

## DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE GRADUATE PROGRAM GUIDE

The Department of Political Science of the University of Akron invites applications for graduate study leading to the degree of *Master of Arts in Political Science*, *Master of Applied Politics*, or *Joint J.D./Master of Applied Politics*.

Master of Arts students may specialize in one of six concentrations: American Government Institutions, American Linkage Institutions, The Politics of Criminal Justice, International Relations, or Comparative Politics. Each concentration is designed to meet the needs of our increasingly diverse student population and prepare students for positions in state and local government, for continuing their studies toward a doctorate in Political Science or for careers in business, law, or journalism.

The *Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics* is a research and teaching institute dedicated to the study of applied politics. Students interested in applied politics may pursue a Master of Applied Politics degree or obtain a *Certificate in Applied Politics* along with their graduate work on a Master of Arts in Political Science degree. Both the Master in Applied Politics degree and the certificate program prepare students to work in campaigns, party organizations, or lobbying at the local, state, or national level.

The J.D./Master of Applied Politics degree allows students to receive both the Juris Doctorate degree and a Master of Applied Politics (MAP) degree. The MAP degree, offered in conjunction with the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics, is a professional degree for campaign management, political party leadership, lobbying and other political professions. The joint program allows students to complete both degrees with 109 credits instead of the 127 that would be needed if the degrees were completed separately. To be accepted into the J.D./MAP program, a student must meet the admission requirements of the School of Law, the Graduate School, and the Department of Political Science. Students will complete their first year of Law School before taking any MAP courses.

The Graduate School (330-972-7663) grants formal admission to all programs. The application procedure is available on line at [www.uakron.edu/gradsch](http://www.uakron.edu/gradsch), Apply Online. If you have any questions--at any time--please feel free to contact Dr. David J. Louscher, the department's Graduate Program Director. He can be reached on email at <dlouscher@uakron.edu> or by phone at (330) 972-6291.

Application requires a \$30 fee (\$40 for international applicants) and a complete record of transcripts from all prior universities attended. For a student from a country where English is not the language of daily use, a score of 550 or better on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is also required. An international student planning to apply for department funding as a Teaching Assistant must also pass the Test of Spoken English (TSE) before enrolling for course work. Admission is based on departmental recommendations, but the graduate dean makes the final decision. Admission may be made in full to the requested program, or it may be provisional, pending the taking of specified graduate courses and the attainment of a specified grade point average. This provisional non-degree status is also used for students who wish to take only limited course work. For more information, see the on-line *Graduate School Bulletin*.

## ADMISSION TO THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

The department will recommend full admission for applicants with undergraduate degrees if the applicant earned at least a 3.0 grade point average (out of 4.0) overall OR a 3.0 grade point average for their last 64 hours of course work and 3.0 in political science course work (or course work in their major). No student will be considered for conditional or provisional admission to the program unless s/he has at least a 2.75 overall grade point average; or at least a 2.75 grade point average for the last 64 hours and a 2.75 grade point average in political science. We require three letters of recommendation (at least one from a faculty member who has worked with the student in the past two years, if applicable) and a personal statement outlining the expected fit between the student's skills and objectives and the department's programs and resources are required for both the MA and the MAP programs. The GRE is recommended.

Applicants with graduate degrees or previous work in a specific graduate program must have at least a 3.0 graduate grade point average overall and at least a 3.0 grade point average in any graduate political science courses to be considered for admission. Applicants from universities not operating on a 4.0 scale will be considered separately by the department's Graduate Program Committee.

Up to one-third of the graduate credits required to complete our program may be transferred from another accredited college or university. The department Graduate Program Committee will rule on the equivalence of such credits to courses required for a Political Science degree. Only credits for courses receiving a B (3.0) grade or better will be considered, and no credits will be recorded until 12 semester credits have been completed at the University of Akron with at least a 3.0 grade point average. The University specifies that all requirements must be completed within six years after beginning graduate work at the University of Akron or elsewhere. For further information, see the *Graduate School Bulletin*.

## FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Recognizing the importance of ongoing interaction between graduate students and faculty members in their field of study, the department requires all graduate students to meet with their Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) at least once per semester. Procedures for creating and maintaining the FAC are listed below.

1. *Initial Formation.* Each new graduate student will meet with the Graduate Program Director (GPD) in September of her or his first term here. In that meeting, the student and the GPD will discuss potential members for the student's Faculty Advisory Committee (at least two department faculty members). Based on this discussion, the GPD will make a set of formal recommendations to the department chair, who will make the committee assignments in October.
2. *Semester Meetings and Progress Report.* Students must meet with their Faculty Advisory Committee at least once each term, beginning with a meeting before the end of the student's first term in our program. A short Progress Report Form (next page) is used to track student progress and kept in the student's file. This form is available from the department secretary and will be submitted to the GPD after each meeting.
3. *Changing the Committee at a Later Date.* At the request of either the student or any member of the Faculty Advisory Committee, the GPD can recommend to the department chair that the chair decide to allow a student's committee be reconstituted. These will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the department chair.

4. *Committee Role.* A Faculty Advisory Committee will meet each term with the student to:

- discuss the student's progress and concerns
- advise the student on course selections (including any recommendations to the department chair on substitutions from the recommended courses listed on the student checklists)
- advise the student on potential research/internship opportunities
- ensure that the student is working through an agreed upon comprehensive exam reading list
- clarify expectations regarding all program components, including all expectations for the student's writing requirements: Essay of Distinction or MAP portfolio

5. *Guidelines on Taking Non-Political Science Courses:* Students wishing to take courses outside the department must have the prior permission of the Graduate Program Director for each course taken. Permission will be given when the student demonstrates that the course:

- fits the student's program of study,
- will improve the student's preparation for comprehensive examinations, and
- has the approval of the student's Faculty Advisory Committee.

