WHERE

STUDENTS

BECOME LEADERS

GRADUATE PROGRAMS in POLITICAL SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA
Welcome to the University of Oklahoma!

As a graduate student in the Department of Political Science, you will be at the center of our teaching and research community—a community of scholars championing the discovery and dissemination of knowledge in political life.

We are committed to helping our graduate students prepare for a future in academia or the public and private sector. Our faculty and staff are here not only to mentor you through every stage of your graduate education, but also to work alongside you as you reach your career goals. Above all, we believe that academic and professional success grows from compelling and meaningful scholarship. We also strive across everything we do to guarantee that students find our graduate programs to be inclusive in ways that work toward respectful and constructive scholarly inquiry in and out of the classroom.
Exceptional Teaching

The Department of Political Science graduate programs are focused on providing a unique and personalized student experience. Our faculty is composed of award-winning teachers, researchers and practitioners holding current and past political posts in federal, state, and municipal government. The department has approximately 30 tenured and tenure-track professors pursuing active research in a variety of political science fields. As one of the most diverse, well-established doctoral programs in the region, our one-to-one interaction between our graduate students and faculty plays a significant role in the intellectual life of the department. Our students often work closely with faculty, co-authoring publications through collaborative research. Faculty regularly supervise individualized research courses, coordinate lecture series and facilitate special topic forums focused on political science trends and research.

Affiliations and Resources

Faculty members in the Department of Political Science lead a variety of affiliated research organizations at the University of Oklahoma. These affiliations give our graduate students opportunities to broaden and enhance their research agenda. These affiliations include:

- American Review of Politics
- Bhutan Digital Rare and Historical Documents Archive
- Carl Albert Center for Congressional Research and Studies
- Center for Energy, Security, and Society
- Center for Intelligence and National Security
- Center for Risk and Crisis Management
- Community Engagement + Experiments Lab
- Institute for the American Constitutional Heritage
- National Institute for Risk and Resilience
- OU POLL - Public Opinion Learning Laboratory
- Social Science Quarterly - The Journal of the Southwestern Social Science Association

Boren Fellow Graduate Teaching Assistantships

Boren Fellow Teaching Assistants have the opportunity to develop and enhance teaching skills under the guidance of a tenured political science faculty member. Boren Fellows assist in classroom management, provide instructional support, and lead discussion sections for PSC 1113 American Federal Government, a multi-section undergraduate course.
Graduate Degree Programs in Political Science

- Doctor of Philosophy
- Master of Arts

Fields of Study

- American Politics
- Comparative Politics
- International Relations
- Political Methodology
- Political Theory
- Public Administration
- Public Policy

Ph.D. in Political Science

*Core requirements include:* Minimum of 90 hours beyond a baccalaureate degree.

- Required courses:
  - Introductory Data Analysis
  - Intermediate Data Analysis
  - Survey of a Discipline
  - Research Problems
- Concentration in three fields of study
- Electives to meet degree requirements
- Comprehensive examination and independent directed research
- Dissertation

Master of Arts (M.A.) in Political Science

*Core requirements include:* Minimum of 36 hours beyond a baccalaureate degree.

- Required courses:
  - Introductory Data Analysis
  - Intermediate Data Analysis
  - Survey of a Discipline
- 18 hours of emphasis in two fields of study
- Electives to meet degree requirements
- Non-Thesis or Thesis option
The Graduate Programs in Political Science consider mentoring to be essential to students’ success, both during and after their degree, and we make every effort to pair incoming students with faculty who share their research interests. Before you apply, we encourage you to review our faculty list and learn more about their expertise at psc.ou.edu.

How to Apply

Admission to the Graduate Programs in Political Science at the University of Oklahoma is highly competitive. Applicants must demonstrate the ability and motivation to succeed in a rigorous program of graduate study, and must make the case that there is a close fit between their aspirations and the offerings of the department. Furthermore, study for the Ph.D. is a full-time endeavor that demands complete intellectual commitment.

