

Political Science Graduate Programs

College of Arts and Sciences



WESTERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY



Reasons to choose our program...

Western Michigan University's political science graduate programs offer students the opportunity to gain skills in research, teaching, and/or development management and the chance to be part of a diverse community of students from around the world. Our programs provide an academically rigorous environment, our faculty is engaged and committed to student success, and our placement record is excellent. The department offers three graduate degree programs:

The **Master of Arts in Political Science (M.A)** prepares students for careers in government, the private sector, higher education (community college teaching) and further training such as a Ph.D. or a law degree. Students have the option of taking a field exam or writing a thesis.

With an emphasis on development management, the **Master of International Development Administration (M.I.D.A.)** is ideal for students planning to pursue careers in the public and nonprofit sectors in developing countries and in international development organizations. Topics include project planning, management and evaluation, national development strategies, political development, legacies of colonialism, structural adjustment, poverty, technology, environmentally sustainable development, and economic topics such as inflation and industrial policy.

The **Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science (Ph.D.)** offers specialization in three fields, including American politics, comparative politics and political theory. The program prepares students for academic, research and government careers. Research and teaching are equally emphasized. Most students receive assistantship funding.



Points of Pride

- The department enjoys a successful placement record. On average, 70 percent of Ph.D. students go on to tenure track jobs. Most of the remainder find employment in research institutes, government or in university administration. Masters students go on to jobs in the private and public sector, teaching high school or community college, or matriculate to law school or a Ph.D. program. Almost all M.I.D.A. students have gone to government, nonprofit or donor organizations.
- The department prides itself on its diversity. Over a five year period, women comprised 47 percent of the graduate student body. Minorities comprised 13 percent and international students 40 percent, with students hailing from over 30 countries across Latin America, Asia, Africa and Europe.
- Faculty members have established solid records of research, teaching and service. Their books have been published by major university presses, and their articles have appeared in the top general and specialized journals in the discipline. Several faculty members have been awarded National Science Foundation grants for their research. Several others are Fulbright grant recipients.

Political Science

Teaching, Research and Program

Focus Areas

The Ph.D. and M.A. programs focus on American politics, comparative politics and political theory, while the international development administration program emphasizes development management. Faculty specializations include:

- Campaigns and elections
- Civil society
- Contemporary theory
- Democratization
- Environmental politics
- Gender and development
- Judicial politics
- Modern democratic theory
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Nationalism and ethnicity (comparative politics)
- Political development
- Political ecology (international development)
- Political economy
- Political economy and the development of the discipline (political theory)
- Public policy
- Regulation
- Voting behavior
- Women and politics

Funding

Assistantship funding is available on a competitive basis to students in all three programs. The deadline to apply is Feb. 1.

Industry Highlights

Our graduate students are prepared for professional careers within the scholarly community as teachers, researchers and university professors, or within public or private agencies as senior policy analysts.

Admission

Domestic Application Deadlines

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis, allowing students to begin coursework during the fall, spring and summer semesters.

International Application Deadlines

Fall: April 1

Spring: Aug. 1

Summer: Jan. 15

Department of Political Science

wmich.edu/politics/graduate

(269) 387-5680



Dr. Priscilla Lambert
Director of Graduate Studies
priscilla.lambert@wmich.edu

Dr. Paul Clements
Director of the M.I.D.A. Program
paul.clements@wmich.edu

Western Michigan University est. 1903

Offering over 100 world class advanced degree programs and holding Carnegie Foundation classification as a higher research doctoral university, the institution has consistently appeared in the U.S. News & World Report as one of America's best national universities. Graduate students make up 21 percent of the total student body and have been awarded nearly \$52 million in financial assistance. WMU enjoys a rich 60+ year history of graduate education.

Kalamazoo, Michigan

The community offers a vibrant cultural atmosphere mixed with a variety of outdoor recreational activities. The city of Kalamazoo is located midway between Detroit and Chicago and is in close proximity to the shoreline of Lake Michigan.

