

Political Science and Public Administration

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The Department of Political Science and Public Administration offers graduate study leading to the following degrees.

- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Public Policy and Administration
- Master of Public Policy and Administration (M.P.P.A.)
- Master of Arts (M.A.) in Political Science

The department awards a limited number of graduate assistantships.

Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy and Administration

Admission Criteria

A student admitted to the Ph.D. program must have earned a graduate degree from an accredited university with a master's level grade point average of at least 3.35. The applicant must submit the results of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE); three letters of recommendation; a current résumé, two samples of previously written research (e.g., graduate thesis or capstone analysis) or analytic work completed in his or her professional career; and a statement of professional intent. The Ph.D. committee interviews most applicants.

Any international applicant whose native language is not English must submit scores that are not more than two years old from either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing Systems (IELTS). These applicants must achieve a score of 600 PBT (100 iBT) or better on the TOEFL or 7.5 on the IELTS.

Academic Probation

A student whose GPA fall below 3.00 will be placed on academic probation the following semester. See the complete Academic Probation (<http://catalog.msstate.edu/archives/2017-18/graduate/academic-policies/academic-probation-dismissal-appeal>) policy in this catalog.

Unsatisfactory Performance

A student in the Ph.D. program will be dismissed if he or she receives a second grade of C or lower or fails the preliminary exams a second time.

Master of Public Policy and Administration

The 42-hour Master of Public Policy and Administration (M.P.P.A.) program strives to professionalize and diversify public service. The program prepares persons to serve effectively as public administrators at the national, state, and local levels of government.

Admission Criteria

A competitive applicant for the M.P.P.A. program must have completed the last two years of undergraduate work with a grade point average of 3.00; applicants with previous graduate work must have a grade point average of 3.00 on such coursework. Moreover, the applicant must submit three letters of recommendation, official transcript(s), a Statement of Purpose, and the results of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). An applicant with a lower grade point average may be admitted if she or he has a competitive score on the verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing portions of the GRE.

Any international applicant whose native language is not English must submit scores that are not more than two years old from either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing Systems (IELTS). These applicants must have a score of 600 PBT (100 iBT) or better on the TOEFL or 7.5 on the IELTS.

A student who has not been enrolled for one regular semester (fall or spring) is required to submit a readmission form and a new statement of purpose. The readmission must be approved by the Graduate Coordinator. If a student has not been enrolled for one calendar year, the applicant must submit a new application and statement of purpose to be considered for readmission.

Provisional Admission

An applicant who has not fully met the GPA requirement stipulated by the University may be admitted on a provisional basis. The provisionally-admitted student is eligible for a change to regular status after receiving a 3.00 GPA on the first 9 hours of graduate courses at Mississippi State University (with no grade lower than a B). The first 9 hours of graduate courses must be within the student's program of study. Courses with an S grade, transfer

credits, or credits earned while in Unclassified status cannot be used to satisfy this requirement. If a 3.00 is not attained, the provisional student **shall** be dismissed from the graduate program. Academic departments may set higher standards for students to fulfill provisional requirements; a student admitted with provisional status should contact the graduate coordinator for the program's specific requirements. **While in the provisional status, a student is not eligible to hold a graduate assistantship.**

Academic Probation

A student whose GPA fall below 3.00 will be placed on academic probation the following semester. See the complete Academic Probation (<http://catalog.msstate.edu/archives/2017-18/graduate/academic-policies/academic-probation-dismissal-appeal>) policy in this catalog.

Unsatisfactory Performance

A student in the M.P.P.A. program will be dismissed if he or she receives a second grade of C or lower. He or she will also be dismissed if found responsible for violating the Student Honor Code for a second time. See the complete Graduate School policy on Academic Dismissal (<http://catalog.msstate.edu/archives/2017-18/graduate/academic-policies/academic-probation-dismissal-appeal>) in this catalog.

Master of Arts in Political Science

Admission Criteria

A competitive applicant for the Master of Arts in Political Science program must have completed the last two years of undergraduate work with a grade point average of 3.00; an applicant with previous graduate work must have a grade point average of 3.00 on such coursework. Moreover, the applicant must submit three letters of recommendation. An applicant with a lower grade point average may be admitted if he or she has a competitive score on the verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing portions of the GRE.

Any international applicant whose native language is not English must submit scores that are not more than two years old from either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing Systems (IELTS). These applicants must achieve a score of 600 PBT (100 iBT) on the TOEFL or 7.5 on the IELTS.