Permissions granted for more than one course per student outside the department are rare. Required and pre-approved elective courses for the MAP do not need special permission.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Faculty Advisory Committee  
Progress Report**

Committee: \_\_\_\_\_ chair  
\_\_\_\_\_ member

**I. First Semester Committee Meeting**

**Concentration: (check one)**

**Also Pursuing:**

\_\_\_ International Relations  
\_\_\_ Comparative Politics  
\_\_\_ MAP

\_\_\_ American: Government Institutions  
\_\_\_ American: Linkage Institutions

\_\_\_ The Politics of Criminal Justice  
\_\_\_ Certificate in Applied Politics

✓ Graduate Assistant assignments (if any):

✓ Courses Selected for this semester:

Program Approved by:  
Committee Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Second Semester Committee Meeting**

Essay of Distinction or Capstone Paper Topic:

Have all expectations been clarified? Yes/No

Have reading lists been established? Yes/No

✓ Graduate Assistant assignments (if any):

✓ Courses Selected for this semester:

Program Approved by:  
Committee Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Summer**

Internship (agency name and contact person):

Job Description:

**III. Third Semester Committee Meeting**

Is the Student ready to take comprehensive exams or defend his/her MAP portfolio? Yes/No

Is the student enrolled in the first of two Topics in Masters Research (3700:696) Yes/No

Committee Comments:

✓ Graduate Assistant assignments (if any):

✓ Courses Selected for this semester:

Program Approved by:

Committee Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Student \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reader: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. Fourth Semester Committee Meeting**

Essay/Capstone Paper due date \_\_\_\_\_ Exam/defense date (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Is the student enrolled is the second of two Topics in Masters Research (3700:696) Yes/No

FAC—please check with Cathy to ensure room availability and staff support for exam/defense date.

Has the student added a third reader for his/her comprehensive exams (MA only)? Yes/No

Comments:

✓ Graduate Assistant assignments (if any):

✓ Courses Selected for this semester:

Program Approved by:

Committee Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Student \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reader: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Summer**

Internship (agency name and contact person):

Job Description:

## MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

*Course and Hour Requirements* The University of Akron requires the satisfactory completion of 30 credits of graduate work, at least 18 of which must be at the 600 level. A 3.0 grade point average is required to graduate (a grade of D is treated as F in the calculation of graduate student grade point averages). A maximum of 6 credits below a B- can be counted toward your degree. For further specification of graduate policy, see the *Graduate School Bulletin*.

The Political Science Department requires the following course work:

3700:600 Scope and Theories of Political Science	3 credits
3700:601 Research Methods in Political Science	3 credits
Three Additional Graduate Seminars in Political Science	9 credits
3700:696 Two-course sequence of Topics in Masters Research (taken in second year)	6 credits
Nine Additional Graduate Credits (500 or 600 level)	<u>9 credits</u>
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED	30 credits

Neither Topics in Masters Research, Independent Research & Readings, nor Internship credits are seminar credits.

*Comprehensive Examination Requirement* All students seeking a Master of Arts in Political Science must successfully complete a written examination in one concentration: International Politics, Comparative Politics, American Government Institutions, American Linkage Institutions, or The Politics of Criminal Justice. Exams are taken after all seminars and course work have been completed. The comprehensive examinations are scheduled during one week in the Fall and Spring semesters. Students must have the approval of their Faculty Advisory Committee and the graduate program director to be eligible to take comprehensive exams. Please refer to the *Student Checklists* below.

*Exam Procedures* (1) Students must secure the approval of their FAC to take their comprehensive examination. The FAC will establish reading lists and clarify exam expectations. (2) Students must add a third faculty reader to their FAC, and this third members role will be limited to reading and evaluating their comprehensive exam. This three-member exam committee must approve the date of the exam if it is to be scheduled at a time different from other students. (3) The chair of the FAC will solicit some number (determined by the chair of the committee) of questions from each faculty member on the exam committee and these questions will be written to emphasize overlap across and integration of the material in the student's exam area. (4) From these questions, the FAC chair will select (all or some subset of) those questions to be used in the exam. (5) Students write their exam (by hand or on a computer). The exam is to be a five-hour exercise. Six hours will be scheduled for each exam to ensure that time pressure is not a significant factor in determining student performance. This should allow sufficient time to answer all questions, including time at the start to think/outline and time at the end for revisions and editing. (6) Each of three faculty readers independently reads and evaluates the entire exam. Each faculty reader independently assigns a score ranging from 0.0 to 3.0. A score between 2.50-3.00 is a Pass with Distinction. A score between 2.0-2.49 is a High Pass. A score between 1.50-1.99 is a Pass. A score between 1.00-1.49 is a Low Pass. And a score between 00-.99 is a Fail. These scores are aggregated for all faculty readers and an average score is calculated. In the case of a major dispute among faculty readers a meeting may be held, discussions conducted among the readers, and the majority view will prevail. (7) A final evaluation is determined through discussions among the faculty readers and communicated to the student.

