

Master of Arts Degree

Students enrolled in our Ph.D. program may, if they choose, apply for an M.A. degree before they complete the Ph.D. This M.A. may serve either as a terminal degree or as a stepping stone towards later completion of a Ph.D. Courses taken to satisfy requirements for the M.A. could also count towards completion of requirements for the Ph.D. program, provided that program is completed under existing time limits and the student meets the following requirements.

M.A. Advisory Committee

Students must form a committee of three or more faculty members who will be responsible for approving a master's paper. One of these faculty members must be designated as the M.A. advisor.

Course Requirements

A total of 30 credit hours, including Y570. At least 15 of the 30 credit hours must be graduate courses (500 level or higher). In order to qualify for the M.A. degree, each graduate student must complete five graduate seminars in political science, averaging at least a grade of B (3.0) in all seminars. For students entering with previous graduate work, the Director of Graduate Studies, in consultation with the student's M.A. advisory committee, may allow transfer up to 8 hours graduate credit from other institutions.

Master's Paper

This written requirement can be based on a research paper prepared in a departmental seminar. If a new paper is written to satisfy this requirement, it may receive no more than 4 hours of credit. The master's paper must be approved by all members of the M.A. Advisory Committee.

Foreign Language/Research-Skill Requirement

The student must demonstrate reading proficiency in one language or proficiency in an approved research skill. Students specializing in American politics or public policy (if admitted before fall 2016) must use an approved research skill, not a foreign language, to meet this requirement.

Master of Arts for Teachers Degree

Information regarding this degree program may be obtained from the School of Education.