



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
.....
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA
.....

WHERE
STUDENTS

.....
GRADUATE PROGRAMS *in* POLITICAL SCIENCE
.....

BECOME
LEADERS

.....

Welcome to the University of Oklahoma!

As a graduate student in the Department of Political Science, you will be at the center of our teaching and research community—a community of scholars championing the discovery and dissemination of knowledge in political life.

We are committed to helping our graduate students prepare for a future in academia or the public and private sector. Our faculty and staff are here not only to mentor you through every stage of your graduate education, but also to work alongside you as you reach your career goals. Above all, we believe that academic and professional success grows from compelling and meaningful scholarship. We also strive across everything we do to guarantee that students find our graduate programs to be inclusive in ways that work toward respectful and constructive scholarly inquiry in and out of the classroom.



Scott Robinson

Professor, Chair of the
Department of Political
Science, and Henry Bellmon
Chair of Public Service



Tyler Johnson

Associate Professor and
Director of Graduate Studies
in Political Science

Exceptional Training

The University of Oklahoma doctoral degree in political science is a full-time graduate program for students interested in building a strong theoretical foundation in the science of politics as well as advanced training in political methodology. Our faculty is comprised of award-winning teachers, researchers, and practitioners pursuing active research in a variety of political science fields. As one of the most academically diverse, well-established doctoral programs in the region, our one-on-one interaction between graduate students and faculty plays a significant role in the intellectual life of the department. We offer a range of field specializations with faculty strengths in American politics, public administration, public policy and political methodology.

Our students work closely with faculty, co-authoring publications through collaborative research. Faculty regularly supervise individualized research courses, coordinate lecture series, and facilitate special topic forums focused on political science trends and research, as well as guiding students in the process of professional socialization, including financial support for paper presentations at national and regional conferences. We find many of our recent graduates complete the program within 4-6 years and obtain job placements as faculty, researchers, and administrators in academia, among other careers in the public and private sector.

Affiliations and Resources

Faculty members in the Department of Political Science lead a variety of affiliated research organizations at the University of Oklahoma. These affiliations give our graduate students opportunities to broaden and enhance their research agenda. These affiliations include:

- Bhutan Digital Rare and Historical Documents Archive
- Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center
- Center for Energy, Security, and Society
- Center for Risk and Crisis Management
- Community Engagement + Experiments Lab
- Institute for the American Constitutional Heritage
- National Institute for Risk and Resilience
- OU POLL - Public Opinion Learning Laboratory

Graduate Teaching Assistantships

Graduate students have the opportunity to develop and enhance teaching skills under the guidance of a tenured political science faculty member. A Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) will assist in classroom management, provide instructional support, and lead discussion sections for P SC 1113 American Federal Government, a multi-section undergraduate course.

Graduate Degree Programs in Political Science

- Doctor of Philosophy
- Master of Arts

Fields of Study

- American Politics
- Comparative Politics
- International Relations
- Political Methodology
- Political Theory
- Public Administration
- Public Policy

Ph.D. in Political Science

Core requirements include:

Minimum of 90 hours beyond a baccalaureate degree.

- Required courses:
 - Introductory Data Analysis
 - Intermediate Data Analysis
 - Survey of a Discipline
 - Research Problems
- Concentration in three fields of study
- Electives to meet degree requirements
- Comprehensive examination and independent directed research
- Dissertation

Master of Arts (M.A.) in Political Science

Core requirements include:

Minimum of 36 hours beyond a baccalaureate degree.

- Required courses:
 - Introductory Data Analysis
 - Intermediate Data Analysis
 - Survey of a Discipline
- 18 hours of emphasis in two fields of study
- Electives to meet degree requirements
- Non-Thesis or Thesis option

The Graduate Programs in Political Science consider mentoring to be essential to students' success, both during and after their degree, and we make every effort to pair incoming students with faculty who share their research interests. Before you apply, we encourage you to review our faculty list and learn more about their expertise.

How to Apply

Admission to the Graduate Programs in Political Science at the University of Oklahoma is highly competitive. Applicants must demonstrate the ability and motivation to succeed in a rigorous program of graduate study, and must make the case that there is a close fit between their aspirations and the offerings of the department. Furthermore, study for the Ph.D. is a full-time endeavor that demands complete intellectual commitment.

The Admissions Committee reviews applications once annually for admission beginning the fall semester. The deadline for receipt of all application materials is Feb. 1 of the calendar year. Prospective students must submit the following materials:

- Apply directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions by submitting the official online application, along with transcripts, application fee and all departmental required application materials.
- Students whose native language is not English will be required to submit their scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The minimum required internet-based TOEFL score is 100.
- The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is **optional** as an admissions requirement for the Ph.D. and M.A. application. If you have already completed or plan to complete the GRE, please feel free to submit scores with your application. Applicants not submitting GRE scores will not be at a disadvantage in our review.
- Three letters of recommendation from persons in a position to speak knowledgeably about the applicant's academic ability. Typically, these would be academic references rather than personal acquaintances or employers.
- A statement of no more than 1,000 words articulating the applicant's specific preparation for graduate study, proposed fields of study and area of focus, and career aspirations. A compelling statement is a critical part of the application; the applicant should invest substantial time in crafting the personal statement.
- A writing sample. The writing sample should be a substantial piece of original work that displays the applicant's writing, analytical and research skills.

