

FACT SHEET
MASTER OF APPLIED POLITICS
POLITICAL SCIENCE – THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

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Master of Applied Politics (M.A.P.)

The M.A.P. program is offered by the Department of Political Science in cooperation with the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron. It is one of the few professional masters degree programs in the United States focusing on practical politics designed for students interested in efforts to influence political decisions. This includes activities to capture elective public office in partisan contests, influencing legislation and strengthening political organizations.

Students must complete 39 credits of graduate work including a set of core courses, 12 credits of electives, a professional internship, and the preparation and defense of an applied politics portfolio. The range of elective courses allows students to specialize in the area of greatest interest to them including lobbying and political communications. The program is designed to accommodate both full-time and part-time students. The program can be completed in as little as one calendar year plus one semester (seventeen months).

For over a decade, the Department of Political Science and the Bliss institute have been providing students with education in practical politics. Graduates from the Applied Politics program have secured positions in all areas of government and politics. Examples include posts in both political parties, legislative offices and national, state and local election campaigns. The Bliss Institute Internship program is nationally recognized as providing quality experiential education in Applied Politics. The Master of Applied Politics degree builds upon this experience in a professional degree program for all those interested in the political process.

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 tuition and a stipend of approximately \$8,500. Graduate assistants spend twenty hours each week working 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 11 full-time faculty members, chaired by Dr. David J. Louscher. 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 Master of Applied Politics, a Master of Arts in Political Science 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 two 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. Jesse F. Marquette, 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:

Christopher P. Banks, Ph.D., University of Virginia, 1995, Associate Professor.
Field: Public Law

Stephen C. Brooks, Ph.D., Northwestern University, 1982, Associate Professor and
Associate Director of the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics.
Field: Public Policy; Political Communication

David B. Cohen, Ph.D. University of South Carolina, 2000, Assistant Professor.
Fields: American Politics: Presidency and Congress; International Relations: American Foreign
Policy and Process

Rick Farmer, Ph.D., University of Oklahoma, 1998, Assistant Professor.
Field: American Politics: Parties, Campaigns, and Methodology

John C. Green, Ph.D., Cornell University, 1983, Professor and
Director of the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics.
Field: Campaign Finance, Management and Organization; Religion and Politics

David J. Louscher, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, 1972, Professor and Chair.
Field: International Relations: Foreign Policy and Security Studies

Bill Lyons, Jr., Ph.D., University of Washington, 1995, Assistant Professor
Field: Policing, Comparative Criminal Justice, Urban Politics

Nancy E. Marion, Ph.D., S.U.N.Y.-Binghamton, 1990, Professor.
Field: Public Policy: Criminal Justice

Jesse F. Marquette, Ph.D., University of Florida, 1971, Professor and Director Institute for Policy Studies.
Field: American Political Development and Methodology

Marian A. L. Miller, Ph.D., University of Southern California, Los Angeles, 1988, Associate Professor.
Field: International Relations: Global Environmental Policies

James C. Sperling, Ph.D., University of California-Santa Barbara, 1986, Professor.
Field: International Relations and International Trade (Europe)