

POLITICAL SCIENCE, MA

Graduate School Policies and Procedures (<http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/graduate/graduate-school-policies-procedures/>) apply to this program

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Please click here (<http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/graduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/political-science/>) to see Political Science department information.

Introduction

The Political Science Department offers a Master of Arts (MA) degree in Political Science with an emphasis on building academic and practical skills in key areas of the discipline. Research and teaching in the department centers on the major fields of American politics, comparative politics, international relations, political theory and public policy. The department also offers more specialized training in community organizing, human rights, legal studies, gender politics, race and ethnic politics, European studies, indigenous politics and urban politics. Students pursuing the MA have the option of completing the traditional track or an "alternative" track centered on public, non-profit and community leadership. Students completing the alternative "public, non-profit and community leadership" track take most courses in weekend, off-campus locations. Students completing either track have gone on to PhD programs across the country and work in a variety of areas, including: state and local elected office, government service, community organizing and development work, nongovernmental organizations, legislative analysts, UN affiliates, lobbyists, teachers, media analysis and political consulting.

These requirements are subject to periodic revision by the academic department, and the College reserves the right to make exceptions and substitutions as judged necessary in individual cases. Therefore, the College strongly urges students to consult regularly with their faculty advisor to confirm the best plans of study before finalizing them.

Alternative Political Science Master's Program: The New Directions Program

In addition to its traditional, on-campus Master's degree, the Political Science Department offers a Public, Non-Profit and Community Leadership MA program through the Center for New Directions. The Center for New Directions offers an MA program focused on 1) public leadership; 2) community and labor organizing; and/or 3) political and social economy innovations. These options are carried out in collaboration with local government jurisdictions, community and labor organizations, and advocacy groups across Colorado. The program develops public leadership & community organizing competencies for addressing social, economic, and political challenges within Colorado communities and regions.

Plan II is available both under the traditional MA track offered on the Denver campus, as well as through an alternative track offered off-campus through the Center for New Directions in Politics and Public Policy. For details about this off-campus track in politics and public policy, see New Directions, MA in Political Science (<http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/graduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/political-science/new-directions-public-non-profit-community-leadership-political-science-ma/>).

departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/political-science/new-directions-public-non-profit-community-leadership-political-science-ma/).

The Political Science graduate program offers two transcripted certificates, allowing students to focus their studies within a specific track (Public, Non-Profit, and Community Leadership; Labor Leadership; and Political and Social Economy and Innovation) and an option to have the track courses listed on their transcript. Students do not need to be seeking a full Master's degree to earn a certificate of completion through the Graduate Certificate program. These Graduate Certificates can be obtained in one of three areas: 1) Public, Non-Profit and Community Leadership; and 2) Labor Leadership.

- Public, Non-Profit and Community Leadership (<http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/graduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/political-science/public-nonprofit-community-leadership-graduate-certificate/>)
- Labor Leadership (<http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/graduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/political-science/labor-leadership-certificate/>)

For more information on these graduate certificates, click the links above.

Degree Requirements

1. Students must complete 33 PSCI credit hours.
2. Students must complete a minimum of 33 graduate (5000-level or higher) PSCI credit hours.
3. Students must earn a minimum grade of B- (2.7) in all masters courses taken at CU Denver and must achieve a minimum cumulative masters GPA of 3.0. All graded attempts in required and elective courses are calculated in the masters GPA. Students cannot complete masters or ancillary course requirements as pass/fail.
4. Students must complete a minimum of 16 credits with CU Denver Political Science faculty.

Program Restrictions, Allowances and Recommendations

1. Students who are on probation must meet regularly with the graduate advisor and must secure approval from the advisor for all course work while on probation.
2. In addition to the requirements for admission and details of the program spelled out here, graduate students in political science must also abide by department rules and procedures specified in the Graduate School Policies and Procedures (<http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/graduate/graduate-school-policies-procedures/>). Failure to meet these policies may result in a student being dropped from the program.
3. The total combination of independent study, graduate course work in related disciplines and internships cannot exceed 9 semester hours.
4. Under the On-Campus MA program in political science, two degree plans are available:
 - a. Plan I requires the completion of nine graduate courses (27 semester hours) and a 6-credit thesis
 - b. Plan II requires the completion of ten graduate courses (30 semester hours) and a 3-credit project or portfolio.

