MASTER OF ARTS IN THE FIELD OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

As part of the social and behavioral sciences discipline in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, the master's program examines politics on a national and international scale, with three focus areas: World Politics, American Politics, and Law and Politics. Our MA program allows for a flexible and individually crafted curriculum, where students gain an opportunity to work with prominent scholars in a wide range of fields, take advantage of interdisciplinary coursework, and have access to the resources and opportunities of the nation's capital. We train students broadly and emphasize competency in research methods.

Our MA students go on to prestigious PhD programs, find positions in government, the public and private sectors, and international institutions. They sit on boards and run for political office.

Visit the program website (https://politicalscience.columbian.gwu.edu/ma-political-science/) for additional information.

ADMISSIONS

Admission deadlines:	Fall - February 1: Priority consideration for admission and funding; April 1: Guaranteed review for admission and consideration for funding, if available. (Applications for admission will continue to be accepted after April 1, when space remains available in the program.)
Standardized test scores:	GRE not required.
	The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the PTE Academic is required of all applicants except those who hold a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree from a college or university in the United States or from an institution located in a country in which English is the official language, provided English was the language of instruction.
	Minimum scores for the program are:
	- Academic IELTS: an overall band score of 7.0 with no individual score below 6.0; or
	- TOEFL: 600 on paper-based or 100 on Internet-based; or
	- PTE Academic: 68.
Recommendations required:	Three (3) academic letters of recommendations required
Prior academic records:	Transcripts are required from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended must be uploaded to your online application. Official transcripts are required only of applicants who are offered admission.
	If transcripts are in a language other than English, English language translations must be provided. The English translation alone should be uploaded into your application.
Statement of purpose:	In an essay of 250 – 500 words, state your purpose in undertaking graduate study in your chosen field and describe what political problems or questions motivate you. Include your academic objectives, research interests, and career plans. Also discuss your related qualifications, including collegiate, professional, and community activities, and any other substantial accomplishments not already mentioned on the application. If you are applying for an assistantship or fellowship, you should also describe any teaching experience you have had.
Writing Sample:	Academic writing sample of not more than 30 pages required.
International applicants only:	Please review International Applicant Information (https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants (https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants/)) carefully for details on required documents, earlier deadlines for applicants requiring an I-20 or DS-2019 from GW, and English language requirements.

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Office of Graduate Studies
The George Washington University
801 22nd Street NW, Phillips Hall 107
Washington DC 20052

For additional information about the admissions process visit the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Frequently Asked Questions (https://columbian.gwu.edu/graduate-admissions-faq/) page.

Contact:

askccas@gwu.edu
202-994-6210 (phone)

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday

REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Programs (https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationstext).

33 credits, including a minimum 15 credits in a single track, selected according to departmental guidelines, and 18 credits selected from among all tracks; and successful completion of a comprehensive examination.

Code	Title	Credits
Required		
15 credits (five courses) in one of the three tracks listed below and 18 credits (six courses) selected from among all tracks.		
American politics track		
PSC 6103	Approaches to Public Policy Analysis	
PSC 6114	Theories of Judicial Review	
PSC 6346	The Politics of U.S. Foreign Policy	
PSC 6347	U.S. Foreign Policy Traditions	
PSC 6348	Politics of U.S. National Security Policy	
PSC 8210	American Political Process	
PSC 8211	Urban Politics	
PSC 8212	Urban Policy Problems	
PSC 8213	Judicial Politics	
PSC 8215	Law, Politics, and Society	
PSC 8216	American Presidency	
PSC 8217	Executive Branch Politics	
PSC 8218	Legislative Politics	
PSC 8219	Political Parties and Elections	
PSC 8220	Public Opinion and Political Psychology	
PSC 8221	Interest-Group Politics	
PSC 8226	Politics and Organizations	
PSC 8229	Politics and Public Policy	
PSC 8286	Selected Topics in American Politics	
SMPA 6207	Political Persuasion and Public Opinion	
SMPA 6210	Media and Foreign Policy	
SMPA 6272	Media Bias, Power, and Democracy	
SOC 6230	Foundations of Research Methods	
SOC 6231	Quantitative Methods	
SOC 6245	Race Relations	
SOC 6248	Race and Urban Redevelopment	
SOC 6250	Urban Sociology	
SOC 6263	Race and Crime	
SOC 6265	Gender, Welfare, and Poverty	
SOC 6266	Gender and Criminal Justice	
SOC 6268	Race, Gender, and Class	
World politics track		
PSC 6330	Comparative Government and Politics	
PSC 6333	Comparative Politics of Russia and Eurasia	
PSC 6336	The Political Economy of China, India, and Beyond	
PSC 6338	U.S. Foreign Economic Policy	
PSC 6345	Comparative Foreign Policy	
PSC 6349	International Security Politics	
PSC 6350	Foreign Policy Analysis—Selected Topics	
PSC 6351	Civil-Military Relations	
PSC 6360	Western European Politics	
PSC 6361	Politics of European Integration	
PSC 6362	Nation-Building in the Balkans	
PSC 6364	Comparative Governments and Politics of Central And Eastern Europe	
PSC 6366	Government and Politics of Russia	
PSC 6367	Post-Soviet Politics	
PSC 6368	Japanese Politics and Foreign Policy	
PSC 6370	Politics of China I	
PSC 6371	Politics of China II	
PSC 6372	Foreign Policy of China	
PSC 6373	Political Economy of Industrializing Asia	
PSC 6374	Korean Politics	
PSC 6377	Comparative Politics of the Middle East	
PSC 6379	Government and Politics of Africa	