The Admissions Committee reviews applications once annually for admission beginning the fall semester. The deadline for receipt of all application materials is Feb. 1 of the calendar year. Prospective students must submit the following materials:

• Apply directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions by submitting the official online application, along with transcripts, application fee and all departmental required application materials.

• Students whose native language is not English will be required to submit their scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The minimum required internet-based TOEFL score is 100.

• Scores on the general test of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). While there is no fixed minimum for admission, and GRE scores are only one piece of evidence considered by the Admissions Committee, mean scores for admitted students have been in the range of 300+ (verbal + quantitative) in recent years.

• Three letters of recommendation from persons in a position to speak knowledgeably about the applicant’s academic ability. Typically, these would be academic references rather than personal acquaintances or employers.

• A statement of no more than 1,000 words articulating the applicant’s specific preparation for graduate study, proposed fields of study and area of focus, and career aspirations. A compelling statement is a critical part of the application; the applicant should invest substantial time in crafting the personal statement.

• A writing sample. The writing sample should be a substantial piece of original work that displays the applicant’s writing, analytical and research skills.

The Political Science Graduate Admissions Committee typically announces admission decisions by March 1 of the calendar year.
Jamie Smith, Ph.D. (2015)

Hometown: My father is in the military, so I moved frequently. Oklahoma feels like home!

Fields of Study: American politics

Dissertation Research Focus: the capacity of social media to mobilize people and resources.

Why did you choose OU? One of the biggest reasons I chose OU was affordability and faculty whose expertise aligned with my research.

Biggest accomplishment at OU? I’ve come to realize that the University has given me a great opportunity to hone my teaching craft. I have grown as a teacher and have been mentored by extraordinary faculty sharing their knowledge, skills and experience in the classroom. Further, my fellow graduate students play a role in my professional development. We are a supportive and collaborative group of diverse individuals with wide-ranging interests that add to the intellectual environment. I will always cherish their friendship and support.

2018-2019 Estimated Cost of Graduate Tuition and Fees per Credit Hour*

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Additional Semester Fees

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<td>Mandatory Semester Fees</td>
<td>$126.50 per semester</td>
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*Profile data based on Fall 2018 enrollment.

Financial Support

The Department of Political Science offers a limited number of multi-year, renewable graduate teaching assistantships each year. Typically, the financial support package includes a competitive nine-month stipend, graduate tuition waiver and student health insurance.
Graduate Placement

We are very proud of our recent doctoral program graduates and their success in landing career opportunities in a wide variety of colleges and universities, as well as influential organizations in public policy, research and development, and international and community building. Some of our most recent placements for graduate students include Louisiana State University, the University of Arkansas, Oklahoma State University, Indiana University at Bloomington, College of Charleston, the University of Houston, Virginia Tech, Western Carolina University, the Marist Institute for Public Opinion, College Board, the Warrior Scholar Project, and the Huffington Post.

Affordable Living, Creative People and Pioneering Spirit—Norman, Oklahoma

Norman is an affordable and ideal community in which to pursue your graduate career with a significantly lower cost of living than similar cities in the region. The City of Norman has ample affordable housing, and convenient and environmentally conscious public transportation. The neighborhoods surrounding the campus offer tree-lined sidewalks and wonderful outdoor spaces with expansive green space for a variety of outdoor activities. The citizens of Norman are proud of the university and go above and beyond to welcome students and faculty.

A self-proclaimed “city of festivals,” Norman has more than 25 festivals throughout the year. Although the city has a typical suburban appearance to the outsider, you will find that the neighborhoods surrounding the campus add their own unique flavor. Campus Corner, located on the north side of campus, has a beatnik and café society vibe, while the south side of campus is dedicated to outdoor endeavors.

Norman is centrally located near Oklahoma City, the state capital of Oklahoma, and is approximately 20 miles from Will Rogers World Airport with direct and non-stop flights served by more than seven major domestic airlines. AMTRAK provides daily rail service to the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.