

NEW DIRECTIONS IN PUBLIC, NON-PROFIT AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP, POLITICAL SCIENCE, MA

Director: Robin Kniech

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Program Website: <https://clas.ucdenver.edu/newdirections/>

Master's Degree

Housed within the CU Denver Political Science Department, the Center for New Directions offers an applied Master's Degree in Political Science for those seeking to lead and make an impact in local communities. New Directions provides real-world education in two closely related sectors that inform one another:

- **Local Public Leadership**, including public policy and local government administration.
- **Non-profit Community or Labor Leadership**, including non-profit management and community-based or labor organizing.

New Directions is considered an off-campus program where courses are delivered mostly through an intensive, in-person format over three weekends spaced several weeks apart to accommodate working professionals. Some hybrid components and evening on-line courses are also offered. Courses are taught primarily by expert practitioners.

This applied MA program balances a foundational curriculum that develops students' skills and abilities with cutting-edge courses on emerging trends in local government, non-profit management, local social movements, labor union organizing, public policy and more. All of our courses develop students' political acumen, enabling them to be effective leaders and preparing them to advance equity in their communities. Through optional internships or independent studies and a required final project, students have the flexibility to develop expertise in their chosen area of focus.

A New Directions MA can be pursued alongside a two-year, paid Best and Brightest Fellowship working in one of Colorado's small or rural local governments, through a partnership with the Department of Local Affairs and local jurisdictions. Students must separately apply and be accepted to both New Directions and as a Best and Brightest fellow. Fellowship applications occur early in each calendar year, with the local government fellowship beginning in the summer and graduate coursework beginning no later than the fall (currently enrolled students may also apply).

These degree requirements are subject to periodic revision by the academic department, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences reserves the right to make exceptions and substitutions as judged necessary in individual cases. Therefore, the College strongly urges

students to consult regularly with their New Directions faculty advisor to confirm the best plans of study before finalizing them.

Graduate Certificates

The Center for New Directions also offers two graduate certificates for students enrolled in New Directions or other CU Denver graduate programs or pursued as stand-alone non-degree certificates. Certificates require 12 credits (4 courses). For more details, please see the links below:

- Public, Non-Profit and Community Leadership
- Labor Leadership Certificate

Graduate Education Policies and Procedures apply to this program

Degree Requirements

1. Students must complete a total of 33 graduate credit hours to complete the MA degree.
2. Students must complete a minimum of 33 graduate level (5000-level or higher) PSCI credit hours.
3. Students must earn a minimum grade of B- (2.7) in all courses applied to the degree and must achieve a minimum cumulative masters GPA of 3.0. Courses taken using P+/P/F or S/U grading cannot apply to program requirements.
4. Students must complete all coursework with CU Denver faculty.

Program Restrictions, Allowances and Recommendations

1. Previously earned graduate credit may be submitted for approval to satisfy up to nine hours of the supportive elective requirement. The elective courses offered may change from time to time based on needs, interests and other factors.

Course Format

Most courses are offered in a weekend format that consists of three weekend sessions for a given course, spread out two to three weeks apart over a couple months. Weekend classes are held from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on both Saturday and Sunday of each weekend session. Students can often complete all of the weekend sessions of one course before starting the weekend sessions for the next course. Occasionally courses are offered in a weekly, online remote format.

Code	Title	Hours
Complete the following program requirements:		
<i>Complete the following required courses:</i>		6
PSCI 5468	Research Methods in Political Science	
PSCI 5914	Community Organizing and Community Development	
<i>Complete 21-24 graduate level PSCI elective credits.</i>		21-24
<i>Complete a three credit hour master's project or a 6 credit master's thesis under the direction of a faculty advisor. Registration is done using the Special Processing form, rather than online.</i>		3-6
PSCI 5960	Master's Project	
	or PSCI 5950 Master's Thesis	
Total Hours		30-36

Code	Title	Hours
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Below is a list of elective courses that are regularly offered in the New Directions program.

All PSCI graduate level courses are available to be offered as electives in the New Directions program.		
PSCI 5009	Politics of the Budgetary Process	
PSCI 5014	Seminar: American Politics	
PSCI 5024	State Politics: Focus on Colorado	
PSCI 5075	Gentrification and Social Equity	
PSCI 5084	Local Government and Administration	
PSCI 5085	Comparative Governance: Environment and Society	
PSCI 5206	Social Movements, Democracy and Global Politics	
PSCI 5265	Social Justice And Globalization	
PSCI 5274	Conflict Resolution and Public Consent Building	
PSCI 5354	Seminar: Environmental Politics and Policy	
PSCI 5414	Non-Profits and Social Change	
PSCI 5424	The Social Economy and Sustainable Development	
PSCI 5434	The Cooperative Movement: Politics and Policy	
PSCI 5457	American Political Thought	
PSCI 5545	Immigration Politics	
PSCI 5548	Labor Law and Collective Bargaining	

To learn more about the Student Learning Outcomes for this program, please visit our website (<https://clas.ucdenver.edu/polisci/graduate/>).