

# POLITICAL SCIENCE, MA

Please click here (<http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-denver/graduate/schools-colleges-departments/college-liberal-arts-sciences/political-science/>) to see Political Science department information.

## Standard Political Science Master's Program

**Director:** Betsy Jose

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The Political Science Department offers a Master of Arts (MA) degree in Political Science with an emphasis on building academic and practical skills in key areas of the discipline. Research and teaching in the department centers on the major fields of American politics, comparative politics, international relations, political theory and public policy. The department also offers more specialized training in community organizing, human rights, legal studies, gender politics, race and ethnic politics, European studies, indigenous politics and urban politics. Students pursuing the MA have the option of completing the standard track or an "alternative" track centered on public, non-profit and community leadership (the New Directions program). Students completing the alternative "public, non-profit and community leadership" track (new Directions) take most courses in weekend, off-campus locations. Students completing either track have gone on to PhD programs across the country and work in a variety of areas, including: state and local elected office, government service, community organizing and development work, nongovernmental organizations, legislative analysts, UN affiliates, lobbyists, teachers, media analysis and political consulting.

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 Political Science faculty advisor to confirm the best plans of study before finalizing them.

## Applied Political Science Master's Program: The New Directions Program

**Director:** Robin Kniech

**Program E-mail:** [NewDirections@ucdenver.edu](mailto:NewDirections@ucdenver.edu)

In addition to its standard, on-campus MA degree, the Political Science Department's Center for New Directions offers an applied (<https://clas.ucdenver.edu/newdirections/join-new-directions-program/>) 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 a three-weekend intensive, in-person format to accommodate working professionals. Some hybrid components and evening on-line courses are also offered. Courses are taught primarily by expert practitioners. While students must complete at least 16 credits of

New Directions courses for the applied degree, students in either Political Science master's program may take courses in the other program.

For more information about the New Directions MA, please visit: <https://clas.ucdenver.edu/newdirections/>

## Graduate Education Policies and Procedures apply to this program Program Requirements

1. Students must complete 33 PSCI credit hours.
2. Students must complete a minimum of 33 graduate (5000-level or higher) PSCI credit hours.
3. Students must earn a minimum grade of B- (2.7) in all masters courses taken at CU Denver and must achieve a minimum cumulative masters GPA of 3.0. Students cannot complete masters or ancillary course requirements as P+/P/F or S/U.
4. Students must complete a minimum of 16 credits with CU Denver Political Science faculty.

## Program Restrictions, Allowances and Recommendations

1. Students who are on probation must meet regularly with the graduate advisor and must secure approval from the advisor for all course work while on probation.
2. In addition to the requirements for admission and details of the program spelled out here, graduate students in political science must also abide by department rules and procedures specified in the Graduate Education Policies and Procedures. Failure to meet these policies may result in a student being dropped from the program.
3. The total combination of independent study, graduate course work in related disciplines and internships cannot exceed 9 semester hours.
4. Under the On-Campus MA program in political science, two degree plans are available:
  - a. Plan I requires the completion of nine graduate courses (27 semester hours) and a 6-credit thesis
  - b. Plan II requires the completion of ten graduate courses (30 semester hours) and a 3-credit project or portfolio.

| Code   | Title                                 | Hours     |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Complete the following program requirements:</b>  |                                       |           |
| <i>Complete the following required courses:</i>  |                                       | 6         |
| PSCI 5000  | State of the Discipline               |           |
| PSCI 5468  | Research Methods in Political Science |           |
| <i>Complete 7 graduate (5000-level or higher) PSCI courses (21 credit hours). Elective courses must include at least one graduate seminar in each of the following three areas: American Politics, Comparative Politics/International Relations, and Political Theory.<sup>1</sup></i> |                                       | 21        |
| <i>Complete a Thesis or Project:</i>   |                                       | 6         |
| Plan I: In addition to completing 27 credit hours of required and elective courses, students complete a six credit hour thesis.  |                                       |           |
| PSCI 5950  | Master's Thesis                       |           |
| Plan II: In addition to completing 27 credit hours of required and elective courses, students complete three additional elective credit hours and a three credit hour project/portfolio.   |                                       |           |
| PSCI 5960  | Master's Project                      |           |
| <b>Total Hours</b>   |                                       | <b>33</b> |

<sup>1</sup> Please see the Department graduate director, if you have questions as to which category a course might fit under.

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In addition to taking regularly offered graduate seminars in the program, students may meet their elective requirements by taking independent study, internships, or graduate courses in related disciplines. These courses all require approval from the Graduate program director, or from a sponsoring faculty member in the Department. The total combination of independent study, graduate course work in related disciplines and internships cannot exceed 9 semester hours.

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