Readmission

A student not enrolled for one regular semester (fall or spring) is required to submit a readmission form and a new statement of purpose. The readmission must be approved by the Graduate Coordinator. If a student has not been enrolled for one calendar year, the applicant must submit a new application and statement of purpose to be considered for readmission into his/her program of study.

Provisional Admission

An applicant who has not fully met the GPA requirement stipulated by the University may be admitted on a provisional basis. The provisionally-admitted student is eligible for a change to regular status after receiving a 3.00 GPA on the first 9 hours of graduate courses at Mississippi State University (with no grade lower than a B). The first 9 hours of graduate courses must be within the student's program of study. Courses with an S grade, transfer credits, or credits earned while in Unclassified status cannot be used to satisfy this requirement. If a 3.00 is not attained, the provisional student **shall** be dismissed from the graduate program. Academic departments may set higher standards for students to fulfill provisional requirements; a student admitted with provisional status should contact the graduate coordinator for the program's specific requirements. **While in the provisional status, a student is not eligible to hold a graduate assistantship.**

Academic Probation

A student whose GPA fall below 3.00 will be placed on academic probation the following semester. See the complete Academic Probation (<http://catalog.msstate.edu/archives/2017-18/graduate/academic-policies/academic-probation-dismissal-appeal>) policy in this catalog.

Unsatisfactory Performance

A student in the Master of Arts program will be dismissed if he or she

- receives a second grade of C or lower, **or**
- fails the comprehensive examination a second time, **or**
- receives unsatisfactory grades for two semesters in PS 8000 (thesis only), **or**
- is found to be responsible for violating the Student Honor Code for a second time.

See the complete Graduate School policy on Academic Dismissal (<http://catalog.msstate.edu/archives/2017-18/graduate/academic-policies/academic-probation-dismissal-appeal>) in this catalog.

Accelerated Program

Highly qualified PSPA undergraduates are encouraged to apply to the Accelerated Program. This program permits students to earn up to 9 hours of graduate level coursework during their final year of undergraduate studies. Students can take graduate level courses and earn both undergraduate and graduate credit simultaneously. Students need to consult with a potential graduate advisor to ensure graduate credit could be applied to a Program of

Study for the graduate degree. Application to this program may be made as early as the end of the junior year (i.e., after completion of 90 or more hours of graded undergraduate courses). Students interested in applying to the Accelerated Program should contact the Department's Accelerated Program Director, Dr. Brian Shoup, for more details.

Entrance requirements to the Accelerated Program include the following.

- A GPA of 3.50 or higher for all undergraduate work
- A minimum of 60 hours toward a bachelor's degree

For students enrolled in an Accelerated Program, the MSU Graduate Council has established these guidelines in cooperation with the Registrar's Office.

- Once the student is accepted into the Accelerated Program, the student and the advisor may select up to 9 hours that will satisfy both undergraduate and graduate requirements. These courses may be split level (i.e. split 4000-6000 level) or 8000 level classes. The student should take the courses for graduate credit (i.e. 6000-level or higher). The combination of undergraduate and graduate credit hours may not exceed 13 hours within a semester.
- The student should use the Undergraduate Enrollment in Accelerated Degree Program form to (i) receive from the Office of the Graduate School a level override that enables the student's enrollment in the graduate course(s) and (ii) activate a process with the Registrar's Office to obtain both undergraduate and graduate credit for the course. After successfully completing the graduate-level class(es), the Registrar will grant credit for the undergraduate course and give the same grade as received for the graduate course. For the case of a split-level class, the transcript will show credit for both 4000-level and 6000-level on the transcript. In the case of an 8000-level class, a special topics undergraduate course of the same title will be entered on the transcript to allow dual credit.
- Students are permitted to opt out of the accelerated program at any time, at which point they would complete only the undergraduate portion of the program. No additional dual counting of courses would occur after the student opted out of the Accelerated Program.
- Student are expected to apply to the graduate degree program during the last semester in which they are enrolled in the bachelor's program. Application to the graduate degree program would be made through the standard application process via the Office of the Graduate School. Students will receive the bachelor's degree once the requirements for the bachelor's degree are met. Students will be required to complete all of the requirements for both the bachelor's and graduate degrees in order to receive both degrees and those requirements will be identical to the requirements for students enrolled in traditional bachelor's and graduate degree programs. Students will be classified as undergraduates until they fulfill all the requirements for the undergraduate degree. At that time, upon admission to graduate school, they will be classified as graduate students and will be subject to the guidelines pertaining to the graduate degree.