An *Essay of Distinction* is a single, article-length, scholarly essay. This writing requirement will encourage our students to learn how to participate in the debates central to our discipline and complete our program with a superb writing sample that can serve as a foundation for continued graduate work, a conference presentation, a published article, or a deliverable policy analysis. Students will recommend and the FAC approve a target journal to be used to establish a shared standard of scholarly writing. It is possible that they might name the *American Political Science Review*, *Law and Society Review*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *American Journal of Political Science*, or many other publications. In naming a journal, the student and the FAC are agreeing on the standards that will be brought to bear in evaluating that *Essay of Distinction*. The standards—in terms of style, approach, and substance—will be as close as possible to the standards that a reviewer would be expected to use in evaluating a submission for publication to that journal. The student's Faculty Advisory Committee must approve an *Essay of Distinction* in writing. For students who follow the expected progression, research for the essay will be completed in the student's third semester (Topics in Masters Research) and the writing of the essay will be completed in the student's fourth semester (Topics in Masters Research).

Student Checklist  
American Government Institutions Track

- (1) Department Required Seminars (6 credits)
- |     |                  |       |
|-----|------------------|-------|
| 600 | Scope and Theory | _____ |
| 601 | Research Methods | _____ |

- (2) Track Required Seminar (3 credits)
- |     |                              |       |
|-----|------------------------------|-------|
| 630 | Seminar in National Politics | _____ |
|-----|------------------------------|-------|

- (3) Select Two Additional Department Seminars from this list: (6 credits)\*
- |     |  |       |       |
|-----|--|-------|-------|
| 610 | Seminar in International Politics                      | _____ | _____ |
| 620 | Seminar in Comparative Politics                        |       |       |
| 622 | Seminar in Alternatives to Violence at Home and Abroad |       |       |
| 650 | Seminar on Law, Punishment, and Politics               |       |       |
| 668 | Seminar in Public Policy Agendas and Decisions         |       |       |
| 672 | Seminar: Political Influence and Organizations         |       |       |

**\*Neither an Independent Study nor Internship credits count as a graduate seminar.**

- (4) Six Credits of Topics in Masters Research
- |     |                   |       |
|-----|-------------------|-------|
| 696 | (Third Semester)  | _____ |
| 696 | (Fourth Semester) | _____ |

TOTAL = 21 credits at 600 level

- (5) 9 Additional Graduate Credits (500 or 600 level)
- |     |       |       |
|-----|-------|-------|
| 5/6 | _____ | _____ |
| 5/6 | _____ | _____ |
| 5/6 | _____ | _____ |

- (6) In completing (5) above you must select one course from:\*\*

- |     |                                      |
|-----|--------------------------------------|
| 541 | The Policy Process                   |
| 561 | Supreme Court and Constitutional Law |
| 562 | Supreme Court and Civil Liberties    |

\*\*Faculty Advisory Committee can recommend substitutions to the department chair for approval.

TOTAL = 30 credits

- (7) Complete an Essay of Distinction
- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| Completed 6 credits of 696 (Part 4 above)                                 | _____ |
| All members of the student's Faculty Advisory Committee Approve the Essay | _____ |

- (8) Pass Comprehensive Exam \_\_\_\_\_

Student Checklist  
American Linkage Institutions Track

- (1) Department Required Seminars (6 credits)
- 600 Scope and Theory \_\_\_\_\_
  - 601 Research Methods \_\_\_\_\_

- (2) Track Required Seminar (3 credits)
- 672 Seminar: Political Influence and Organizations \_\_\_\_\_

- (3) Select Two Additional Department Seminars from this list: (6 credits)\* \_\_\_\_\_
- 610 Seminar in International Politics
  - 620 Seminar in Comparative Politics
  - 622 Seminar in Alternatives to Violence at Home and Abroad
  - 630 Seminar in National Politics
  - 650 Seminar on Law, Punishment, and Politics
  - 668 Seminar in Public Policy Agendas and Decisions

**\*Neither an Independent Study nor Internship credits count as a graduate seminar.**

- (4) Six Credits of Topics in Masters Research
- 696 (Third Semester) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 696 (Fourth Semester) \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL = 21 credits at 600 level

- (5) 9 Additional Graduate Credits (500 or 600 level)
- 5/6 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5/6 \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5/6 \_\_\_\_\_

- (6) In completing (5) above, you must select 2 courses from:\*\*

- 502 Politics and the Media
- 574 Political Behavior and Electoral Politics
- 575 American Interest Groups
- 576 American Political Parties

\*\*Faculty Advisory Committee can recommend substitutions to the department chair.

TOTAL = 30 credits

- (7) Complete an Essay of Distinction
- Completed 6 credits of 696 (Part 4 above)
- \_\_\_\_\_

All members of the student's Faculty Advisory Committee Approve the Essay \_\_\_\_\_

- (8) Pass Comprehensive Exam \_\_\_\_\_

Student Checklist  
International Relations Track

(1) Department Required Seminars (6 credits)

- 600 Scope and Theory \_\_\_\_\_
- 601 Research Methods \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Track Required Seminars (6 credits)

- 610 Seminar in International Politics \_\_\_\_\_
- 620 Seminar on Comparative Politics \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Select One Additional Department Seminars from this list: (3 credits)\* \_\_\_\_\_

- 622 Seminar in Alternatives to Violence at Home and Abroad
- 630 Seminar in National Politics
- 650 Seminar on Law, Punishment, and Politics
- 668 Seminar in Public Policy Agendas and Decisions
- 672 Seminar: Political Influence and Organizations

**\*Neither an Independent Study nor Internship credits count as a graduate seminar.**

(4) Six Credits of Topics in Masters Research

- 696 (Third Semester) \_\_\_\_\_
- 696 (Fourth Semester) \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL = 21 credits at 600 level

(5) 9 Additional Graduate Credits (500 or 600 level)

- 5/6 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5/6 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5/6 \_\_\_\_\_

(6) In completing (5) above you must select one course from:\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

- 505 Politics in the Middle East
- 510 International Defense Policy
- 515 Comparative Foreign Policy

\*\*Faculty Advisory Committee can recommend substitutions to the department chair for approval.

