POLITICAL SCIENCE, MS

Department of Political Science, College of Arts & Sciences

Vision Statement
The Department of Political Science’s vision is to provide quality research, teaching, and service for our students, community, and academic field in order to produce qualified individuals and advanced knowledge to benefit communities regionally, nationally, and internationally. UNO is recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a doctoral and research institution. We value diversity among faculty, staff, and students and recognize its essential contribution to campus culture and development of knowledge. The Master of Science in political science offers a broad foundation in the discipline with a high degree of interdisciplinary collaboration, if desired. Some students enter the program with the intention of continuing on with their PhD, while others use the program to prepare themselves as practitioners in the fields of education, government, intelligence, law, journalism, non-profit, or lobbying. Students can earn the degree completely on-line, on-campus, or blended (on-line/on-campus).

Program Contact Information
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gpetrow@unomaha.edu

Program Website (http://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences/political-science)

Other Program-Related Information

Online Delivery
• The Department of Political Science offers a program to earn a master’s degree for which all courses can be taken online. Many of our students are mid-career professionals seeking a better understanding of the subject matter from fields such as: education, military, and public service. Others are more traditional students who intend to continue onto a PhD. Our program has been in place since 1969 and we currently have over 80 active students. There are several advantages to UNO's online MS in political science (PSCI):
  • High-quality curriculum from a distinguished university. UNO is one of 88 institutions of higher education nationally classified as a doctoral/research university, according to the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching—out of the 4000 academic institutions it categorizes. In addition, UNO received a first-tier regional best ranking in the U.S. News & World Report’s 2010 edition of America’s Best Colleges.
  • Low tuition from a convenient, accessible location—your computer. Students can select courses that are taught entirely online. It is very rare for our courses to have specific times in which you are required to be online.
  • The UNO PSCI master’s program affords its students an environment that serves as an incubator for acquiring the skills necessary for students’ desired careers, and for developing a self-understanding that will enable students to succeed both professionally and personally. Students are assured of a high-quality degree program that not only meets but exceeds national standards of education in political science.
  • Our Flexibility: our program offers flexibility to tailor an area of specialization. This flexibility encourages students to create an approved program of study that incorporates interests in other disciplines, such as communications, criminal justice, economics, geography, history, psychology, public administration, social work, sociology, teacher education, and urban studies. We accept up to 9 hours of graduate-level transfer credit, graded at a B or above, from another accredited institution that has not been applied towards another degree or completed program. In addition, students can apply up to 12 approved elective credit hours of courses outside the field of political science.

3+2 Program
The Department of Political Science has developed a program through which high caliber UNO undergraduate students can obtain a joint Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in political science within a five-year period. During this program, students may complete up to 4 upper-level PSCI required courses for their undergraduate major as a graduate student. These courses will count towards their undergraduate major requirement as well as their graduate electives. These 4 courses will be spread out between their junior and senior years. Students must graduate with their BA/BS before starting their graduate-only seminars.

1. Student must be an undergraduate student at UNO majoring in political science or international studies (a PSCI minor is highly recommended for international studies students).
2. Student must have a GPA of 3.5 or above.
3. Must have at least sophomore status when applying and have three to four semesters left in their BA/BS program.
4. Student must apply to the program (specifying that they are applying as a 3+2 student) and provide all supplemental materials.

Before starting graduate work, students are expected to complete PSCI subfield introductory courses (1100, 2000, 2210, 2310, and 2500) and 2-3 (3000/4000) level political science courses.

At this time this program is only applicable to on-campus students. Please inquire with the Department of Political Science academic program coordinator for more information about this program.

Admissions

Application Deadlines
• Fall: June 15 (February 15 if interested in scholarship or graduate assistantship)
• Spring: October 15 (September 15 if interested in scholarship or graduate assistantship)
• Summer: March 15

Program Specific Requirements
• Baccalaureate degree or previous Master’s degree with a minimum of 3.0 GPA.
• 15 credit hours in political science-related courses is preferred.

The selection committee looks for previous coursework in American government, political theory, international relations, comparative politics, and social science (quantitative) methodology. Students without the above undergraduate background in political science may be admitted on a provisional basis and be required to take prerequisite courses before starting graduate work. Students must earn a grade of B or above in each of these courses.
• Two letters of recommendation from a former professor (preferred), supervisor, or individual that can speak to one's academic potential in a graduate program. If students have recently graduated from UNO, it is expected that one of the letters will be from a UNO political science faculty member. It is preferred that students use their references' institutional (.edu) or professional email.
• Personal statement (1-2 pages) explaining why the applicant is seeking admission into this program, how his/her academic/professional experiences can contribute to his/her success in this program, and how
this program will contribute to his/her future academic/professional ambitions.

