

# POLITICAL SCIENCE (MA)



## Master of Arts in Political Science

Unit: College of Arts and Sciences (<https://louisville.edu/artsandsciences/intro/>) (GA)

Department: Political Science (<https://louisville.edu/politicalscience/>)  
Program Website (<https://louisville.edu/politicalscience/graduate-studies-2/>)

Academic Plan Code(s): POLSMA, POLSMA\_ACC, POLSMA\_DPC (program suspended)

## Program Information

The Department of Political Science, in the College of Arts and Sciences, offers graduate training leading to the Master of Arts degree. In addition, the Department participates in a joint degree program with the Brandeis School of Law.

The MA is designed to allow a student to pursue a degree either full or part time. Most graduate-level courses are offered in the evening. The MA is oriented toward those who wish to pursue advanced training in political science or a position in the public, private, or non-profit sector.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the unique strengths of the Department of Political Science when planning their course of study. In particular, the Department enjoys strong complements of faculty in two areas: International Studies, and American Politics.

The International Studies field includes the comparative study of various regions and nations throughout the world as well as the study of relations among nations and other global actors. Areas of faculty expertise include the politics of Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, East Asia, Europe, and the former Soviet Union, development, political economy, revolution, leadership, environment, civil-military relations, foreign policy, defense and security, international organizations, and international law.

The American Politics field includes the study of the American governmental institutions that formulate public policy and the study of the administration of public policy. Areas of faculty expertise include the presidency, Congress, the judiciary, federalism, public administration, public law, the electoral process, social policy, housing policy, urban policy, environmental policy, and economic development policy.

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## Accelerated BA-BS/MA

The Department of Political Science also offers its undergraduate majors an opportunity to earn both a BA (or BS) degree and an MA degree at an accelerated pace. This program allows students to complete one semester (nine (9) credit hours) of graduate coursework while enrolled

as undergraduate students. Typically, students finish their MA degrees within three semesters of completing their undergraduate degrees.

Applicants must meet the general requirements for admission to the Graduate School and must submit an application to the Department of Political Science. Applicants should have an undergraduate major or minor in social science or have sufficient alternative preparation in the social sciences.

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## Joint MA/JD Program

The Department of Political Science offers a joint MA/JD program in partnership with the Brandeis School of Law. This program allows the student to obtain the MA and JD degrees in a four-year course of study. For additional information, see the Brandeis School of Law website (<http://louisville.edu/law/academics/degree-programs/dual-degree-programs/>).

## Admission Requirements

Admission into the MA program is competitive.

The procedures for admission into the MA program are as follows:

1. Submit a completed graduate application (<http://louisville.edu/graduate/futurestudents/apply-materials/application/>) and application fee to the Graduate School. Application for admission must be made by July 15 for the Fall semester and November 15 for the Spring semester.
2. Forward official transcripts verifying the receipt of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution to the Graduate School. An applicant must hold a BA or BS (or foreign equivalent) before admission to the program can be granted. Applicants selected for the program have generally earned a 3.0 undergraduate GPA overall or a 3.2 undergraduate GPA in the last 60 credit hours or the equivalent.
3. Provide two letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the applicant's academic performance. Professional letters from employers are acceptable only when a substantial time has elapsed since the applicant has attended an academic institution.
4. A written personal statement is required. This statement should detail the applicant's educational and professional experiences and goals and relate these goals to the pursuit of graduate study in political science at the University of Louisville. The statement should be approximately 400-500 words in length.
5. International applicants are required to take the TOEFL, IELTS or Duolingo examination if English is not the native language. TOEFL scores of 79 or higher on the internet-based test, 213 or higher on the computer-based test. English proficiency can also be met by submitting official IELTS scores of at least 6.5 overall band score from the academic module exam or official Duolingo overall score of 105. Students holding a bachelor's or advanced degree from an accredited institution in the United States may be exempt from this requirement.

The Department may accept applicants who do not meet these requirements on a conditional basis if sufficient additional evidence of promise of success in the graduate program can be shown. No student will be admitted unconditionally until all materials listed above have been received.

## Program Requirements

Students may select from one of three options for their graduate studies:

1. The general MA in Political Science (thesis),
2. The general MA in Political Science (non-thesis), or
3. The MA in Political Science with a concentration in Digital Politics (non-thesis) NOTE: This program is suspended and no longer accepting applications.

The curricula for these options are described below.

### Thesis Option

Code	Title	Hours
POLS 670	Research Design	3
POLS 671	Introduction to Data Analysis	3
POLS 619	Seminar in Public Policy	3
POLS 629	Seminar in American Politics	3
POLS 639	Seminar in International Relations	3
POLS 649	Seminar in Comparative Politics	3
Electives *		6
POLS 699	Thesis Guidance	6
<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>		<b>30</b>

\* From Political Science or other departments. Up to six (6) elective credit hours may be at the 500-level. Up to three (3) credit hours may be independent study.

### Non-Thesis Option

Code	Title	Hours
POLS 670	Research Design	3
POLS 671	Introduction to Data Analysis	3
POLS 619	Seminar in Public Policy	3
POLS 629	Seminar in American Politics	3
POLS 639	Seminar in International Relations	3
POLS 649	Seminar in Comparative Politics	3
Electives **		15
POLS 695	Directed Research	3
<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>		<b>36</b>

\*\* From Political Science and other departments. Up to six (6) elective credit hours may be taken outside of Political Science. Up to nine (9) elective credit hours may be taken at the 500-level. Up to three (3) credit hours may be independent study credit.

### Non-Thesis Option with a Concentration in Digital Politics (suspended)

This program is suspended and no longer accepting applications. Students with questions should consult with their academic advisor.

Academic Plan Code(s): POLSMA\_DPC

Code	Title	Hours
POLS 670	Research Design	3
POLS 671	Introduction to Data Analysis	3
POLS 619	Seminar in Public Policy	3
POLS 629	Seminar in American Politics	3
POLS 639	Seminar in International Relations	3
POLS 649	Seminar in Comparative Politics	3
Digital Politics Courses <sup>1</sup>		
POLS 507	Topics in Digital Politics (Public Policy)	3
POLS 507	Topics in Digital Politics (American Politics)	3
POLS 507	Topics in Digital Politics (Global Politics)	3
POLS 692	Independent Study II	3
Electives <sup>2</sup>		6
<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>		<b>36</b>

<sup>1</sup> New course offerings in Digital Politics will first be offered under the POLS 507 designation before formal applications for new courses are submitted. Students may take POLS 507 more than once as long as the topic is different with each offering.

<sup>2</sup> Must be at the 600 level. Up to three (3) credit hours may be independent study credit POLS 691.