TOTAL = 30 credits

(7) Complete an Essay of Distinction

- Completed 6 credits of 696 (Part 4 above) \_\_\_\_\_
- All members of the student's Faculty Advisory Committee Approve the Essay \_\_\_\_\_

(8) Pass Comprehensive Exam \_\_\_\_\_

Student Checklist  
Comparative Politics Track

- (1) Department Required Seminars (6 credits)
- |     |                  |       |
|-----|------------------|-------|
| 600 | Scope and Theory | _____ |
| 601 | Research Methods | _____ |
- (2) Track Required Seminar (3 credits)
- |     |                                 |       |
|-----|---------------------------------|-------|
| 620 | Seminar in Comparative Politics | _____ |
|-----|---------------------------------|-------|
- (3) Select Two Additional Department Seminars from this list: (6 credits)\*
- |     |  |       |
|-----|--|-------|
| 610 | Seminar in International Politics                      | _____ |
| 622 | Seminar in Alternatives to Violence at Home and Abroad | _____ |
| 630 | Seminar in National Politics                           | _____ |
| 650 | Seminar on Law, Punishment, and Politics               | _____ |
| 668 | Seminar in Public Policy Agendas and Decisions         | _____ |
| 672 | Seminar: Political Influence and Organizations         | _____ |

**\*Neither an Independent Study nor Internship credits count as a graduate seminar.**

- (4) Six Credits of Topics in Masters Research
- |     |                   |       |
|-----|-------------------|-------|
| 696 | (Third Semester)  | _____ |
| 696 | (Fourth Semester) | _____ |

TOTAL = 21 credits at 600 level

- (5) 9 Additional Graduate Credits (500 or 600 level)
- |     |       |       |
|-----|-------|-------|
| 5/6 | _____ | _____ |
| 5/6 | _____ | _____ |
| 5/6 | _____ | _____ |

- (6) In completing (5) above you must select one course from:\*\*
- |     |                             |  |
|-----|-----------------------------|--|
| 505 | Politics in the Middle East |  |
| 515 | Comparative Foreign Policy  |  |

\*\*Faculty Advisory Committee can recommend substitutions to the department chair for approval.

TOTAL = 30 credits

- (7) Complete an Essay of Distinction
- |   |  |       |
|---|--|-------|
| Completed 6 credits of 696 (Part 4 above)                                 |  | _____ |
| All members of the student's Faculty Advisory Committee Approve the Essay |  | _____ |
- (8) Pass Comprehensive Exam
- |  |  |       |
|--|--|-------|
|  |  | _____ |
|--|--|-------|

Student Checklist  
The Politics of Criminal Justice Track

- (1) Department Required Seminars (6 credits)
- |     |                  |       |
|-----|------------------|-------|
| 600 | Scope and Theory | _____ |
| 601 | Research Methods | _____ |
- (2) Track Required Seminar (3 credits)
- |     |  |       |
|-----|--|-------|
| 650 | Seminar on Law, Punishment, and Politics: US and the World | _____ |
|-----|--|-------|
- (3) Select Two Additional Department Seminars from this list: (6 credits)\*
- |     |  |       |
|-----|--|-------|
| 610 | Seminar in International Politics                      | _____ |
| 620 | Seminar in Comparative Politics                        | _____ |
| 622 | Seminar in Alternatives to Violence at Home and Abroad | _____ |
| 630 | Seminar in National Politics                           | _____ |
| 668 | Seminar in Public Policy Agendas and Decisions         | _____ |
| 672 | Seminar: Political Influence and Organizations         | _____ |

**\*Neither an Independent Study nor Internship credits count as a graduate seminar.**

- (4) Six Credits of Topics in Masters Research
- |     |                   |       |
|-----|-------------------|-------|
| 696 | (Third Semester)  | _____ |
| 696 | (Fourth Semester) | _____ |

TOTAL = 21 credits at 600 level

- (5) 9 Additional Graduate Credits (500 or 600 level)
- |     |       |       |
|-----|-------|-------|
| 5/6 | _____ | _____ |
| 5/6 | _____ | _____ |
| 5/6 | _____ | _____ |

- (6) In completing (5) above you must select 2 courses from:\*\*

- |     |   |  |
|-----|---|--|
| 530 | Management of Probation and Parole          |  |
| 583 | Constitutional Problems in Criminal Justice |  |
| 582 | Current Issues in Criminal Justice          |  |
| 581 | The Politics of Policing                    |  |
| 580 | Policy Problems: Criminal Justice           |  |
| 543 | Political Scandals and Corruption           |  |

\*\*Faculty Advisory Committee can recommend substitutions to the department chair for approval.

TOTAL = 30 credits

- (7) Complete an Essay of Distinction
- |   |  |       |
|---|--|-------|
| Completed 6 credits of 696 (Part 4 above)                                 |  | _____ |
| All members of the student's Faculty Advisory Committee Approve the Essay |  | _____ |
- (8) Pass Comprehensive Exam
- |  |  |       |
|--|--|-------|
|  |  | _____ |
|--|--|-------|

## MASTER OF APPLIED POLITICS

The Master of Applied Politics, in cooperation with the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics, is one of the few programs in the United States focusing on practical politics. It is designed for students interested in efforts to influence political decisions. This includes activities to capture elective public office in partisan contests, influencing legislation, and political organization.

