

**FACT SHEET**  
**MASTER OF ARTS**  
**POLITICAL SCIENCE - THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON**

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**Master of Arts (M.A.)**

The M.A. program provides general training in American Politics, Political Theory, International Relations/Comparative Politics, and the Politics of Criminal Justice. Special opportunities and internships exist for students interested in the study of political campaigns, and elections. Students have the option of earning a Certificate in Applied Politics through the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics or a Certificate in Public Policy. The M.A. degree requires thirty credit hours of graduate work including two required seminars (Scope & Theories of Political Science and Research Methods), three additional political science seminars, and fifteen additional graduate credit hours in political science. Courses may be taken in related disciplines (e.g., history, economics) with approval of the Graduate Program Director. Students are required to write an *Essay of Distinction* and take comprehensive exams to fulfill degree requirements at the end of the program.

The M.A. program has provided excellent preparation for students who wish to enroll in Ph.D. programs and subsequently pursue academic careers. Our graduates have entered Ph.D. programs at University of Wisconsin, Indiana University, Columbia University, Washington University/St. Louis, Ohio State University, SUNY-Albany; Claremont Graduate School; the University of Maryland, the University of Connecticut, the University of Kentucky, and the University of Tennessee. Our former students are now faculty members at such institutions as Michigan State University, Texas A & M University, Illinois State University, and the University of Tennessee.

**Admissions:** Three letters of recommendation and a personal statement are required; the GRE is recommended. The Graduate Committee examines applicants' college courses and grades. Applicants with undergraduate degrees or post baccalaureate work will be granted full admission if they have at least a 3.0 G.P.A. (out of 4.0) overall **or** 3.0 G.P.A. for their last 64 hours of course work and 3.0 G.P.A. in political science course work (or course work in major for non political science majors). No student will be considered for conditional or provisional admission to the program unless s/he has at least a 2.75 overall G.P.A; **or** at least a 2.75 G.P.A. for the last 64 hours and a 2.75 G.P.A. in political science (or course work in major for non political science majors).

**Financial Aid:** The Department awards assistantships that include a tuition waiver and a stipend of approximately \$10,000/academic year. Graduate assistants spend twenty hours each week working as teaching assistants in the introductory American government course and as research assistants on faculty projects. There is keen competition for the available assistantships. A separate application is required to apply. Students should apply by March 1 to compete for the assistantships available for each subsequent Fall semester. Apply by November 1 to be considered for any assistantship that may become available to begin during Spring semester.

The Department of Political Science, a part of the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences, currently consists of 10 full-time faculty members, chaired by Dr. Bill Lyons. It offers three undergraduate degree programs: B.A. in Political Science, B.S. in Political Science/Criminal Justice, and B.S. in Political Science/Public Policy Management. In addition to offering a M.A. in Political Science, a Master of Applied Politics degree is offered. A Certificate in Public Policy Management is offered in conjunction with the departments of Economics and Sociology.

The department is directly affiliated with the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics, through which it offers a Certificate in Applied Politics for both graduates and undergraduates. The Institute's director, Dr. John C. Green, associate director, Dr. Stephen C. Brooks, and three Fellows are all members of the Department. The Institute sponsors a regular lecture series and additional programs, as well as some research publications; though it formally reports to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, it engages in extensive informal coordination of activities with the Department.

A second affiliation is with the Institute for Policy Studies, headed by Dr. Karl Kaltenthaler, who is also a department member. The Center receives grants and contracts from outside private and public organizations for its research services.

## **Political Science Department Faculty:**

*Stephen C. Brooks*, Ph.D., Northwestern University, 1982, Associate Professor and Associate Director of the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics

Fields: Public Policy; Political Communication

*Daniel Coffey*, Ph.D., University of Virginia, 2005, Assistant Professor and Bliss Institute Fellow  
Fields: State and Local Politics, Political Parties, Public Opinion, Campaigns and Elections, and Research Methods

*David B. Cohen*, Ph.D. University of South Carolina, 2000, Associate Professor and Bliss Institute Fellow

Fields: American Politics: Presidency and Congress; International Relations: American Foreign Policy and Process

*Ron Gelleny*, Ph.D., Binghamton University, 2002, Assistant Professor and Graduate Program Director

Fields: Comparative and International Politics: Political Economy, Human Rights, Cross-National Political Behavior, and American Foreign Policy.

*John C. Green*, Ph.D., Cornell University, 1983, Professor and Director of the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics

Fields: Campaign Finance, Management and Organization; Religion and Politics

*Dena Hanley*, Ph.D., University of Cincinnati, 2002, Assistant Professor

Fields: Criminal Justice, Corrections, and Program Evaluation

*Karl Kaltenthaler*, Ph.D., Washington University, 1995, Associate Professor, Bliss Institute Fellow, and Director of the Center for Policy Studies

Fields: Comparative Politics, Public Opinion, Political Economy, and Mass Behavior Across Countries

*Bill Lyons*, Ph.D., University of Washington, 1995, Associate Professor and Director, Conflict Management

Fields: Law and Society, Policing Reform and Urban Politics, Comparative Criminal Justice

*Nancy E. Marion*, Ph.D., SUNY-Binghamton, 1990, Professor

Fields: Public Policy, Criminal Justice

*James C. Sperling*, Ph.D., University of California-Santa Barbara, 1986, Professor

Fields: International Relations and International Trade (Europe)