Political Science

The M.A. program is designed for students interested in acquiring a broad view of political science or who wish to specialize in international relations. The program consists of 33 semester hours plus successful completion of a comprehensive examination or a thesis. There are two tracks to choose from: generalist, and security and diplomacy. The generalist track is primarily for students who wish to have a broad view of the discipline, either to satisfy their own curiosity or as a means to pursue careers in the media, education, or the private sector. The security and diplomacy track is designed for students considering or presently pursuing a military or national security career. Requirements for each track are specified below. All new students should be advised by the department chair. In addition to the university requirement that students maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, students must also make a 3.0 or higher GPA in each core course.

Tracks

Generalist Track (15 sh)
This track allows students to take 15 sh of elective credit, of which 6 sh may be earned by writing and successfully defending a thesis. Note: In order to be eligible for the thesis option, students are required to maintain a 3.5 or higher GPA. A match between faculty expertise of a thesis director and intended thesis topic is necessary, in addition to thesis director and chair approval to pursue a thesis. The generalist track is primarily for students who wish to obtain a broad view of the discipline, possibly as a means to pursue careers in the government, the media, education, or the private sector. Non-thesis students take 15 sh of electives, of which 6 sh may be taken outside of the discipline. Non-political science credits require prior approval of the department chair. Completion of the degree requires a successful comprehensive exam or thesis defense.

Security and Diplomacy Track (15 sh)
Five CPO or INR prefix 5000/6000 level courses approved by the Chair or Advisor
Chair and Advisor-approved comprehensive examination

Thesis Option
Students may choose to complete a thesis in lieu of completing 6 sh of electives
POS 6971 Thesis

Degree Requirements

Political Science Core (18 sh)
CPO 6006 Seminar in Comparative Politics 3
INR 6007 Seminar in International Relations 3
POS 6006 The Study of Politics 3
POS 6045 Seminar in American Politics 3
POS 6704 Political Science Research Methods 3
POT 5016 Seminar in Political Theory 3
Total Hours 18

Online M.A. in Political Science

The Department of Government now offers a fully online program for the M.A. in Political Science. It is available for distance learners who live outside of Escambia and Santa Rosa counties in Florida. Exceptions to this policy are rare; however, extenuating circumstances should be addressed to the department chair. Note this is a synchronous course delivery program, meaning that students are required to attend live lectures via the University's online video conferencing system for courses. Through this format, students benefit from face-to-face interaction with other students and faculty in real time while also enjoying the flexibility of online course delivery. The strengths of the online graduate program and students' success depend on these live interactions. The live sessions are held for the evening core seminars. The approved department electives are made available via recordings.

Admission Requirements

In addition to the University graduate admission requirements described in the Admissions section (http://catalog.uwf.edu/graduate/admissions) of the catalog, the department bases decisions for regular admission on a holistic review of credentials in which the following criteria can be used to assess the potential success of each applicant:

- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) verbal and quantitative score or Miller Analogies Test (MAT) with a minimum score in each that ranks in the 50 percentile or better*
- Undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above
- Submission of a sample research paper

* The graduate admission test may be waived for the following:

- Applicants must have an undergraduate cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 or higher in the Political Science, Political Science-Pre Law, or International Studies / Affairs major.

Students must earn a GPA of 3.0 in each core course to satisfy program requirements.