Admission is open to students who have completed a four-year undergraduate degree and who fulfill the admission requirements of the Graduate School. No specific field of undergraduate major is required for admission, although students without some course work in political science may be restricted from some courses at the beginning of their program and may be required to complete additional course work. Students need to submit three letters of recommendation and a statement of personal goals with their application. The GRE is recommended. The program is designed to accommodate students taking course work on a part-time basis.

Course and Hour Requirements - Complete a total of **39** credits of graduate work

### Core courses - 18 credits:

3700:570	Campaign Management I	3	
3700:571	Campaign Management II		3
3700:600	Scope and Theory of Political Science		3
3700:601	Research Methods in Political Science		3
3700:672	Seminar: Political Influence and Organizations		3
3700:695	Internship in Government & Politics		3*

\*Three Internship credits required: additional credits will be counted towards elective credits

### Elective courses - 6 credits selected from the following courses:

3700:540	Survey Research Methods	3	
3700:572	Campaign Finance		3
3700:574	Political Behavior & Electoral Politics		3
3700:577	Lobbying		3
3700:655	Campaign & Election Law		3
7600:575	Political Communication	3	

**15 credits from Approved List of Electives.** Courses may be in 7600 Communication, 3980 Public Admin, or other departments, including the above courses, as well as the following:

3700:502	Politics and the Media	3	
3700:573	Voter Contact and Elections		3
3700:575	American Interest Groups		3
3700:576	American Political Parties		3
3700:620	Seminar in Comparative Politics	3	
3700:630	Seminar in National Politics		3
3700:668	Seminar in Public Policy Agendas & Decisions	3	
3700:690	Special Topics (Applied focus)		3
3700:697	Independent Research (Applied focus)		3
3980:614	Ethics and Public Service		3
7600:665	Theories of Argument and Persuasion		3

**Note: a minimum of 6 credits from the total 21 elective credits must be at the 600-level**

### Portfolio Requirement

Prepare an applied politics portfolio containing:

- At least two major papers prepared for required courses.
- An applied politics capstone project assigned by the student's advisor.

Pass an oral defense of the applied politics portfolio.

## APPLIED POLITICS PORTFOLIO

### Purpose

The Applied Politics Portfolio contains a variety of materials reflecting the work of a Master of Applied Politics student during his or her participation in the program. The development and preservation of the portfolio are designed to have the student summarize and connect his or her work in two ways. First, it should bring together elements from the various subject areas in the program in a way that demonstrates the linkages of those areas. Second, it should tie together the theoretical and practical aspects of the student's education. The oral defense of the project allows the student to demonstrate to department faculty members her or his understanding of these connections. Preparation of the portfolio and for the defense should be closely coordinated with the student's advisor.

### Contents

The Applied Politics Portfolio must contain:

- The Applied Politics capstone project
- The student's final paper from the *Seminar in Political Influence and Organizations*
- The student's final paper from the *Internship in Government and Politics*
- A final paper from one other Applied Politics course chosen by the student

### Oral Defense

All students will be examined on the contents of the portfolio by a panel of three Applied Politics faculty members. The committee will be made up of the student's Applied Politics project advisor and two additional Applied Politics faculty members. A copy of the portfolio should be given to each committee member at least two weeks prior to the defense. The oral defense should be scheduled for two hours. While each student's specific situation may vary, the exam will cover the following areas:

- An explanation of the Applied Politics project followed by discussion of its elements and the rationale for the decisions made in its development.
- The validity of theoretical concepts presented in the MAP courses as tested by the student's applied politics experiences.
- Ways in which applied politics may change in the future and the validity of current practices and theoretical ideas in coping with that change.

### Time Limit

The University specifies that all degree requirements must be completed within six years after beginning graduate work at the University of Akron or elsewhere. The Dean of Graduate Studies may grant an extension in unusual circumstances; see the *Graduate School Bulletin* for further details on this and other graduation requirements.

## J.D./MASTER OF APPLIED POLITICS

The J.D./Master of Applied Politics degree allows students to receive both the Juris Doctorate degree and a Master of Applied Politics (MAP) degree. The MAP degree, offered in conjunction with the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics, is a professional degree for campaign management, political party leadership, lobbying and other political professions. The joint program allows students to complete both degrees with 109 credits instead of the 127 that would be needed if the degrees were completed separately. To be accepted into the J.D./MAP program, a student must meet the admission requirements of the School of Law, the Graduate School, and the Department of Political Science. Students will complete their first year of Law School before taking any MAP courses.

