

Proposed Revisions to the MA in Political Science

CGS Agenda Item: 18-14
Effective Fall 2018

Rationale for Program Revisions

1. We are updating the curriculum to reflect additional courses available in the program:
 - PLS 4763 – Environmental Politics and Policy
 - PLS 5900 A-Z – Special Topics in Political Science, Public Administration and Public Policy
 - PLS 4763 will count as an elective in Public Administration/Public Policy or in Political Science, but cannot double count. PLS 5900 will count in the elective category appropriate to the course content, and cannot double-count in both categories.
2. We are changing the research methods requirement:
 - We are deleting PLS 5001 from the curriculum. Some of the content from that 1-credit course will be integrated into the new research methods course, while some will be integrated into our graduate orientation program.
 - We are changing the name of PLS 5053/Research Methods to PLS 5053/Research Methods in Political Science

Effective Year/Term: Fall 2018

Current Catalog Language

Political Science

Program Mission: The Master of Arts in Political Science program provides a flexible curriculum for students interested in American government, comparative politics, and international relations. Students will receive training in the advanced analytical, methodological, and theoretical approaches used in political science. The curriculum prepares students for work in public affairs, including employment in all levels of government, legal careers, campaigns, lobbying, private sector government relations, and higher education. The program also prepares students for Ph.D. or legal studies. Internships related to government, politics and the legal system are available.

Admission Requirements: To be eligible for degree candidacy, applicants must meet all of the requirements for admission to the Graduate School (see “Admission to Graduate Degree and Certificate Programs”). All applicants must submit a statement of personal goals and two letters of recommendation from faculty or professionals familiar with the applicant’s academic training and potential for success in graduate school.

Degree Audit: The graduate plan of study is the EIU Degree Audit, which is generated automatically in the Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS) at the time of degree or certificate candidacy. Modifications of the standard EIU Degree Audit are submitted by the graduate coordinator to the certification officer in the Graduate School at the time modifications are approved. The Degree Audit serves as an unofficial summary of requirements for the program. Degree and certificate candidates are advised to review the comprehensive summary of the Degree Audit process specified on the “Requirements for All Degree and Certificate Candidates” section of the Graduate Catalog. Individual programs may require candidates to submit plans of study in addition to the Degree Audit, candidates should consult with the program coordinator.

Degree Requirements

Degree requirements include those outlined for the master’s degree by the Graduate School (see “Requirements for the Master’s Degree”). Additional requirements include a total of 32 semester hours, including research methods, a thesis or capstone project, and required courses, and electives. Students completing the Thesis must complete 26 hours in addition to the 6 hour Thesis. Students completing the Capstone Project must complete 29 hours in addition to the 3 hour Capstone Project.

Required Courses

Required courses. Total Credits 7-10

PLS 5001 - Research in Political Science Credits: 1

PLS 5053 - Research Methods Credits: 3

and

PLS 5950 - Thesis. Credits: 3 to 6

OR

PLS 5940 - Political Science Capstone Project Credits: 3

Proseminars

Complete two of the following. Total Credits 6

PLS 5373 - Proseminar on American Politics Credits: 3

PLS 5023 - Proseminar in International Politics. Credits: 3

PLS 5433 - Proseminar in Comparative Politics. Credits: 3

Political Science Electives

Choose two courses from the following list. Total Credits 6

PLS 4774 - American Constitutional Law. Credits: 3

PLS 4853 - The Supreme Court Credits: 3

PLS 5073 - Seminar in Political Behavior. Credits: 3

PLS 5173 - Congress and the Presidency Credits: 3

PLS 4933 - Ideologies of the Developing World. Credits: 3

PLS 5033 - Comparative Institutional Analysis. Credits: 3

PLS 5533 - Seminar in Political Modernization. Credits: 3

PLS 4903 - Classic Political Theory. Credits: 3

PLS 4913 - Contemporary Political Theory. Credits: 3

PLS 4923 - African American Political Thought Credits: 3

PLS 4943 - American Political Thought Credits: 3

PLS 5153 - Cities and Urban Policy in the U.S. Federal System Credits: 3

PLS 5163 - State Governments and Policy in the U.S. Federal System Credits: 3

PLS 4823 - International Policy Issues. Credits: 3

Public Administration and Public Policy Electives

Choose two courses from the following list. Total Credits 6

PLS 5843 - Proseminar in Public Policy Research and Analysis Credits: 3

PLS 5543 - Proseminar in Public Administration Credits: 3

PLS 4793 - Civic and Nonprofit Leadership Credits: 3

PLS 4873 - Human Resource Management in Public and Nonprofit Organizations Credits: 3

PLS 4893 - Budgeting in Government and Nonprofit Organizations Credits: 3

PLS 5153 - Cities and Urban Policy in the U.S. Federal System Credits: 3

PLS 5163 - State Governments and Policy in the U.S. Federal System Credits: 3

PLS 4823 - International Policy Issues. Credits: 3

PLS 4823; 5153; and 5163 may satisfy either elective category, but will not double-count.

