“The challenge of studying political science at Texas State also is the benefit. You learn not only how to understand political theory and political science, but how to reach within your own knowledge and experiences to develop your own opinion about the world of government.”

— Robert Fyrst
POLITICAL SCIENCE GRADUATE STUDENT

The master of arts in political science at Texas State University prepares students for careers in teaching, research, policy analysis, public service and foreign service. The program provides a traditional liberal arts education for students who are interested in fields such as government, law, business and journalism.

Courses are offered in American national government, state and local government, international relations, comparative politics and political theory. With a large full-time faculty, students have the opportunity for a close intellectual exchange with professors.

Faculty specialize in the following fields, among many others: politics and literature, politics and business, humanitarian and refugee policy, African politics, religion and politics, Marxist-Leninist ideology, the American presidency, peasant societies, international political economy, Texas politics, public policy and constitutional theory.

Texas State is a depository for federal and state government documents as well as a member of the Council of Research and Academic Libraries.
Course Work

Master of Arts Thesis Option
Students must successfully complete a minimum of 33 hours of political science. Six of these hours are thesis hours. Students may take nine hours in a related field with the approval of the graduate director. Students who have earned at least a 3.5 GPA in political science course work may, upon completion of 18 credit hours with no incomplete grades on their transcript, petition for the thesis option.

Master of Arts Non-Thesis Option
Students must successfully complete a minimum of 36 hours. Students may take nine hours in a related field with the approval of the graduate director.

Course Offerings
The required course work may be taken from the following:

- Ancient Medieval Political Philosophy
- Problems in American Foreign Relations
- Modern and Contemporary Political Philosophy
- Contemporary Perspective in Modern Liberalism
- Political Research and Methodology
- Seminar in Constitutional Theory
- Roots of American Constitutionalism
- Topics in Democratic Theory
- Religion and American Public Life
- Topics in State and Local Government
- Texas Politics and Administration
- Problems in American Politics
- Problems in International Politics
- Problems in International Organization
- Problems in International Law
- Internship in Government
- Seminar in International Political Economy
- Seminar in International Relations Theory
- Topics in Modern Democratic Systems
- Topics in Third World Politics
- Independent Study
- Thesis

Comprehensive Examination
Degree candidates for the master of arts in political science must successfully complete a comprehensive written examination that covers course work in the major field. The written examination will take place near completion of the degree program.

Admission Policy
All applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree in political science from a regionally accredited university. A minimum of a 3.0 GPA on the last 60 undergraduate semester hours of letter-grade work earned at a four-year college or university before receipt of their bachelor’s (plus any previously completed graduate or professional work) is required.

For students who do not hold an undergraduate degree in political science, students must have either an undergraduate minor in political science or a minimum of nine advanced hours in political science or a related area to be considered for regular admission. If students do not have the required background course work, then leveling courses must be taken prior to enrolling in graduate political science courses.

Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Requirement
The political science program does not require the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) of students with a minimum 3.0 GPA. However, all students with a GPA below a 3.0 or who do not have an undergraduate major, minor or nine hours of political science-related upper-level course work must submit an official GRE score prior to admission consideration with a preferred score of 292 and a score of 4 on the analytical writing section.

Additional Admission Requirements
All applicants to the political science program must submit the following documents to The Graduate College in order to be considered for admission.

- three letters of recommendation (academic and professional references)
- writing sample (minimum of five double-spaced typed pages) in a political science course or social science/humanities course
- a typed personal statement of no less than 500 words
- résumé

Visit www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply for access to an online application and additional details. Admission deadlines are June 15 for the fall semester, October 15 for the spring semester and April 15 for the summer semester.

Financial Assistance
A limited number of graduate assistantships are offered through the Department of Political Science. Contact the department directly for details.

For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines, visit The Graduate College website at www.gradcollege.txstate.edu and click on Financing Your Graduate Education. Please note that the program admission priority deadline of February 15 must be met in order to be considered for scholarships, fellowships and assistantships.

Contact
Dr. Cecilia Castillo
Graduate Advisor
Department of Political Science
Texas State University
601 University Drive
San Marcos, TX 78666-4684
Phone: 512.245.2143
Fax: 512.245.7815
E-mail: cr09@txstate.edu