The Political Science Graduate Admissions Committee typically announce admission decisions by March 1 of the calendar year.

Ani Ter-Mkrtchyan, PhD (2020)



Hometown: My hometown is a beautiful city in Eastern Europe, called Yerevan. It's the capital of my motherland Armenia.

Fields of Study: Public Policy and Public Administration

Why did you choose OU? I was matched with OU for my MPA degree through an international competition but I chose to stay here for my PhD as I was impressed by the quality and expertise of the faculty. I also appreciated the collegiality of my peers and the affordable life that Norman offers.

Biggest accomplishment at OU? Thanks to my professors at OU and the opportunities that are created there I have had many occasions to teach and be involved in collaborative research both with my fellow graduate students and faculty. These experiences have helped me achieve my career aspirations. However, I consider my biggest accomplishment lifelong relationships that I have established at OU with my faculty advisors, mentors and peers.

Do you have any tips for students thinking about getting a PhD at OU? I highly recommend pursuing a PhD at OU. In addition to academic training, I would advise prospective students to benefit from the supportive mentorship and professional development opportunities that faculty offers at OU. These are vital for future employment offers.

What are you doing now? I am an Assistant Professor at the Department of Government in New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM. I teach courses in public policy and administration.

Graduate Student Profile

Active Student Population:

33

Average GPA:

3.87

Average Age:

31

Oklahoma Residents:

36%

Out-of-State:

46%

International Students:

18%

**Profile data based on Fall 2021 enrollment.*

2021 Estimated Cost (Credit Hour)

	Resident	Non-resident
Graduate Tuition	\$334.75	\$962.35
Fees	\$272.45	\$272.45
Total	\$607.20*	\$1,234.80*

* All tuition and fees are for informational purposes only and are subject to change without notice. The quoted tuition and fee information above is in U.S. dollars. Costs for housing, food, books, and other personal expenses are not included. This estimate is based on current rates for Norman campus only. Prices for developmental courses, Liberal Studies courses, and Advanced Program courses will not be accurately reflected in this estimate. Course-specific fees and international student fees are not included. This is not a guarantee of future costs. Individual courses may have special fees associated. Late registration fee is applied to all students enrolling after first official day of classes. Additional information found at Tuition and Fees.

Financial Support

The Department of Political Science offers a limited number of multi-year, renewable graduate teaching assistantships each year. Typically, the financial support package includes a competitive nine-month stipend, graduate tuition waiver and student health insurance.

Graduate Placement

We are very proud of our recent doctoral program graduates and their success in landing career opportunities in a wide variety of colleges and universities, as well as influential organizations in public policy, research and development, and international and community building. Some of our most recent placements for graduate students include Louisiana State University, the University of Arkansas, Oklahoma State University, Indiana University at Bloomington, College of Charleston, the University of Houston, Virginia Tech, Western Carolina University, the Marist Institute for Public Opinion, College Board, the Warrior Scholar Project, and the Huffington Post.



Affordable Living, Creative People and Pioneering Spirit—Norman, Oklahoma

Norman is an affordable and ideal community in which to pursue your graduate career with a significantly lower cost of living than similar cities in the region. The City of Norman has ample affordable housing, and convenient and environmentally conscious public transportation. The neighborhoods surrounding the campus offer tree-lined sidewalks and wonderful outdoor spaces with expansive green space for a variety of outdoor activities. The citizens of Norman are proud of the university and go above and beyond to welcome students and faculty.

A self-proclaimed “city of festivals,” Norman has more than 25 festivals throughout the year. Although the city has a typical suburban appearance to the outsider, you will find that the neighborhoods surrounding the campus add their own unique flavor. Campus Corner, located on the north side of campus, has a beatnik and café society vibe, while the south side of campus is dedicated to outdoor endeavors.

Norman is centrally located near Oklahoma City, the state capital of Oklahoma, and is approximately 20 miles from Will Rogers World Airport with direct and non-stop flights served by more than seven major domestic airlines. AMTRAK provides daily rail service to the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.

For More Information

psc.ou.edu

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@OUNPoliSci

University of Oklahoma
Department of Political Science
Graduate Programs Office—205 DAHT
455 West Lindsey St.
Norman, OK 73019-2001
Phone: (405) 325-2061
Fax: (405) 325-0718

Land Acknowledgment Statement Provided by OU's Tribal Liaison office

Long before the University of Oklahoma was established, the land on which the University now resides was the traditional home of the “Hasinai” Caddo Nation and “Kirikir’its” Wichita & Affiliated Tribes. We acknowledge this territory once also served as a hunting ground, trade exchange point, and migration route for the Apache, Comanche, Kiowa and Osage nations. Today, 39 tribal nations dwell in the state of Oklahoma as a result of settler and colonial policies that were designed to assimilate Native people. The University of Oklahoma recognizes the historical connection our university has with its indigenous community. We acknowledge, honor and respect the diverse Indigenous peoples connected to this land. We fully recognize, support and advocate for the sovereign rights of all of Oklahoma’s 39 tribal nations. This acknowledgment is aligned with our university’s core value of creating a diverse and inclusive community. It is an institutional responsibility to recognize and acknowledge the people, culture and history that make up our entire OU Community.