Students must complete the following:

	<u><b>Total Required Credits</b></u>
J.D. required courses	44 credits
MAP required courses	24 credits
Applied Politics Portfolio and Capstone Project	
Joint Law School/Political Science course	
3700:655/9200:655 Campaign and Election Law	3 credits
J.D. elective courses (at least 3 credits from the following)	32 credits
9200:623 Administrative Law (3 credits)	
9200:642 Alternative Dispute Resolution (3 credits)	
9200:644 First Amendment Law (3 credits)	
9200:645 Non-profit Tax Entities (3 credits)	
9200:659 Negotiation (1 credits)	
9200:662 Media Law (3 credits)	
9200:664 Local Government Law (3 credits)	
9200:684 Selected Legal Problems (3 or 4 credits)	
9200:698 Independent Study & Research (2 or 3 credits)	
MAP elective (choose one from the following)	3 credits
3700:502 Politics and the Media (3 credits)	
3700:540 Survey Research Methods (3 credits)	
3700:572 Campaign Finance (3 credits)	
3700:574 Political Opinion (3 credits)	
3700:577 Lobbying (3 credits)	
3700:620 Seminar in Comparative Politics (3 credits)	
3700:630 Seminar in National Politics (3 credits)	
3700:668 Seminar in Public Policy	
3700:668 Seminar in Agendas and Decisions (3 credits)	
3700:690 Special Topics in Political Science	
Applied Politics focus (3 credits)	
3700:695 Internship in Political Science (3 credits)	
(in addition to 3 required credits)	

### Portfolio Requirement

Prepare an applied politics portfolio containing:

- At least two major papers prepared for required courses.
- An applied politics capstone project assigned by the student's advisor.

Pass an oral defense of the applied politics portfolio.

# CERTIFICATE IN APPLIED POLITICS

The Ray C. Bliss Institute and the Department of Political Science have combined to offer a Certificate Program in Applied Politics for both undergraduate and graduate students.

The Certificate Program in Applied Politics offers concentrated coursework in the history, organization and management of campaigns intended to influence the outcome of political decisions. This includes as a major focus, but is not limited to, efforts to capture elective public office in partisan contests. This program is available to any student who has a deep interest in Practical Politics. The set of courses comprising the Certificate Program is also incorporated as a track within the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Public Policy Management Program. Interested students are able to create degree programs with an emphasis on campaign management.

## Requirements

Persons are eligible for admission to the Certificate in Applied Politics if they have been admitted to study as special, non-degree, or full-time students in any department of the University. Students who are pursuing a graduate degree in other departments at the University may be admitted to the Masters level certificate program upon the recommendation of the head of the department in which they are enrolled. Students shall seek admission to this program by filing an application with the Bliss Institute and schedule courses with the assistance of an advisor.

## Core Courses:

- 3700:470/570 Campaign Management I
- 3700:471/571 Campaign Management II
- 3700:672 Political Influence and Organizations (Graduate Certificate)
- 3700:395/695 Internship

## Electives:

In addition to the core courses undergraduate students must complete 9 elective credits; 6 elective credits for graduate studies.

### Three credits must be from:

- |              |  |              |                                      |
|--------------|--|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 3700:402/502 | Politics and the Media                 | 3700:475/575 | American Interest Groups             |
| 3700:440/540 | Survey Research Methods                | 3700:476/576 | American Political Parties           |
| 3700:472/572 | Campaign Finance                       | 3700:630     | Sem: National Politics (Graduate)    |
| 3700:473/573 | Voter Contact and Elections            | 3980:614     | Ethics and Public Service (Graduate) |
| 3700:474/574 | Political Opinion, Behavior & Politics | 7600:450     | ST:Commun. in Political Campaigns    |
|              |  | 7600:575     | Political Communication (Graduate)   |

Additional credits from above or from approved courses in Political Science, Communication, Public Administration, or other departments:

### Graduate courses:

- 3700:668 Sem:Agendas & Decisions
- 3980:617 Leadership and Decision-Making
- 7600:665 Theories of Argument and Persuasion

Students must maintain at least a B (3.0) average in the Certificate course work.

## CERTIFICATE:

Political Science majors at both the undergraduate and graduate level will, upon completion of the program, be awarded a B.A., B.S., or M.A. degree in Political Science with a Certificate in Applied Politics. Majors in other disciplines will have the Certificate noted on their permanent record.

## COURSES OF INTEREST FOR THE CERTIFICATE IN APPLIED POLITICS

**Campaign Management I** (3700:470/570 - 3 crs.) This course concerns organizing and conducting campaigns for elective office. Students will explore campaign strategy, candidate and constituency assessment, field organization, and campaign finance.

**Campaign Management II** (3700:471/571 - 3 crs.) The second course in campaign management. The focus is on coalition building, candidate positioning, event planning, internal organization, and other elements of campaign strategy. During the semester students will study timing, targeting, resource allocation, coalition development, political thinking, candidate positioning, internal organization dynamics, and voter contact strategies. Moreover, they will examine how each of these components are integrated into an over-arching campaign plan through case studies and simulations.

**Internship** (3700:395/695 - 2-9 crs.) The internship program provides students real political experience working with party organizations, candidates, interest groups, and public officials at the national, state, and local levels.

**Political Influence and Organizations** (3700:672 - 3 crs.) A theoretical and applied look at parties, interest groups, public opinion, media, and protest. Fundamental elective courses provide an understanding of “how to do politics” while focusing upon specific aspects of applied politics.

**Politics and the Media** (3700:402/502 - 3 crs.) This course concerns the relationship between the news media and political decision making. Students will explore the media as a business and a profession, and the relations between journalists, politicians and the public. Lectures, discussion and a class research project will provide students with an overview of the "Fourth Estate."

**Survey Research Methods** (3700:440/540 - 3 crs.) Study of the survey research methods as applied to the analysis of public opinion, political behavior and public policy formation.

**Campaign Finance** (3700:472/572 - 3 crs.) This course concerns the development and use of financial resources for political purposes. Students will explore federal and state regulations, fund-raising techniques, and the administration of expenditures. Case studies and class research projects will provide students with practical knowledge of the sources and uses of political money.

