Welcome

The Master of Arts (MA) program in Political Science at Central Michigan University is designed for students who are planning to pursue further graduate education and for students who, for reasons of career enhancement or of specialized training for employment, are seeking a Master's degree as their ultimate goal.

The Department provides students with rigorous academic training in the discipline. This preparation enables CMU graduates to be competitive when applying to Ph.D. programs, law schools, or other graduate programs.

In addition, as a CMU graduate you will be well-prepared for a wide range of other careers, including federal, state, and local government, the Foreign Service, teaching at the community college or high school level, and careers in the private sector.

Learning Objectives

The Master of Arts in Political Science program at CMU strives to reach the following goals:

- educating students about the diversity of models, approaches, and intellectual traditions within Political Science;
- training students in the appropriate research skills necessary to complete their research objectives;
- preparing students for entrance into Ph.D. programs in Political Science, entrance into law schools, entrance into public service, or for improving their credentials for careers in teaching, including primary and secondary education;
- developing students' ability to critically analyze and evaluate scholarly work;
- fostering students' ability to think critically and effectively express their thoughts in written and oral communication;
- encouraging and mentoring students' professional growth through research and presentations at professional conferences; and
- providing opportunities to network within the field of study through internships, honorary organizations, and on-campus events.

Admission Requirements

To be considered for admission to the Master of Arts in Political Science program, the applicant must have an undergraduate grade point average of at least 2.8, have completed a minimum of 18 undergraduate hours in the social sciences of which at least 6 hours are in political science, and have completed an undergraduate statistics or research methods course.

Each prospective student must submit an essay discussing how completion of the program will facilitate his or her achievement of individual professional and/or educational goals.

Two letters of recommendation from former professors or other professionals who can attest to the applicant’s potential to succeed in the program also must be submitted.

A score of 213 on the computer-based (or 550 on the written-based) Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is necessary for international students whose first language is not English.

Conditional admission may be considered for applicants who do not meet these requirements. However, some courses taken to meet these requirements (e.g. Undergraduate Statistics) may not be counted toward graduate degree requirements.

Up to 9 semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred from another institution with approval of the advisor and the Dean of Graduate Studies.
Program Requirements

The Master of Arts degree in Political Science requires a minimum of 33 hours of course work, including core courses presenting an understanding of essential components within the discipline. At least 15 of the hours presented for the degree must be in courses at or above the 600 level.

Students may choose a Plan A (thesis) or a Plan B (non-thesis) option. The Plan A option requires the student to write and defend a paper on a topic they choose in conjunction with a thesis committee. After successfully doing so, the student receives six (6) credits. The Plan B option requires the student to take two additional three (3) credit courses and to revise and defend two papers submitted for course credit instead of completing a thesis.

Course Offerings

Required Core (24 hours)
- PSC 514 (3) American Public Policy Making
- PSC 520 (3) American National Government and Politics
- PSC 522 (3) Regulatory Processes and Administrative Law
- PSC 551 (3) Seminar in International Relations
- PSC 680 (3) Methodology of Political Research
- PSC 682 (3) Techniques of Political Research
- PSC 740 (3) Seminar in Comparative Politics
- PSC 770 (3) Justice, Freedom, Equality: Essential Political Ideas

Electives (3 hours)
Student will select an additional course in consultation with their advisor or from a list of approved courses. See the Graduate Bulletin for course listings.

Additional Plan Requirement (6 hours)
Select one of the following two options:
- Plan A Thesis: Appropriate to the Field
- Plan B Non-Thesis: Appropriate to the Field

Total Credit Requirement: 33 hours

Accelerated M.A. in Political Science

The Accelerated Master’s Degree program allows highly motivated students to advance their academic careers by taking graduate course work toward the traditional Master of Arts degree simultaneously with undergraduate course work.

By taking up to 12 credit hours of Political Science graduate course work (500 and 600 level courses) during their senior year, the student need only complete sufficient additional course work to meet the requirements for the MA degree while enrolled as a graduate student. The Accelerated M.A. program allows the student to complete the graduate degree more quickly, saving them both time and money.

Assistantships

Each year the Department of Political Science and Public Administration awards a limited number of graduate assistantships to Master of Arts students.

Graduate assistants receive tuition credit and a stipend as compensation. They work up to 20 hours per week for the department by assisting in faculty research and teaching activities. Assistantship applications are available from the department or on-line and are due on March 12.

Other assistantships, scholarships, and fellowships include:
- Barbara P. Greene Endowed Scholarship in State & Local Government (through the department);
- Graduate Fellowships (through the College of Graduate Studies);
- King/Chávez/Parks Future Faculty Fellowship (through the Office of Diversity Education); and
- William S. Ballenger III and Dr. William P. Browne Capital Internship Program Endowment.

Other awards and scholarships may be available through the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid. See the Graduate Bulletin for details.

Apply Online

http://apply.cmich.edu

For More Information

Inquiries regarding the Master of Arts in Political Science program at CMU should be addressed to:

Director, Master of Arts Program
Anspach Hall 247
Department of Political Science and Public Administration
Central Michigan University
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859
Telephone: (989) 774-3442
Fax: (989) 774-1136
Email: psc@cmich.edu

Visit our website at:
www.chsbs.cmich.edu/political_science

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