

# William Derek Bixler

University of Oklahoma Department of Political Science

Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center

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## EDUCATION

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### University of Oklahoma

Ph.D., Political Science

Fields: American Politics, Public Policy

Chair: Charles Finocchiaro, Ph.D.

Norman, Oklahoma

August 2025 – Present

### University of Arkansas – Clinton School of Public Service

MPS (Master of Public Service)

Capstone Thesis: *The First Year Experience in Higher Education*

Thesis Advisor: Nichola Driver, Ph.D.

Little Rock, Arkansas

May 2023

### University of Oklahoma

BA, Letters - Constitutional Studies (Summa Cum Laude)

Minors in Political Science and International Security Studies

Honors Thesis: *The Blue Boomerang: Shifts in OK-5 from 1972-2018*

Undergraduate Thesis Advisor: Charles Finocchiaro, Ph.D.

Norman, Oklahoma

May 2021

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### University of Oklahoma Department of Political Science

Graduate Teaching Assistant

- GTA for P SC 1113 – American Federal Government

Norman, Oklahoma

August 2025 – May 2026

### University of Kansas - School of Public Affairs and Administration

Graduate Program Coordinator

- Academic and policy advisor for department's MPA, MUP, and PhD students

Lawrence, KS

June 2023 – August 2025

### University of Central Oklahoma

Graduate Student Researcher

- Conducted independent applied research on First Year Experience (FYE) Programming

Edmond, Oklahoma

August 2022 – May 2023

### University of Arkansas – Clinton School of Public Service

Graduate Research Assistant, Office of Community Engagement

- Conducted independent applied research on campus internationalization practices

Little Rock, Arkansas

May 2022 – July 2022

**University of Oklahoma Department of Political Science**

*Undergraduate Teaching Assistant*

Norman, Oklahoma  
January 2021 – May 2021

- TA for Dr. Allen Hertzke’s political science course “Religion and the Constitution”

**University of Oklahoma Department of Political Science**

*Research Assistant*

Norman, Oklahoma  
January 2020 – May 2021

- Research Assistant for Dr. Allen Hertzke, analyzing international human rights issues

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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U.S. Congress; influences on policymaking; agenda-setting and institutional incentives; lobbying and interest groups; American political economy; welfare state policies; party primaries; American political development; process tracing methods; archival methods

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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2026: Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference.  
“Measuring the Commonplace Understanding of Urban-Rural”

2026: Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference.  
“Congressional Responsiveness to the Opioid Epidemic”

**FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

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2025-Present: Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center Graduate Fellowship

2020: John W. Wood Endowed Award for the best undergraduate paper at the University of Oklahoma in the field of American politics

2018-2019: OU Institute for the American Constitutional Heritage Society of Fellows

2018: George Washington’s Mount Vernon Leadership Fellow

2017-2019: OU President’s Community Scholar (PCS) and OU PCS Advisory Board