**Voter Contact and Elections** (3700:473/573 - 3 crs.) This course approaches the subject of campaign communications from three directions at the same time: (1) A classical political science/communications approach to theory and generalizations, (2) A “how-to” presentation of ways to create the communications element of a political campaign and (3) A “case study” application of a political campaign that allows you to “test” the ideas presented in the “real world.”

**Political Opinion, Behavior & Electoral Politics** (3700:474/574 - 3 crs.) Advanced analysis of psychological, cultural and group processes of opinion formation and change. Attention given to the effect of opinion change on electoral outcomes.

**American Interest Groups** (3700:475/575 - 3 crs.) This course concerns the management and organization of parties and interest groups. Students will explore the complimentary and competitive relationship between these kinds of institutions. Case studies will provide an understanding of the day-to-day activities of political organizations.

**American Political Parties** (3700:476/576 - 3 crs.) This course concerns the role of political parties and interest groups in the political process. Students will explore the history, structure, and function of parties and interest groups in elections and in government. Lectures and discussions will provide students with a basic understanding of the American two-party system.

**Seminar: National Politics** (3700:630 - 3 crs.) Reading and research on formulation, development and implementation of national policy in one or more areas of contemporary significance.

## GRADUATE STUDENTS AND THE DEPARTMENT

*Computer and Office Facilities.* The department is located in an interior suite of offices in Olin Hall, the center of the social sciences and humanities divisions. The Department has a microcomputer lab dedicated to graduate student use and located in the main hallway of faculty offices in the department.

*Small Seminars and Frequent Interaction with Faculty.* Although the department enrolls one of the largest number of undergraduate majors in Arts and Sciences, the graduate program is sufficiently small and intimate to provide constant personal contact among students and with faculty. Seminars typically enroll fewer than fifteen students, and are conducted in the evenings; 500-level courses are largely taught during the day, and vary in size, but are usually smaller than thirty.

*Faculty Mentoring.* In their first term, each student will meet with the Graduate Program Director to identify their area of concentration and discuss the formation of a Faculty Advisory Committee consisting of at least two faculty to advise him/her throughout their masters degree program. The committee will take an active role in advising the student on course work, comprehensive exams, and thesis or non-thesis option papers. All students must meet with their Faculty Advisory Committee, as a committee, at least once each term, beginning with a meeting before the end of the student's first term in our program.

*A Supportive Graduate Student Community.* Department graduate students organize and run an active chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the Political Science National Honor Society, which includes undergraduates as members and alumni as career contacts. There are several social functions organized by the department each year, including the Pi Sigma Alpha Awards Banquet and the graduate student orientation. In addition to these more formal events, there are numerous less formal events organized throughout each term, including what appears to be a long list of social engagements among the graduate students themselves.

## CENTER FOR POLICY STUDIES

The Center for Policy Studies is responsible for three major activities: The survey research center, the urban university linkage program and institutional research for the University. The Institute is divided into two major divisions to pursue its responsibilities: the Urban and Policy research division and the Institutional Research Division. The Urban and Policy research division is responsible for the administration of the Survey Research Center and the Urban University Program of the Ohio Board of Regents at the University of Akron. This division provides public policy analysis and data management services for various government and social service agencies. In addition a portion of the state support provided to the Institute is used to fund a competitive grant program linking university researchers and public partners such as government agencies to examine significant public policy issues.

The University of Akron Center for Policy Studies, located in the Polsky building, is a research facility established with the prime objective of making quality survey data collection and management available to university researchers as well as national, state, and public service agencies. The center is equipped to conduct Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing, mail surveys, focus group administration, intercept studies and personal interviews.

Large scale database analysis, computer assisted data entry, and special policy studies are carried out by the Data Services Manager. As part of the Urban University Program the Data Services Manager has access to Geographic Information System (GIS) capabilities through cooperative arrangements with the Department of Geography and Planning.

The Center has been in continuous operation at the University of Akron since 1982. Most of the work done by the Center is on behalf of government or nonprofit agencies and mass media organizations, such as newspapers and television stations. Our work is explicitly intended to influence, both directly and indirectly, public discussion and planning on significant social and political issues. Results of studies conducted by the Center have received local, regional and national coverage by both print and broadcast media. Center staff are regular contributors to radio, television and newspaper coverage of policy issues as political scientists and/or research methodology experts. The Center for Policy Studies provides numerous opportunities for hands-on research experience at the graduate level.

#### FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS AND ASSISTANCE

The Graduate Bulletin provides a listing of tuition costs and fees, and should be consulted for precise cost estimates. In general, however, as of 2007-2008 they amounted to approximately \$342.47 per credit hour for Ohio residents and \$587.50 for non-residents, plus additional miscellaneous fees listed on page 23 of the on-line Graduate Bulletin.

Many graduate students receive financial support from the University, which each year awards a number of graduate assistantships to the department. These assistantships provide a nine months' stipend and tuition remission. Graduate Assistants have varied duties including responsibility for discussion sections and grading in the basic U.S. government course and assisting professors in current research projects.

All students qualified for full admission are encouraged to apply for these assistantships. Applications may be obtained on line at [www.uakron.edu/gradsch/gradbull](http://www.uakron.edu/gradsch/gradbull). Assistantship applications should be submitted to the political science graduate adviser by March 1 for the following September. They are renewable for one additional year.

The assistantship stipend for 2007-2008, which includes a tuition waiver, is \$10,500.

#### STUDENT HOUSING

The University is centrally located, a few blocks from downtown Akron. Student-priced housing, restaurants and shopping are available within walking distance, and frequent bus service expands the living range considerably for those without cars. The Department of Residence Life and Housing (330/972-7800) provides residence information.

