



Academic Learning Plan

MASTERS OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Government is to educate students in the areas of government, politics, and international affairs, and by this means to foster more knowledgeable, informed, and active citizenship, as well as more enlightened future political leadership, in the communities to which they belong.

Student Learning Outcomes

UWF Political Science graduates should be able to do the following:

Content

- Discuss competing theories on the nature of political power, including the origin, evolution, and meaning of law, justice, and equality
- Compare the exercise of political power in different regimes and political cultures
- Articulate competing theories of international relations; elections and electoral systems; public administration and constitutionalism, particularly in the American context
- Describe different methods for testing competing hypotheses in any field of political science
- Discuss the relevance of political research to the study and conduct of political life and the practice of public administration
- Identify the advantages and limitations of civic participation in different political and cultural contexts.

Critical Thinking

- Recognize the causes, severity, magnitude, and importance of a problem having to do with politics or public policy or administration
- Delineate the relevant features of a particular political question, problem, or puzzle
- Identify relevant theories from the scholarly literature that are helpful for understanding the selected question, problem, or puzzle
- Generate a plausible hypothesis or logical argument to address the question
- Develop a coherent and comprehensive plan for evaluating the hypothesis using the tools of political science
- Use appropriate resources to collect evidence for assessing and evaluating hypotheses
- Synthesize theory, evidence, and applications to produce an intelligible conclusion or solution to the original question

Communication

- Write coherent, intelligible, systematic, and potentially persuasive papers
- Accurately present findings orally with appropriate visual tools
- Defend details of oral presentations

Integrity/Values

- Write Use legitimate scholarship and appropriate citation in keeping with standards of academic integrity
- Identify the similarities and differences between individual moral and political obligation
- Engage in a free exchange of ideas in a respectful and professional manner

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

We assess the Academic Learning Plan SLOs through a Comprehensive Exam process that is the final requirement ahead of graduation. The comprehensive exam involves both an oral and written component. A committee of three full-time departmental faculty members evaluate both the written and oral answers. Students receive either a pass, conditional pass, or fail on the written exam. Students receive an honors pass, a pass or a fail on the oral exam.

Job Prospects for Masters of Political Science

Students with an MA in Political Science have strong skills in critical thinking, writing and analysis that lend themselves well to careers in policy analysis, politics and governmental administration, governmental civil service or contracting, intelligence service –either civilian or military, military officer development, law and legal research, media careers, careers in education at all levels, and business analysis.

Find out more about the Master's in Political Science
uwf.edu/govt

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