- Submission of an academic, research-based writing sample. The sample must be written in English, include citations, and be a minimum of five pages in length. This writing sample can be a previous assignment. If no such paper exists, the applicant should contact the academic program coordinator for an alternative assignment.

- Professional Resume

- Applicants are required to have a command of oral and written English. Those who do not hold a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from the U.S., OR a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from a pre-determined country on the waiver list, must meet the minimum language proficiency score requirement in order to be considered for admission. A minimum score of 80 on an internet-based TOEFL, with no sub-score under 15, or the IELTS and PTE English proficiency tests are also accepted. Those scores must translate to the minimum internet-based TOEFL equivalent to be considered for admission. Passing with a minimum score does not guarantee admission into the program.

- GRE scores are not required for admission, however, students are welcome to submit them.

- Official transcripts from all attended institutions. Please note that although the Office of Graduate Studies forwards applications to departments for review with unofficial transcripts, students cannot enroll until all official transcripts have been received. Due to this, the Department of Political Science has elected to wait for official transcripts before reviewing applications.

## Degree Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required: Methods Seminar</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 8000</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN THE RESEARCH METHODS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Required: Three Core Subfield Seminars</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 8040</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 8250</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 8300</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN POLITICAL THEORY</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 8500</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Required for Non-thesis Students: One Additional Seminar (from list below or remaining subfield seminar)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 8100</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN POLITICAL ECONOMY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 8120</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN LEADERSHIP</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 8150</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 8200</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN FOREIGN POLICY AND NATIONAL SECURITY</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 8220</td>
<td>SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGY</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 8920</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN SPECIAL TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Required: Four Elective Courses (from remaining seminars or list below)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 8005</td>
<td>QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 8015</td>
<td>URBAN POLITICS</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 8036</td>
<td>THE PRESIDENCY</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 8045</td>
<td>GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF NEBRASKA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 8046</td>
<td>CONGRESS AND THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 8055</td>
<td>STATE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

PSCI 8056 THE JUDICIAL PROCESS
PSCI 8105 LGBT POLITICS
PSCI 8116 POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY
PSCI 8126 PUBLIC OPINION AND POLLING
PSCI 8135 WOMEN AND POLITICS
PSCI 8145 LATINO-/A POLITICS
PSCI 8146 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: CIVIL RIGHTS
PSCI 8165 POLITICAL PARTIES
PSCI 8175 INTEREST GROUPS
PSCI 8176 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: FOUNDATIONS
PSCI 8185 CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS
PSCI 8186 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: THE FEDERAL SYSTEM
PSCI 8196 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: CIVIL LIBERTIES
PSCI 8206 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF EAST ASIA
PSCI 8216 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST
PSCI 8225 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
PSCI 8235 GENDER AND GLOBAL POLITICS
PSCI 8245 THE POLITICS AND PRACTICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
PSCI 8246 INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION
PSCI 8255 GLOBAL SECURITY ISSUES
PSCI 8256 INTELLIGENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY
PSCI 8265 UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY
PSCI 8266 INTERNATIONAL LAW
PSCI 8276 GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS
PSCI 8286 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF LATIN AMERICA
PSCI 8296 INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & SUSTAINABILITY
PSCI 8316 CLASSICAL POLITICAL THEORY
PSCI 8326 EARLY MODERN POLITICAL THEORY
PSCI 8336 LATE MODERN POLITICAL THEORY
PSCI 8345 AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT
PSCI 8346 CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY
PSCI 8356 DEMOCRACY
PSCI 8505 EUROPEAN POLITICS
PSCI 8506 GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF GREAT BRITAIN
PSCI 8526 POLITICS OF FRANCE
PSCI 8556 POLITICAL VIOLENCE, INSURGENCY, AND TERRORISM
PSCI 8585 GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF RUSSIA AND THE POST-SOVIET STATES
PSCI 8626 ISLAM AND POLITICS
PSCI 8645 GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF CHINA AND EAST ASIA
PSCI 8685 GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF LATIN AMERICA
PSCI 8705 GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST
PSCI 8826 POLITICS AND FILM
PSCI 8900 READINGS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
PSCI 8926 ADVANCED SPECIAL TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
May choose from Non-thesis students must take 3 credit hours of a capstone project. They Non-Thesis Exit Requirement (3 credit hours) seminar courses.

All students are expected to pass comprehensive exams in three out of the four subfields. These exams will be administered as part of the subfield seminar courses.

