

POLITICAL SCIENCE - PH.D.

College of Sciences and Humanities
 Department of Political Science
 www.kent.edu/polisci

About This Program

The Political Science doctoral program provides in-depth knowledge and advanced research skills, preparing you for leadership positions in academia, research institutions and public service. With dedicated faculty and a supportive community of scholars, you will have access to opportunities for cutting-edge research and professional development. Read more...

Contact Information

- **Ryan Claassen** | rclaasse@kent.edu | 330-672-2060
- Connect with an Admissions Counselor

Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
 - In person
- **Location:**
 - Kent Campus

Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries*

Political science teachers, postsecondary

- 4.9% about as fast as the average
- 19,800 number of jobs
- \$85,760 potential earnings

Political scientists

- 6.1% faster than the average
- 7,000 number of jobs
- \$125,350 potential earnings

Social science research assistants

- 5.8% faster than the average
- 40,100 number of jobs
- \$49,210 potential earnings

Social and community service managers

- 17.0% much faster than the average
- 175,500 number of jobs
- \$69,600 potential earnings

Social scientists and related workers, all other

- 0.8% little or no change
- 38,800 number of jobs
- \$87,260 potential earnings

Legislators

- 6.2% faster than the average
- 53,700 number of jobs
- \$33,200 potential earnings

* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

For more information about graduate admissions, visit the graduate admission website. For more information on international admissions, visit the international admission website.

Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited college or university
- Minimum 3.000 GPA on a 4.000-point scale
- Official transcript(s)
- Résumé or curriculum vitae with cover letter
- Goal statement
- Writing sample
- Three letters of recommendation
- English language proficiency - all international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions to waive) by earning one of the following:¹
 - Minimum 79 TOEFL iBT score
 - Minimum 6.5 IELTS score
 - Minimum 58 PTE score
 - Minimum 110 DET score

¹ International applicants who do not meet the above test scores will not be considered for admission.

Application Deadlines

- **Fall Semester**
 - Priority deadline: February 15
All application materials (including applicable fee, transcripts, recommendation letters, etc.) submitted by this deadline will receive the strongest consideration for admission.

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements		
POL 70002	SCOPE AND EPISTEMOLOGY	3
POL 70003	QUANTITATIVE METHODS I	3
POL 70004	QUANTITATIVE METHODS II	3
POL 70010	QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS	3
POL 71094	COLLEGE TEACHING IN POLITICAL SCIENCE	1
Additional Approved Electives for Post-Baccalaureate Students		0-23
Advanced Research Methods, choose from the following:		3
POL 70379	PROGRAM EVALUATION I	
POL 79091	SEMINAR IN QUANTITATIVE METHODS	

RMS 85518	ADVANCED QUALITATIVE RESEARCH IN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	
SBS 83011	QUALITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS	
SOC 72221	ADVANCED QUALITATIVE METHODS IN SOCIOLOGY	
<i>Culminating Requirement</i>		
POL 81199	DISSERTATION I ¹	30
Concentrations		
Choose two from the following: ²		21
American Politics and Policy		
Conflict Analysis and Management		
Transnational and Comparative Politics		
Minimum Total Credit Hours for Post-Baccalaureate Students		90
Minimum Total Credit Hours for Post-Master's Students		67

¹ Dissertation is required. Doctoral students must complete additional approved electives, including research, to reach a minimum of 30 credit hours post-master's (or equivalent advanced degree) or a minimum of 60 credit hours post-bachelor's prior to enrolling in POL 81199. Upon completion of course requirements and candidacy exams, doctoral students must register for POL 81199 for two semesters for a total of 30 credit hours, and thereafter POL 81299, until all requirements for the degree have been met.

² Students select two concentrations. For the first concentration, students complete one Proseminar or Status of the Field course and three elective courses (12 credit hours). For the second concentration, students complete one Proseminar or Status of the Field course and two elective courses (9 credit hours).

American Politics and Policy Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
POL 70101	STATUS OF THE FIELD: AMERICAN POLITICS AND POLICY	3
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		6-9
POL 70102	AMERICAN POLICY PROCESS	
POL 70103	CONGRESS, THE PRESIDENCY AND THE COURTS	
POL 70106	URBAN POLICY AND POLITICS	
POL 70108	AMERICAN POLITICAL BEHAVIOR	
POL 70191	SEMINAR IN AMERICAN POLITICS AND POLICY	
Advisor-Approved Electives		
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		9-12

Conflict Analysis and Management Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
POL 70901	FOUNDATIONS OF CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT	3
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		6-9
POL 70507	CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION AND RECONCILIATION	
POL 70902	POWER, CONFLICT AND THE POLITICS OF GENDER	
POL 70903	IDENTITY DRIVEN CONFLICTS	

POL 70904	SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND NONVIOLENT CONFLICTS	
POL 70906	POLITICAL VIOLENCE	
POL 70907	TERRORISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS	
POL 70991	SEMINAR IN CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT	
Advisor-Approved Electives		
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		9-12

Transnational and Comparative Politics Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
POL 70501	STATUS OF THE FIELD: TRANSNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE POLITICS AND POLICY	3
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		6-9
POL 70502	GLOBAL GOVERNANCE	
POL 70503	FOREIGN POLICY ANALYSIS	
POL 70510	POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT	
POL 70574	STRATEGIC PLANNING	
POL 70591	SEMINAR IN TRANSNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE POLITICS AND POLICY	
Advisor-Approval Electives		
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		9-12

Graduation Requirements

Minimum Major GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
-	3.000

- Passage of one field paper in the first area of concentration
- Written and oral defense of both a dissertation prospectus and dissertation

Residency Requirement

- Students must spend two consecutive semesters pursuing doctoral studies.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Understand the theoretical underpinnings of political science and be able to address real world issues and problems.
2. Attain research and methodological skills that will further their research and make them attractive to future employers.
3. Effectively communicate research findings and implications to a range of audiences including scholars, practitioners and citizens.

Full Description

The Ph.D. degree in Political Science prepares students for research and teaching careers in higher education and for research-based careers in fields that are focused on political, economic and social issues. The degree program is broadly focused on the dynamics surrounding representation, equity, conflict, human rights, development and conflict resolution. Students develop their own research questions in an interdisciplinary and theoretically sophisticated way. Students work with faculty mentors throughout their degree program and often develop and present their own research at regional or national conferences.

The Political Science major comprises the following concentrations, from which students select two:

- American Politics and Policy
- Conflict Analysis and Management
- Transnational and Comparative Politics