

POLITICAL STUDIES, M.A.

Degree Requirements

The M.A Program consists of two independent streams of study: the Course based with Major Research Paper, and the thesis stream. In consultation with the Graduate Chair/their advisor, Students are expected to select either the comprehensive or thesis stream by December of their first year of study. The main purpose of the thesis-based stream is to provide students with a deep understanding of Political Science and to develop their research skills to a level that allows them to explore a chosen topic in depth. The comprehensive stream is intended to enhance the student's understanding of their chosen subfields.

The thesis stream of the M.A in Political Studies consists of course work, a thesis, and an oral examination. Students in the thesis stream must complete a minimum of 15 credit hours, 12 credit hours must be at the 7000 level in Political Studies. In some cases, and with written permission from the Department's Graduate Committee, students may substitute three (3) credit hours of coursework at the 4000/7000 level in a related discipline. Three (3) credit hours includes Research Methods, and three (3) credit hours includes The Study of Politics. Thesis is normally between 20,000 and 25,000 (80,100 pages) but no more than 30,000 words (120 pages). A waiver of the length requirement may be granted by the Graduate Committee, up request and with support from the Advisor.

The Course-Based Stream (with Major Research Paper) of the M.A in Political Studies consists of course work and a research paper. Students in the course-based stream must complete a minimum of 18 credit hours at the 7000 level in Political Studies. In some cases, and with written permission from the Department's Graduate Committee, students may substitute six (6) credit hours of course work at the 7000 level in a related discipline or may be permitted to take six (6) credit hours at the 4000 level in Political Studies. Includes 3 credits of Research Methods, and 3 credits in The Study of Politics. The Major Research Paper (MRP) normally is 6,000-8,000 words in length (25-30 pages; max 40). Final paper is assessed by the MRP advisor and a second reader. Must achieve a minimum grade of B to pass.

Expected Time to Graduate: 2 years (Thesis-based) 1 year (Course-based).

Progression Chart

Thesis Option

| Course | Title | Hours |
|--------------------|--|-----------|
| Year 1 | | |
| GRAD 7300 | Research Integrity Tutorial | 0 |
| GRAD 7500 | Academic Integrity Tutorial | 0 |
| POLS 7100 | The Study of Politics | 3 |
| POLS 7300 | Directed Readings in Public Administration | 3 |
| POLS 7XXX | Courses designated POLS 7000 or above | 9 |
| Hours | | 15 |
| Year 2 | | |
| GRAD 7000 | Master's Thesis | 0 |
| Hours | | 0 |
| Total Hours | | 15 |

Notes:

- Students must demonstrate their mastery of the field and that they are fully conversant with the relevant literature through their thesis/practicum.
- The M.A. thesis proposal must include a literature review, description of the proposed work, and a schedule for completion. The proposal should normally be completed within 10 months following the start of the program and must be approved by the student's advisor.

Course-Based Option

| Course | Title | Hours |
|--------------------|--|-----------|
| Year 1 | | |
| GRAD 7300 | Research Integrity Tutorial | 0 |
| GRAD 7500 | Academic Integrity Tutorial | 0 |
| POLS 7100 | The Study of Politics | 3 |
| POLS 7300 | Directed Readings in Public Administration | 3 |
| POLS 7XXX | Courses designated POLS 7000 or above | 12 |
| Hours | | 18 |
| Year 2 | | |
| POLS 7110 | Major Research Paper | 0 |
| Hours | | 0 |
| Total Hours | | 18 |