Non-Thesis Exit Requirement (3 credit hours) Non-thesis students must take 3 credit hours of a capstone project. They may choose from PSCI 8980 or PSCI 8910.

1. PSCI 8980: During a students’ last 9 credit hours, students will work with one faculty member on a political science-related topic of their choice and will produce a research-based product at the end of the term.
2. PSCI 8910: Students can only take one PSCI 8910 course during their MS program. For an internship to count as a capstone, students must have completed 15 credit hours. If a student completes an internship before completing 15 credit hours, it will count as an elective and he/she will need to complete PSCI 8980 as their capstone project. Students wishing to complete an internship must (1) have approval from the PSCI internship coordinator, (2) be hired for the internship before the term, (3) create a reading list with a faculty member that aligns with their internship, (4) complete 150 hours of documented work, and (5) turn in an end-of-internship assignment incorporating their readings and documenting their experience to the internship coordinator. Students may not already work for this organization or company. See academic program coordinator for more information and to start the approval process noted above. Internships will be taken as pass/no pass.

Thesis Exit Requirement (6 credit hours) PSCI 8990: The first term of thesis includes the forming of the thesis committee and approval of one’s thesis proposal. The second three credit hours will focus on writing and defending the thesis.

Students must have a minimum of 3 voting committee members. All committee members must be graduate faculty members with a Ph.D. and employed by UNO. One of the committee members must be from a non-political science field. Distance students may work with a faculty member outside of UNO, however, this member cannot be a voting member on the committee. Please refer to the graduate catalog’s thesis guidelines for more detailed information.

Students must follow UNO’s Graduate College’s thesis submission guidelines and ensure that all paperwork has been submitted to the graduate office on time.

International Affairs Concentration The international affairs concentration is a 15 credit hour/5 course subset of the Master of Science in political science program. If students wish to add this concentration onto their program, they must follow the proper change of program procedures.

Concentration Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Required Seminars</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 8250</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 8500</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS</td>
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Required: Three Elective Courses

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<tr>
<td>PSCI 8200</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN FOREIGN POLICY AND NATIONAL SECURITY</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 8206</td>
<td>INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF EAST ASIA</td>
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<td>PSCI 8216</td>
<td>INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST</td>
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<td>PSCI 8220</td>
<td>SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND STRATEGY</td>
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PSCI 8685  GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF LATIN AMERICA
PSCI 8705  GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Total 15
*Other courses as approved by Graduate Chair.

Incomplete Policy
The Department will comply with the UNO’s Incomplete Policy (https://www.unomaha.edu/registrar/faculty-and-staff/grading/incomplete.php).

In line with the UNO graduate policy on incomplete grades, the grade “I” is only to be issued due to a student’s illness, military service, hardship, or death in the immediate family after the student has completed a substantial amount of the course. The professor reserves the right to use his/her discretion in determining additional situations where a grade of “I” may apply and what “substantial” means for that course. It is expected that the student discuss this matter with the professor and create a plan of action towards the completion of this course in a timely manner. The professor also reserves the right to decide the consequences for a student who does not finish the course in the time agreed. Consequences may include, but are not limited to, an extended deadline, a permanent incomplete, or a failing grade for the course.

In-progress grades (IP) are only to be issued during the second part of a thesis project when a student is actively working towards its completion.

Standing I/IP Grades
Students with an I/IP can have a maximum number of 9 ‘active’ credit hours.

If a student has 9 credit hours of I/IP grades (total from past terms), he/she may not enroll in new courses. A student may start enrolling in new courses as he/she reduces his/her credit hours of I/IP grades. Any student with an I/IP cannot have more than 9 ‘active’ credit hours at one time (includes current courses as well as I/IP grades).

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<tr>
<th>I/IP Credit Hours</th>
<th>New Credit Hour Allowance</th>
<th>Total ‘Active’ Credit Hour Load</th>
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<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>9 (full time)</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
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<td>9</td>
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The graduate program chair reserves the right to waive this policy for a student, based on compelling circumstances.

Academic Dishonesty Policy
Academic dishonesty is a violation of the student code of conduct and is cause for a student to be dismissed from the program. Graduate students are expected to know what counts as academic dishonesty (https://www.unomaha.edu/student-life/student-conduct-and-community-standards/policies/academic-integrity.php).

Instructors reserve the right to decide how to address issues of academic dishonesty in their courses. Students may be subject to (including, but not

limited to): the failure on the specific assignment or failure of the entire course.

Faculty will report all instances of graduate student academic dishonesty to the Graduate Program Chair.

The student has the right to appeal this decision through the appropriate channels. Please see the student code of conduct for further information.