PSC 6383	Comparative Politics of Latin America
PSC 6388	Topics in Comparative Politics
PSC 6390	Politics and Culture
PSC 6439	International Political Economy
PSC 6440	Theory in International Relations
PSC 6442	Politics and Practice of International Institutions
PSC 6444	Politics of International Law
PSC 6456	Origins of Major Wars and Terrorism
PSC 6457	Arms Control and Disarmament
PSC 6465	The International Politics of Central and Eastern Europe
PSC 6467	Asian Security
PSC 6475	International Politics of East Asia
PSC 6476	The Arab-Israeli Conflict
PSC 6478	International Relations of the Middle East
PSC 6484	International Relations of Latin America
PSC 6489	Topics in International Relations
PSC 8333	Political Violence
PSC 8334	Democracy and Democratization in Comparative Perspective
PSC 8337	Theories of Political Development
PSC 8338	Nationalism and Nation-Building
PSC 8340	Authoritarianism and Democratization
PSC 8341	Theories of Ethnic Politics
PSC 8388	Selected Topics in Comparative Politics
PSC 8461	Military Effectiveness
IAFF 6102	Global Gender Policy
IAFF 6106	Nuclear Weapons
IAFF 6118	Special Topics in International Affairs
IAFF 6122	Development Policy and Practice
IAFF 6136	Gender and Development
IAFF 6138	Special Topics in International Development Studies
IAFF 6142	Technology Creation/Diffusion
IAFF 6145	U.S. Space Policy
IAFF 6146	Space Law
IAFF 6148	Space and National Security
IAFF 6151	Environmental Policy
IAFF 6153	Science, Technology, and National Security
IAFF 6158	Special Topics in International Science and Technology Policy
IAFF 6160	Defense Policy and Program Analysis
IAFF 6163	Transnational Security
IAFF 6165	Fundamentals of Intelligence
IAFF 6167	Defense Policy and Program Analysis II
IAFF 6169	Homeland Security
IAFF 6171	Introduction to Conflict Resolution
IAFF 6173	Security and Development
IAFF 6186	Special Topics in Security Policy Studies
IAFF 6198	Special Topics in International Economic Policy
IAFF 6208	Special Topics in Global Communication
IAFF 6222	Special Topics in International Policy and Practice
IAFF 6302	Taiwan: Internal Development and Foreign Policy
IAFF 6305	U.S.-South Asia Relations
IAFF 6308	International Relations of South Asia
IAFF 6318	Special Topics in Asian Studies
IAFF 6338	Special Topics in European and Eurasian Studies
IAFF 6342	Drug Trafficking in the Americas
IAFF 6358	Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies
IAFF 6362	Regional Security in Middle East
IAFF 6363	Political Economy of the Middle East
IAFF 6364	Religion and Society in the Modern Middle East

IAFF 6378	Special Topics in Middle East Studies
IAFF 6501	Quantitative Analysis for International Affairs Practitioners
Law and politics track	
PSC 6103	Approaches to Public Policy Analysis
PSC 6113	The Constitution: History and Ideas
PSC 6114	Theories of Judicial Review
PSC 6187	Selected Topics in Political Theory
PSC 6444	Politics of International Law
PSC 8210	American Political Process
PSC 8213	Judicial Politics
PSC 8215	Law, Politics, and Society
PSC 8217	Executive Branch Politics
PSC 8218	Legislative Politics
PSC 8219	Political Parties and Elections
PSC 8229	Politics and Public Policy
EDUC 6236	School Law and Policy
EDUC 6560	Legal Problems in Higher Education
HIST 6312	The Law of Race and Slavery
HIST 6370	U.S. Legal History
LAW 6214	Constitutional Law I
PHIL 6242	Philosophy, Law, and Social Policy
PPPA 6075	Law and the Public Administrator
SOC 6261	Sociology of Law
SOC 6263	Race and Crime
WGSS 6266	Gender and Criminal Justice
Other requirements	
Successful completion of a comprehensive examination.	