

M.A. Program in Political Science Student Learning Outcomes
CIP: 451001

Kansas State University's Master of Arts program in Political Science provides students with a graduate-level foundation for analyzing politics in a systematic manner in four core areas: comparative politics, international relations, U.S. government, and political thought. In addition, the program provides students with tools for that analysis, drawn from social science research methods. Students are required to focus on two specific sub-fields within the four core areas, to meet their professional goals and intellectual interests.

The M.A. program meets the educational and professional needs of three groups of students: (1) those wishing to prepare for Ph.D. or other advanced study; (2) working professionals and other adults desiring to improve their professional qualifications or seeking a greater understanding of political life; and (3) students planning to become high school teachers or instructors in junior colleges.

A graduate of the M.A. program in Political Science should:

1. Know and be able to apply social science research methods.
2. Understand a range and diversity of approaches, models, paradigms, theories, and intellectual traditions within political science.
3. Show competence in at least two of the four core areas listed above.
4. Understand scholarly work in political science and related disciplines.
5. Know how to use scholarly research and perspectives to analyze politics.

The International Service Certificate, which can only be earned in combination with the M.A. degree in Political Science, helps students prepare for a career in international affairs and requires (a) an additional 12 credit hours; (b) proficiency in a second language; (c) internship experience, or its equivalent; and (d) specialization in a secondary area. The secondary area can be another discipline (such as agriculture), a region (such as Africa), or a theme (such as international economic development).

A graduate of the M.A. program in Political Science with the International Service Certificate should, in addition to the six learning objectives noted above:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in a second language.
2. Be prepared to live and work in another country and culture.
3. Integrate knowledge in political science with a secondary area of expertise.

Revised and Adopted on November 7, 2003