

# MA in Applied Politics (MAP)



## POTENTIAL CAREERS:

- Campaign Management
- Political Consultant
- Lobbyist
- Party Leadership
- Political Candidate
- Policy Analyst

## DESIGNED FOR THE REAL WORLD POLITICS JOB MARKET:

- We live in a political world. In response to the growing need for political professionals, the Department of Political Science at the University of Akron offers the **Master of Applied Politics**. This course of study is intended to prepare professionals in the world of applied political occupations. **Graduate job placements:**
- National Presidential Campaigns
- State Campaigns
- PAC's and Super PAC's
- Data analytic firms
- Local campaigns
- Lobbying firms
- Not for Profit Advocacy firms

## APPLY TODAY

Contact Professor Dave Cohen @  
[dcohen@uakron.edu](mailto:dcohen@uakron.edu).

## Admission Requirements

For admission to a graduate program in the Department of Political Science, an applicant should provide the following:

1. A completed application form (available online at [www.uakron.edu/admissions/graduate](http://www.uakron.edu/admissions/graduate)).
2. A one to two page personal statement of purpose, describing the applicant's interests and goals in pursuing graduate study in Political Science.
3. Official transcripts from all universities attended.
4. For international students only, official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
5. Three letters of recommendation (for MA applicants the letters should come from two academic sources familiar with the applicant's course work, research activities, and other qualities relating to successful academic potential.
6. The GRE is not required.

An applicant for graduate study in the Department of Political Science will have earned a minimum 3.0 GPA overall (on a 4.0 scale) on their undergraduate degree OR a 3.0 GPA for their last 64 hours of course work and a 3.0 GPA in political science course work.

While most applicants have an undergraduate major in Political Science or a similar field of study, an undergraduate major in another area may be acceptable. However, an applicant should have at least nine hours of upper-level course work in Political Science. Failing this requirement, an applicant may be admitted to the program on a provisional basis. In such cases, the applicant will be required to complete a number of 500 level Political Science courses, as determined by the Graduate Studies Committee, with a 3.0 GPA or better before admission to the Master's program. Additionally, provisionally admitted students are required to enroll in PS 600, the first of our political methodology sequence courses, as soon as possible.

## International Students

Also, as determined by the graduate school, international students admitted to graduate study in Political Science must achieve a minimum score of 550 on the paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or 213 in the computer-based TOEFL or 79 or higher on the internet-based TOEFL.

## Application Deadlines

### **Students will be considered for admission year-round.**

No single factor decides admittance to the program. The Graduate Program Director and the Graduate Studies Committee, composed of Political Science faculty, evaluates the potential of each candidate for graduate study at The University of Akron.

The on-line Graduate School Bulletin provides information regarding tuition costs and fees, application procedures, the academic calendar, requirements for various degrees, course lists for all departments and general information about the Graduate School.

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 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:**

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.** In addition to Political Science, courses may be in 7600 Communication, 3980 Public Admin., 6600 Marketing or other departments.

**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.

## J.D./MASTER OF APPLIED POLITICS

Students must complete the following:

### **Total Required CrJ.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:

### **Total Required Credits**

J.D. required courses 24 credits <b>(18 credits core courses; 6 credits required electives; see MAP requirements)</b> Applied Politics Portfolio and Capstone Project	44 credits MAP required courses
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) 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)	32 credits

MAP electives

6 credits

**Electives from approved list. In addition to Political Science, courses may be in 7600 Communication, 3980 Public Admin., 6600 Marketing or other departments.**

### **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. **Requirements**

Persons are eligible for admission to the Graduate 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:**

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

### **Electives:**

In addition to the core courses graduate students must complete 6 elective credits.

**Three credits must be from:**

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

**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.

**Courses of Interest for  
Applied Politics**

**Campaign Management I** (3700:470/570 - 3 credits.) 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 credits.) 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 credits.) 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 credits.) 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 credits.) 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 credits.) 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 credits.) 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 credits.) 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 credits.) 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 credits.) 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 credits.) 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 credits.) Reading and research on formulation, development and implementation of national policy in one or more areas of contemporary significance.