Required Core

Code	Title	Hours
<i>Take the following</i>		
PSCI 5000	State of the Discipline	3
PSCI 5468	Research Methods in Political Science	3

Elective Courses

Code	Title	Hours
<i>Students will complete 7-8 courses (21-24 credits), depending on whether they are working under Plan I or II. Elective courses must include at least one graduate seminar in each of the following three areas: American Politics, Comparative Politics/International Relations, and Political Theory.¹</i>		
PSCI 5008	Graduate Topics in Political Science	1-3
PSCI 5009	Politics of the Budgetary Process	3
PSCI 5011	GIS in Political Science	3
PSCI 5013	Philosophical Problems in the Social Sciences	3
PSCI 5014	Seminar: American Politics	3
PSCI 5024	State Politics: Focus on Colorado	3
PSCI 5025	Local Governance and Globalization	3
PSCI 5044	The Presidency	3
PSCI 5054	The Legislative Process	3
PSCI 5057	Religion and Politics	3
PSCI 5075	Gentrification and Social Equity	3
PSCI 5084	Local Government and Administration	3
PSCI 5085	Comparative Governance: Environment and Society	3
PSCI 5094	Seminar: Urban Politics	3
PSCI 5105	Comparative Politics: Europe	3
PSCI 5135	Seminar: Political Economy of Latin America	3
PSCI 5145	Indigenous Politics	3
PSCI 5176	Gandhi's Legacy: Non-Violent Resistance Today	3
PSCI 5206	Social Movements, Democracy and Global Politics	3
PSCI 5216	Seminar: International Relations	3
PSCI 5217	Human Rights in Theory and Practice	3
PSCI 5224	Dictatorships in 21st Century	3
PSCI 5225	Democracy and Democratization	3
PSCI 5236	Seminar: American Foreign Policy	3
PSCI 5238	Seminar: Comparative Foreign Policy	3
PSCI 5245	Gender, Globalization and Development	3
PSCI 5256	Seminar: National Question and Self-Determination	3
PSCI 5265	Social Justice And Globalization	3
PSCI 5266	International Law	3
PSCI 5274	Conflict Resolution and Public Consent Building	3
PSCI 5276	Conflicts and Rights in International Law	3
PSCI 5286	International Relations: War or Peace?	3
PSCI 5326	Advanced International Political Economy: Globalization	3
PSCI 5354	Seminar: Environmental Politics and Policy	3
PSCI 5365	Global Ecological Crises	3
PSCI 5414	Non-Profits and Social Change	3
PSCI 5424	The Social Economy and Sustainable Development	3

PSCI 5434	The Cooperative Movement: Politics and Policy	3
PSCI 5446	Advanced Indigenous Peoples' Politics	3
PSCI 5457	American Political Thought	3
PSCI 5477	The U.S. Constitution: Law and Politics	3
PSCI 5535	Labor and Working Class Politics	3
PSCI 5545	Immigration Politics	3
PSCI 5548	Labor Law and Collective Bargaining	3
PSCI 5550	Labor, Trade Unions and the Global Economy	3
PSCI 5555	International Women's Resistance	3
PSCI 5610	Seminar: Middle East Politics	3
PSCI 5615	Seminar: Chinese Development	3
PSCI 5726	Seminar on U.S. and China Relations	3
PSCI 5747	Legal Reasoning and Writing	3
PSCI 5807	Seminar: Conflict Behavior and the Politics of Violence	3
PSCI 5808	Strategies of Peacebuilding	3
PSCI 5837	Contemporary Issues in Civil Liberties	3
PSCI 5840	Independent Study: PSCI ¹	1-3
PSCI 5878	War, Film, & International Law	3
PSCI 5880	Directed Research ¹	1-6
PSCI 5914	Community Organizing and Community Development	3
PSCI 5939	Internship ¹	1-6
PSCI 5944	CU in the City	3

¹ Please see the Department graduate director, if you have questions as to which category a course might fit under.

In addition to taking regularly offered graduate seminars in the program, students may meet their elective requirements by taking independent study, internships, or graduate courses in related disciplines. These courses all require approval from the Graduate program director, or from a sponsoring faculty member in the Department. The total combination of independent study, graduate course work in related disciplines and internships cannot exceed 9 semester hours.

Thesis/ Project/ Portfolio

Code	Title	Hours
<i>Complete one of the following</i>		3-6
Plan I requires the completion of nine graduate courses (27 semester hours) and a 6-credit thesis		
PSCI 5950	Master's Thesis	6
Plan II requires the completion of ten graduate courses (30 semester hours) and a 3-credit project or portfolio.		
PSCI 5960	Master's Project	3

To learn more about the Student Learning Outcomes for this program, please visit our website (<https://clas.ucdenver.edu/polisci/graduate/>).