-6169
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www.politicalscience.gsu.edu

M.A. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Updated Spring 2019

PROGRAM DEGREE REQUIREMENTS (30 hours)

1. Methods Sequence

Students should select from the following two methods tracks. Those planning to apply for a PhD should strongly consider the advanced track.

- a. Regular methods track:
 1. [POLS 6800 Research Design and Applied Data Analysis \(3\)](#)
- b. Advanced methods track:
 1. [POLS 6800/8800 Elements of Research Design \(3\)](#)
 2. [POLS 8805 Introduction to Quantitative Analysis \(3\)](#)
 3. Either [POLS 8810 Uses of Intermediate Statistical Methods in Political Science Research](#) or [POLS 8840 Qualitative Research Methods \(3\)](#).

2. Experiential Learning Project (6)

- a. Students may elect to complete one internship or other experiential learning module for up to 6 credit hours.
- b. This experience is a core element of the professional politics concentration, but students in other concentrations may substitute it for two elective courses.
- c. Experiential learning projects must receive the advance permission of the departmental M.A. Director or the Director of Graduate Studies.
- d. Each three hour segment of Experiential Learning requires the equivalent of 10-15 hours per week of work for one semester. This can be in the form of an internship or employment acquired by the student, a project through the Georgia Municipal Association, a study abroad program, or other relevant experience.
- e. Students should select a faculty advisor for their project and complete the required experiential learning form. Faculty advisors will generally require students to keep a journal of the work that they are performing and/or to complete a paper.
- f. Students will register for [POLS 8995 Administrative & Policy Internship](#) the semester they complete this project.
- g. Students may also partially fulfill the requirement by taking [PMAP 8900](#), the project consulting-based capstone course in the Andrew Young School's M.P.P. degree program.



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3. Thesis (6)
 - a. Students wishing to complete a thesis may substitute 6 thesis hours for 6 hours of coursework or experiential learning. Such students would then complete a thesis in lieu of the non-thesis paper described below.
 - b. Students planning to apply for a PhD are strongly encouraged to select this option.

4. Required for concentration in General Political Science
 - a. POLS 6100/8100, POLS 6200/8200, or POLS 6400/8400.
 - b. Additional graduate Political Science courses required to complete 30 total hours of coursework. The number of courses needed will vary depending on the student's methods track and completion of experiential learning or thesis hours. Students should take one course in three of the five major areas of study. These areas include American government and politics, comparative politics, international politics, political theory and public law.

5. Required for concentration in American Politics
 - a. POLS 6100/8100
 - b. Additional graduate Political Science courses required to complete 30 total hours of coursework. The number of courses needed will vary depending on the student's methods track and completion of experiential learning or thesis hours. The courses should be chosen from general American, Public Law, American Institutions, or American Political Behavior offerings.

6. Required for concentration in International & Comparative Politics
 - a. POLS 6200/8200
 - b. POLS 6400/8400
 - c. Additional graduate Political Science courses required to complete 30 total hours of coursework. The number of courses needed will vary depending on the student's methods track and completion of experiential learning or thesis hours. The courses should be chosen from the areas of comparative and international politics.

7. Required for specialization in Public Law
 - a. POLS 6100/8100, POLS 6200/8200 or POLS 6400/8400
 - b. POLS 8140
 - c. POLS 8145
 - d. Additional graduate Political Science courses required to complete 30 total hours of coursework. The number of courses needed will vary depending on the student's methods track and completion of experiential learning or thesis hours. The courses should be taken in Public Law or in Public Law related fields. Students who have completed two such Public Law courses may take one elective graduate Political Science course.



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8. Required for concentration in Political Science for Educators
 - a. Core seminars in a sub-fields of political science. Choose one:
 - i. POLS 6100/POLS 8100 American Politics (3)
 - ii. POLS 6200/POLS 8200 Comparative Politics (3)
 - iii. POLS 6400/POLS 8400 International Politics (3)
 - b. Courses in the teaching of political science
 - i. POLS 6987 Teaching Politics with Simulations (3)
 - ii. POLS 6988 Teaching American Citizenship (3)
 - c. Specialized courses in political science
 - d. Additional graduate Political Science courses required to complete 30 total hours of coursework. The number of courses needed will vary depending on the student's methods track and completion of experiential learning or thesis hours.
 - e. A capstone project under the supervision of two faculty members (3 hours).
 - i. This project should include a "deliverable," which may be a research paper, a policy memo, an innovation teaching strategy, or something else.
 - ii. Students undertaking this project should register for POLS 8990: Capstone Project.

9. Required for concentration in Professional Politics
 - a. POLS 6100/8100 Seminar in American Politics (3)
 - b. Select one course:
 - i. POLS 8110 State Politics (3)
 - ii. POLS 6158 Campaign Organization and Management (3)
 - iii. POLS 6139 Interbranch Politics (3)
Necessary substitutions can be made with the advance permission of the Director of Graduate Studies.
 - c. Select one course:
 - i. POLS 6200/8200 Seminar in Comparative Politics (3)
 - ii. POLS 6400/8400 Seminar in International Politics (3)
Necessary substitutions can be made with the advance permission of the Director of Graduate Studies.
 - d. Additional graduate Political Science courses required to complete 30 total hours of coursework. The number of courses needed will vary depending on the student's methods track and completion of experiential learning or thesis hours. The courses should be selected to strengthen knowledge of practice areas related to a student's professional goals.
 - e. A capstone project under the supervision of two faculty members (3 hours).
 - i. This project should include a "deliverable," which may be a research paper, a policy memo, an innovation teaching strategy, or something else.
 - ii. Students undertaking this project should register for POLS 8990: Capstone Project.



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10. Students in General Political Science, American Politics, Comparative and International Politics, and Public Law who are not completing a thesis must present a non-thesis project.
 - a. A research paper completed according to departmental guidelines.
 - b. Non-thesis papers must be read and approved by a two-person faculty committee.

11. With the advance permission of the M.A. Program Director or the Director of Graduate Studies, a student may substitute up to two required POLS courses for graduate-level courses taught by other departments at Georgia State. These substitutions should contribute to the student's chosen course of study.