Additional Coursework

Students must take additional 4-7 hours of graduate-level courses from the all of the electives listed above, or the courses below.

Students completing a Thesis may count no more than 3 hours from the following courses, and students completing the Capstone Project may count no more than 6 hours from the following courses.

PLS 5980 - Administrative Internship. Credits: 1 to 6

PLS 5990 - Independent Study. Credits: 1 to 6

PLS 5997 - Study Abroad. Credits: 3 to 6

Graduate Assistantships

Information on graduate assistantships may be obtained by contacting the Coordinator of Graduate Studies or Chair, Department of Political Science, 2135 Coleman Hall, EIU.

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Required Courses

Required courses. Total Credits ~~7-106-9~~

~~PLS 5001 – Research in Political Science Credits: 1~~

PLS 5053 - Research Methods in Political Science Credits: 3

and

PLS 5950 - Thesis. Credits: 3 to 6

OR

PLS 5940 - Political Science Capstone Project Credits: 3

Proseminars

Complete two of the following. Total Credits 6

PLS 5373 - Proseminar on American Politics Credits: 3

PLS 5023 - Proseminar in International Politics. Credits: 3

PLS 5433 - Proseminar in Comparative Politics. Credits: 3

Political Science Electives

Choose two courses from the following list. Total Credits 6

[PLS 4763 – Environmental Politics & Policy. Credits: 3](#)

PLS 4774 - American Constitutional Law. Credits: 3

PLS 4853 - The Supreme Court Credits: 3

PLS 5073 - Seminar in Political Behavior. Credits: 3

PLS 5173 - Congress and the Presidency Credits: 3

PLS 4933 - Ideologies of the Developing World. Credits: 3

PLS 5033 - Comparative Institutional Analysis. Credits: 3

PLS 5533 - Seminar in Political Modernization. Credits: 3

PLS 4903 - Classic Political Theory. Credits: 3

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PLS 5153 - Cities and Urban Policy in the U.S. Federal System Credits: 3

PLS 5163 - State Governments and Policy in the U.S. Federal System Credits: 3

PLS 4823 - International Policy Issues. Credits: 3

[PLS 5900 – Special Topics in Political Science, Public Administration & Public Policy Credits: 1-3](#)

Public Administration and Public Policy Electives

Choose two courses from the following list. Total Credits 6

PLS 5843 - Proseminar in Public Policy Research and Analysis Credits: 3

PLS 5543 - Proseminar in Public Administration Credits: 3

[PLS 4763 – Environmental Politics & Policy Credits: 3](#)

PLS 4793 - Civic and Nonprofit Leadership Credits: 3

PLS 4873 - Human Resource Management in Public and Nonprofit Organizations Credits: 3

PLS 4893 - Budgeting in Government and Nonprofit Organizations Credits: 3

PLS 5153 - Cities and Urban Policy in the U.S. Federal System Credits: 3

PLS 5163 - State Governments and Policy in the U.S. Federal System Credits: 3

PLS 4823 - International Policy Issues. Credits: 3

[PLS 5900 – Special Topics in Political Science, Public Administration & Public Policy Credits: 1-3](#)

PLS ~~4763~~, 4823; 5153; ~~and~~ 5163 may satisfy either elective category, but will not double-count. [PLS 5900 will count in the elective category appropriate to course content, but will not double-count in both categories.](#)

Additional Coursework

Students must take additional ~~4-7~~[5-12](#) hours of graduate-level courses from the all of the ~~electives~~[courses](#) listed above, or the courses below.

Students completing a Thesis may count no more than 3 hours from the following courses, and students completing the Capstone Project may count no more than 6 hours from the following courses.

PLS 5980 - Administrative Internship. Credits: 1 to 6

PLS 5990 - Independent Study. Credits: 1 to 6

PLS 5997 - Study Abroad. Credits: 3 to 6

Graduate Assistantships

Information on graduate assistantships may be obtained by contacting the Coordinator of Graduate Studies or Chair, Department of Political Science, 2135 Coleman Hall, EIU.

[Date approved by the department or school: December 4, 2017](#)

[Date approved by the college curriculum committee: January 19, 2018](#)

[Date approved by CGS:](#)