

POLITICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM

Master of Arts (M.A.) Degree

DEGREE INFORMATION

Program Admission Deadlines:

Fall:	February 15
Spring:	October 15
Summer:	February 15

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

Minimum Total Hours:	36
Program Level:	Masters
CIP Code:	45.1001
Dept. Code:	GIA
Program (Major/College):	POL AS
Approved:	1969

CONTACT INFORMATION

College:	Arts and Sciences
Department:	Government and International Affairs
Contact Information:	www.grad.usf.edu

PROGRAM INFORMATION

The graduate program leading to the M.A. in Political Science is designed to offer advanced general instruction in Political Science. It prepares its graduates for positions of responsibility in the public and private sectors, as well as in research, teaching, and study at the doctoral level.

Accreditation:

Accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of College and Schools.

ADMISSION INFORMATION

Must meet University requirements (see Graduate Admissions) as well as requirements listed below.

Program Admission Requirements

Same as university plus:

- Undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited institution
- GRE required
- Three (3) letters of recommendation
- A 500 word personal statement
- Official transcripts
- Minimum GPA of 3.00
- Must have an undergraduate background in political science.

DEGREE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Total Minimum Hours: 36 hours

For instructional purposes, the graduate curriculum in Political Science has been divided into four fields:

Field 1 Comparative Politics	(courses with a CPO prefix)
Field 2 International Relations	(courses with an INR prefix)
Field 3 American Government	(Courses with a PUP, POS, or URP prefix)
Field 4 Political Theory	(courses with a POT prefix)

Students must take the core seminar in each of these four fields and then select one field as a major area in which to concentrate. They must consult with the graduate coordinator to map out a course plan.

1. Required Research Methods Sequence (6 hours):

POS 6735	Foundations of Political Inquiry	3
POS 6736	Research Design	3

Core Seminar Requirements (12 hours)

POS 6045	Seminar in American Government (3)
POT 6007	Seminar in Political Theory (3)
INR 6007	Seminar in International Relations (3)
CPO 6091	Seminar in Comparative Politics (3)

2. Major field (9 hours):

In addition to the core course in major area, three additional courses in the core area are chosen from American Government, Political Theory, International Relations, or Comparative Politics.

Electives – 3 hours

Students may take three additional hours either in methods or in their major field

3. Thesis/Non Thesis (Minimum of 6 hours):

POS 6971	Thesis: Master's	6 hours minimum
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Thesis: Students must provide new insight into a relevant topic in political science or international studies. As students approach the thesis stage, they need to compose a thesis committee consisting of a major professor, who must be a member of the Department of Government and International Affairs, and two readers. One of the two readers can be from another department, but that person must first be approved by the program director. The thesis committee must approve proposals before students embark on their projects. Students must prepare a written thesis and defend their work in a formal oral presentation before their committee.

Non-Thesis:

Non-thesis option: Elective structured class approved by the Graduate Program Director – 3 hours

Independent Research – Literature Review of approximately 40 pages – 3 hours

Students who choose a non-thesis option will be required to complete an additional 6 hours of course work at the 6000 level in place of the thesis. One course must be approved by the Graduate Program Director.

The second course determines competency and serves as the equivalent of a comprehensive examination. The student is required to demonstrate competency by successfully completing a substantial literature review in his or her major field. The student will enroll in:

POS 6909	Independent Study	3
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Comprehensive Examination

For students in the thesis program, successful completion of the Thesis serves in lieu of the Comprehensive Exam. For students in the non-thesis program, the second course determines competency and serves as the equivalent of a comprehensive examination. The student is required to demonstrate competency by successfully completing a substantial literature review in his or her major field.

Course Listings

CPO 5934	Selected Topics in Comparative Politics	3
CPO 6091	Seminar in Comparative Politics	3
INR 5086	Issues in International Relations	3
INR 6007	Seminar in International Relations	3
INR 6036	Seminar in International Political Economy	3
INR 6107	American Foreign Policy	3
POS 6045	Seminar in American Government and Politics	3
POS 6127	Issues in State Government and Politics	3
POS 6455	Political Parties and Interest Groups	3
POT 6007	Seminar in Political Theory	3
PUP 5607	Public Policy and Health Care	3
PUP 6007	Seminar in Public Policy	3
URP 6056	City and Regional Planning	3

Students may take a maximum of 3 hours of Independent Study (POS 6909) and 3 hours maximum of Directed Research (POS 6919)

COURSES

See <http://www.ugs.usf.edu/course-inventory/>