The campus has a large evening enrollment, and that, added to the below-average crime rate for the city and the responsiveness of the University Police, makes it a relatively safe location even at night.

The Akron area offers a broad variety of recreational and entertainment facilities. Blossom Center provides summer-long musical entertainment; the major community theater, Weathervane Playhouse, is well-established; the Aeros Baseball Stadium, Akron Art Museum, Civic Theater and Inventure Place are within a few blocks of the campus. A few miles away are the period showplaces of Stan Hywet Hall, and Hale Farm and Village. Beyond them lie sailing lakes, restored Western Reserve areas and the professional sports centers Gund Arena and Jacobs Field. Feel free to ask the Graduate Program Director or your fellow graduate students for the locations of these or other recreational facilities.

The additional amenities of Cleveland are about an hour's drive away from the University campus. The University, of course, has its own fine arts and sports facilities; taken in all, nearly every interest can be happily pursued in the area.

GRADUATE FACULTY, 2008-2009

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 J. Coffey, Ph.D., University of Virginia, 2005, Assistant Professor.

Fields: American Government, Political Theory

David B. Cohen, Ph.D. University of South Carolina, 2000, Associate Professor.

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

Ronald D. Gelleny, Ph.D. Binghamton University-SUNY, 2002, Assistant Professor.

Fields: Comparative Politics, Globalization and Policy Making, Political Economy, Political Behavior, Public Opinion, International Relations, 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, Associate Professor.

Fields: Criminal Justice, Corrections, and Program Evaluation

Karl Kaltenthaler, Ph.D. Washington University, St. Louis, 1995, Associate Professor.

Fields: Comparative Political Economy, Political Economy of Mass Behavior/Public Opinion, Politics of Central Banking, European Politics, European Integration

David J. Louscher, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, 1972, Professor and Chair.

Fields: International Relations: Foreign Policy and Security Studies

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

Terrence M. O'Sullivan, Ph.D., University of Southern California, 2003, Assistant Professor.

Fields: Security Studies, Terrorism, Global Public Health, Natural Disasters, International Political Economy, Global Governance, Terrorism, Science and Technology Policy, and Comparative Politics

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

Fields: International Relations and European Security Policy

## GRADUATE COURSES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

- 600 SCOPE AND THEORIES OF POLITICAL SCIENCE (Required), 3 credits  
Emphasis on the nature, scope and content of political theory construction and validation in political science.
- 601 RESEARCH METHODS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE (Required), 3 credits  
Prerequisite: Six credits of political science, including 440 (or a satisfactory equivalent) or permission.  
Techniques of quantitative research in political science; utility and limitations of quantitative analysis.
- 610 SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS (3 credits)  
Analysis of current problems in theory and practice of politics and organization.
- 620 SEMINAR IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS (3 credits)  
Research on selected topics in comparative politics and the comparative method.
- 622 SEMINAR IN ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE AT HOME AND ABROAD  
An interdisciplinary analysis of the nature of violence—from interpersonal to international—to enhance our capacity to reduce violence and other threats to liberty.
- 630 SEMINAR IN NATIONAL POLITICS (3 credits)  
Reading and research on formulation, development and implementation of national policy.
- 650 SEMINAR ON LAW, PUNISHMENT, AND POLITICS: US AND THE WORLD (3 credits)  
Reading and research on the multiple interconnections between law, punishment, politics, and power.
- 668 SEMINAR IN PUBLIC POLICY AGENDAS AND DECISIONS (3 credits)  
Reading and research on the development of public policy issues and decision making.
- 672 SEMINAR IN POLITICAL INFLUENCE AND ORGANIZATIONS (3 credits)  
Prerequisite: permission. Examination of how public concerns and demands are resolved or diffused. A theoretical and applied look at parties, interest groups, public opinion, media, and protest.
- 690 SPECIAL TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE (3 credits)  
Graduate-level examination of selected topics in American politics, comparative politics, international politics or political theory.
- 695 INTERNSHIP IN POLITICAL SCIENCE (3-6 credits)  
Prerequisite: permission of graduate adviser. Field experience: student is placed with officeholders, government agencies or political groups for research or practical experience of relevance to program.
- 696 TOPICS IN MASTER'S RESEARCH (3 credits)  
Prerequisite: permission of advisor. (This course may be repeated for up to 9 credits, with no more than 6 credits applied to degree requirements.) Research in suitable topics in political science or applied political science culminating in an *Essay of Distinction*. Graded credit/non-credit.
- 697 INDEPENDENT RESEARCH AND READINGS (3 credits)  
Prerequisite: permission. (May be repeated, with no more than six credits applied to degree requirements.)

## GRADUATE COURSES OFFERED AT THE 500 LEVEL

502	Politics and the Media
510	International Defense Policy
515	Comparative Foreign Policy
537	Government vs. Organized Crime
540	Survey Research Methods
541	The Policy Process
542	Methods of Policy Analysis
543	Political Scandals and Corruption
545	Al Qaeda
550	Administering Prisons, Probation, and Parole
561	The Supreme Court and Constitutional Law
562	The Supreme Court and Civil Liberties
570	Campaign Management I
571	Campaign Management II
572	Campaign Finance
573	Voter Contact Elections
574	Political Opinion, Behavior & Electoral Politics
575	American Interest Groups
576	American Political Parties
577	Lobbying
580	Policy Problems
581	Politics of Policing
582	Current Issues in Criminal Justice
583	Constitutional Problems in Criminal Justice