Master of Arts in Political Science - Thesis

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|---|-----------|
| Approved coursework in research methods and public policy | 6 |
| PS 8000 Thesis Research/ Thesis in Political Science | 6 |
| PS XXXX Additional political science courses | 12 |
| Approved electives | 6 |
| Total Hours | 30 |

The thesis program is open to anyone who obtains approval by the M.A. Committee. A minimum of 12 hours excluding thesis credits at the 8000-level is required.

Master of Arts in Political Science - Non-Thesis

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|---|-----------|
| Approved coursework in research methods and public policy | 6 |
| PS XXXX Additional political science core courses | 12 |
| Approved electives ¹ | 15 |
| Total Hours | 33 |

¹ If all or part of the elective coursework is completed outside of political science, students must choose courses from no more than two other departments.

A minimum of 15 hours at the 8000-level is required.

The non-thesis program is open to anyone with at least 18 undergraduate semester hours in social science courses, including 9 hours in political science, who meets the minimum admission requirements.

Master of Public Policy and Administration

Core Courses

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| PPA 8103 Seminar in Public Administration | 3 |
| PPA 8703 Government Organization and Administrative Theory | 3 |

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| PPA 8713 | Public Personnel Management | 3 |
| PPA 8723 | Public Budgeting and Financial Management | 3 |
| PPA 8733 | Public Program Evaluation | 3 |
| PPA 8743 | Administrative Law | 3 |
| PPA 8803 | Research Methods for Public Affairs | 3 |
| PPA 8903 | Public Policy | 3 |
| PPA 8983 | Integrative Capstone | 3 |
| Elective Courses | | |
| Courses in selected concentration | | 12 |
| Internship | | |
| Public or non-profit internship ¹ | | 3 |
| Total Hours | | 42 |

¹ The internship is waived for students possessing at least one year of relevant work experience.

Core courses provide broad training in public policy and administration. These courses cover the fundamental competencies essential for professional practice in the field of public policy and administration. Each student must complete a 12-hour elective concentration to augment knowledge, skills, and abilities acquired in required courses. These courses are tailored to the student's career objective.

Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy and Administration

Public Administration Core Courses

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| PPA 9603 | Scope of American Public Administration | 3 |
| PPA 9703 | Organization Behavior in the Public Sector | 3 |
| PPA 9713 | Administration of Human Resources in a Public Sector Environment | 3 |
| PPA 9723 | Public Budgeting Processes and Their Policy Implications | 3 |
| PPA 9613 | Rural Government Administration I: Theoretical and Environmental Aspects | 3 |
| PPA 9203 | Constitutional and Political Framework of Public Administration. | 3 |
| PPA 9303 | Foundations of Public Administration | 3 |
| PPA 9403 | Comparative Public Administration | 3 |
| PPA 9903 | Public Policy Formulation and Implementation | 3 |

Elective Courses

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| Any graduate-level courses approved by the student's committee | | 6 |
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Research Methodology

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| PPA 9803 | Multivariate Analysis and Design for Public Affairs | 3 |
| PPA 9993 | Research Design and Philosophy of Science | 3 |
| PPA 9503 | Qualitative Research for Public Affairs | 3 |
| PPA 9813 | Advanced Quantitative Analysis for Public Affairs | 3 |

Dissertation

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|----------|---|----|
| PPA 9000 | Dissertation Research /Dissertation in Public Policy and Administration | 20 |
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| Total Hours | | 65 |
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The program focuses primarily on preparing graduates for teaching careers and for research careers.

The program's secondary focus is preparing graduates for management careers in federal, state, and local administration.

Assistantships are available for full-time study. An applicant interested in being considered for financial assistance must indicate that interest at the time of application. Applications for financial assistance are due by March 1.

A student who has not been enrolled for one regular semester (fall or spring) is required to submit a readmission form and a new statement of purpose. The readmission must be approved by the Graduate Coordinator (<http://catalog.msstate.edu/archives/2017-18/graduate/colleges-degree-programs/arts-sciences/political-science-public-administration>). If a student has not been enrolled for one calendar year, the applicant must submit a new application and statement of purpose to be considered for readmission.