

Graduate Programs in the Department of Political Science

The Department of Political Science at 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 (MA)

Master of Arts (MA) students may specialize in one of four areas of concentration: *American Politics*, *Criminal Justice*, *International Studies* (Comparative Politics and International Relations), and *Security Studies* (expected to start in 2013). Each concentration is designed to meet the needs of our increasingly diverse student population and prepare students for doctoral studies in political science, government and non-governmental organizations, careers in business, law, or journalism.

Master of Applied Politics (MAP)

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 (MAP)** 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 of Applied Politics degree and the certificate program prepare students to work in campaigns, party organizations, or lobbying at the local, state, or national level.

J.D./Master of Applied Politics (J.D./MAP)

The **J.D./Master of Applied Politics** degree allows students to receive both the Juris Doctorate degree and a Master of Applied Politics (MAP). 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 must complete their first year of Law School before taking any MAP courses.

The Graduate School (330-972-7663) grants formal admission to all programs at The University of Akron, based on Departmental recommendations. The application form and procedure are available online at www.uakron.edu/admissions/graduate (*click the Apply Online link*). This site lists the fees, required tests and credentials to submit with your application. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Political Science, Dr. Nancy Marion at nmarion@uakron.edu or 330-972-5551.

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 3.0 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.

PLEASE NOTE: There is some discrepancy between the application requirements listed here and those in the Graduate School Bulletin. **Please follow the requirements listed in the Department of Political Science webpage.** The Graduate School Bulletin is being updated and it does not yet reflect the correct set of Political Science Department application requirements.

Application Deadlines

Fall Admissions

Applications for Fall admission and graduate assistantships are due by March 1. Applications that arrive later than March 1 may 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 March 15.** Those who applied by March 1 who are offered admission without a graduate assistantship will also be notified by March 15. **Students who are offered admission by March 15 have until April 15 to notify the Director of Graduate Studies, if they intend to accept the offer of admission or admission/assistantship.** Students applying after application deadlines may be considered for admission on a case-by-case basis. Students are encouraged to have an assistantship application on file as, on rare occasions, openings become available during the academic year.

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.**

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.

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 **March 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 **twenty 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.

GRADUATE FACULTY

American Politics

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, Associate Professor.

Fields: American Government, Political Theory

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

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

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

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

Phil Marcin, Ph.D. University of Georgia, ABD, College Lecturer.

Fields: American Politics and Public Law

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

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

Criminal Justice

Department of Political Science | University of Akron, Olin Hall 223 | phone 330.972.7406 | fax 330.972.8841
Dena Hanley, Ph.D., University of Cincinnati, 2002, Associate Professor.

Fields: Criminal Justice, Corrections, and Program Evaluation

Nancy E. Marion, Ph.D., SUNY-Binghamton, 1990, Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Political Science.

Fields: Public Policy, Criminal Justice

Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Security Studies

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. Director of Graduate Studies.
Fields: Comparative Politics, Political Behavior, Public Opinion, Terrorism, Al Qaeda and affiliates, International Relations, European Integration

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

Political Theory

James T. McHugh, Ph.D., Queens University, 1991. Professor.
Fields: Constitutional Public Law, Political Theory, American Public Administration, and Comparative Politics