

Security Studies MA

Your entry in to the World of National Security



POTENTIAL CAREERS:

- Intelligence Analysis
- Counterterrorism
- Intelligence Operations
- Military Careers
- Risk Analysis
- Diplomacy
- Consulting

DESIGNED FOR THE REAL WORLD SECURITY JOB MARKET:

We live in a World, where security issues often dominate the national policy agenda. In response to the growing need for national security professionals, the Department of Political Science at the University of Akron offers the **Master of Arts Degree in Political Science-Security Studies Track**. This course of study is intended to prepare professionals in the world of national security occupations. Potential employers include:

- Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA)
- Defense Department
- Military Branches of Service
- State Department
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Intelligence/Security Contracting Firms
- NGOs

APPLY TODAY

Contact Professor Karl Kaltenthaler, at kck@uakron.edu or call 330-972-8060. Apply for admission today!

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)
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; submit electronically to psgrad@uakron.edu)
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 3.1 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

Fall Admissions

The deadline for applications for Fall admission and a graduate assistantship is April 1. Applications that arrive later than April 1 will be considered for admission but will not be considered for a graduate assistantship. Notification of offers of admission with graduate assistantship awards will be made by April 15. Students who are offered assistantships have until April 30 to notify the Director of Graduate Studies, if they intend to accept the offer of admission or admission/assistantship. Students will be considered for admission year-round. Students are encouraged to have an assistantship application on file as, on rare occasions, openings become available during the academic year.

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.

Spring Admissions

Applications for Spring admission and graduate assistantships are due by December 1. There are a very limited number of assistantships available for Spring, as most are given out for the Fall and are to last the two years a student is typically in the program. Applications that arrive later than December 1 may be considered for admission but will not be considered for a Spring graduate assistantship. Notification of offers of admission with graduate assistantship awards will be made by December 15. Those who applied by December 1 are offered admission without a graduate assistantship will also be notified by December 15. Students who are offered admission by December 15 have until January 1 to notify the Director of Graduate Studies, if they intend to accept the offer of admission or admission/assistantship.

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.

Graduate Assistantships

Contingent upon budget funding, the Department awards a number of generous Graduate Assistantships to our full-time students on a competitive basis.

Applications must be received by April 1 to receive consideration for departmental assistantships for the Fall semester and November 1 for the Spring semester.

Responsibilities of Graduate Assistants

A Graduate Assistant functions in a dual capacity as both student and employee. As a student, the Assistant is expected to be enrolled full-time, in good standing, and making steady progress toward fulfillment of graduate degree requirements in political science as determined by the Graduate Program Director and the Graduate Program Committee.

As an employee, the assistant is expected to work part time as specified in the appointment under the supervision of a faculty member. The Graduate Program Director and the Chair of the Political Science Department determines all assignment of work duties at the beginning of the academic year. Although efforts are made to align student and faculty interests in assistantship assignments, students should recognize that it is not always possible to arrive at a perfect match of skills, interests, and needs. Students wishing to discuss any aspect of their assignment are invited to consult with the Graduate Program Director.

Graduate Assistants will be designated as either a Teaching Assistant (TA) and/or a Research Assistant (RA) and are expected to work up to twelve hours a week during the Fall and Spring semesters

A Teaching Assistant helps a faculty member instruct undergraduates in political science classes, hold discussion sections, grade exams and assignments, and fulfill other duties. A research assistant works with a faculty member by performing tasks pertaining to political science research. RAs are assigned to faculty in order to maximize the learning experience for the graduate student and the research productivity of faculty.

Courses in Security Studies

- Seminar in International Politics
- Seminar in Security Studies
- Al Qaeda
- International Security Policy
- Wealth and Power: International Political Economy
- Intelligence and Counterterrorism
- Political Extremism and Violence
- Global Public Health Threats
- Seminar in Alternatives to Violence
- Seminar in Comparative Politics
- Seminar in National Politics
- Seminar in War and Insurgency
- American Foreign Policy
- Computer Applications in Public Organizations
- Geographic Information Systems
- Remote Sensing

Coming Soon!

- Environmental Security
- Cybersecurity
- Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Middle East Politics

Internships in Washington, D.C. and elsewhere are recommended and supported by the Security Studies Program logistically and financially!

Security Studies MA: Requirements and Course Offerings

(1) Department Required Seminars (9 credits)

600	Scope and Theory	Gelleny
601	Research Methods	Coffey
603	Scholarly Writing and Professional Development in Political Science	Kaltenthaler

(2) Track Required Seminars (6 credits)*

610	Seminar in International Politics	Kaltenthaler
612	Seminar in Security Studies	Kaltenthaler

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

(3) Fifteen Additional Graduate Credits (500 or 600 level)

3700: 545	Al Qaeda	Kaltenthaler
3700: 510	International Security Policy	Sperling
3700: 514	Wealth and Power (Int'l Political Economy)	Kaltenthaler
3700: 546	Intelligence and Counterterrorism	Kaltenthaler
3700: 500	Political Extremism and Violence	Kaltenthaler
3700: 513	Global Public Health Threats	O'Sullivan
3700: 563	Human Rights in World Politics	Gelleny
3700: 622	Alternatives to Violence	Gelleny
3700: 620	Seminar in Comparative Politics	Kaltenthaler
3700: 611	Seminar in War and Insurgency	Kaltenthaler
3700: 630	Seminar in National Politics	Cohen
3350: 505	Geographic Information Systems	Geography
3350: 547	Remote Sensing	Geography
3350: 549	Advanced Remote Sensing	Geography
3980: 643	Introduction to Public Policy	PAUS
3980: 673	Computer Applications in Public Organizations	PAUS

TOTAL = 30 credits

(4) Defense of MA Essay of Distinction

(5) Pass Comprehensive Exam

Michael Morell to Become Senior Fellow in the Bliss Institute



Michael Morell, former Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, will join the Bliss Institute of Applied Politics as a Senior Fellow and an advisor to the Security Studies Master's Program. He will also teach in the Program. Mr. Morell joined the CIA in 1980, and he was the chief of the division on Asia, Pacific, and Latin America. Mr. Morell is a graduate of Economics from the University of Akron and a Cuyahoga Falls native.

Graduate Faculty in Security Studies

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

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

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

Fields: Comparative Politics, Globalization and Policy Making, Political Economy, Political Behavior, Public Opinion, International Relations, and American Foreign Policy

Karl Kaltenthaler, Ph.D. Washington University, St. Louis, 1995, Professor and Director of Research Projects, Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics.

Fields: Terrorism, Al Qaeda and Affiliates, Islamist Militancy, Middle East and South Asia Security Politics, Public Opinion.

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