

# Political Science, MA

Graduate Studies in Political Science  
617.373.4404  
gradpolisci@northeastern.edu

CSSH Graduate Programs General Regulations (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/graduate/social-sciences-humanities/general-regulations/>)

The Master of Arts program focuses on the core scholarly areas of political science. Students specialize in one of five concentration areas: American government and politics, comparative politics, international relations, public policy, and security studies. Courses in the MA program serve as a foundation for work in a doctoral program or as preparation for careers in government, nonprofit organizations, or related work in the private sector.

To earn the Master of Arts in Political Science degree at Northeastern University, you must successfully complete 32 semester hours (typically eight courses) of credit. Full-time students can expect to complete the degree within two academic years. Coursework consists of 4 semester hours in a required statistics course, 12 semester hours within a chosen concentration, and 16 semester hours of electives (including the experiential education requirement). To see the full breakdown, click the Program Requirements tab above.

## Academic Standing/Progress

Satisfactory progress in the MA program includes maintaining a grade-point average of 3.000 overall as well as in the student's concentration area. A final cumulative GPA of at least 3.000 in all coursework is required to qualify for the Master of Arts degree. Any course in which a student earns lower than a C grade cannot be used to fulfill concentration area requirements. A student who fails to make satisfactory progress is placed on academic probation, which is a warning that the student may not be allowed to continue in the graduate program unless the deficiency is addressed.

## Experiential Learning Requirement

In addition to in-class coursework, students are required to complete an experiential education component that advances their learning, research, and/or career objectives. Experiential education offers MA students a direct experience with focused reflection relevant to their academic studies. For students with research interests, the experience focuses on related activities, such as primary source analysis and data gathering. For other students, the experience involves engagement with areas of practice and policy, such as an internship. Students register for the relevant course with a minimum of 4 semester hours and maximum of 8 semester hours to satisfy the experiential education requirement.

An optional cooperative education experience can also satisfy the experiential education requirement. Co-op education is central to both the Northeastern experience and to the College of Social Sciences and Humanities Experiential Liberal Arts framework. Northeastern's signature co-op ecosystem provides qualified master's students with six-month work experiences in businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies in Boston and across the United States. Graduate students take their work from campus learning spaces, apply their knowledge outside of the classroom, and then bring knowledge and skills gained in community learning spaces back to our campus learning spaces during the cocurricular experiential integration course.

## Program Requirements

- Concentrations and course offerings may vary by campus and/or by program modality. Please consult with your advisor or admissions coach for the course availability each term at your campus or within your program modality.
- Certain options within the program may be *required* at certain campuses or for certain program modalities. Please consult with your advisor or admissions coach for requirements at your campus or for your program modality.

Complete all courses and requirements listed below unless otherwise indicated.

## Core Requirement

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Methods Course</b>		
Complete 4 semester hours from the following:		4
CS 6220	Data Mining Techniques	
INSH 6300	Research Methods in the Social Sciences	
INSH 6500	Statistical Analysis	
PPUA 5263	Geographic Information Systems for Urban and Regional Policy	

## Concentrations

- American Government and Politics (p. 2)
- Comparative Politics (p. 2)

## 2 Political Science, MA

- International Relations (p. 3)
- Public Policy (p. 3)
- Security Studies (p. 3)

### Electives

Code	Title	Hours
Complete 12 semester hours in the following range:		12
POLS 5408 to POLS 7976		

### Experiential Learning Component

Code	Title	Hours
Complete 4 semester hours from the following:		4
POLS 7976	Directed Study	
POLS 7980	Capstone Project	
POLS 7990	Thesis	
POLS 8407	Internship	

### Optional Co-op Experience

Code	Title	Hours
Four-month co-ops require registration at 1 semester hour for one term. Longer co-ops require registration at 1 semester hour per term for two consecutive terms.		1–2
POLS 6964 and INSH 6864	Co-op Work Experience and Experiential Integration	

### Program Credit/GPA Requirements

32 total semester hours required (33–34 with optional co-op)  
Minimum 3.000 GPA required

---

### AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS CONCENTRATION

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Seminar</b>		
POLS 7205	Seminar in American Government and Politics	4
<b>American Government Courses</b>		
Complete 8 semester hours from the following:		8
POLS 7341	Security and Resilience Policy	
PPUA 5232	Immigration and Urban America	
PPUA 5233	Contemporary Community Development	
PPUA 5234	Land Use and Urban Growth Policy	
PPUA 5240	Health Policy and Politics	
PPUA 5245	Education Policy in the United States	
PPUA 5270	Food Systems and Public Policy	
PPUA 6502	Economic Analysis for Policy and Planning	
PPUA 6505	Public Budgeting and Financial Management	
PPUA 6522	Administrative Ethics and Public Management	
PPUA 6551	Nonprofit Organizations and Social Change	
PPUA 6552	The Nonprofit Sector in Civil Society and Public Affairs	

### COMPARATIVE POLITICS CONCENTRATION

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Seminar</b>		
POLS 7206	Seminar in Comparative Politics	4
<b>Comparative Politics Courses</b>		
Complete 8 semester hours from the following:		8
POLS 7325	Contemporary Issues in Third World Development	
POLS 7346	Resilient Cities	

or PPUA 7346	Resilient Cities
POLS 7366	Genocide in a Comparative Perspective
PPUA 5240	Health Policy and Politics
PPUA 5266	Urban Theory and Science
PPUA 5268	International Environmental Policy
PPUA 5270	Food Systems and Public Policy

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CONCENTRATION**

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Seminar</b>		
POLS 7207	Seminar in International Relations	4
<b>International Relations Courses</b>		
Complete 8 semester hours from the following:		8
POLS 7341	Security and Resilience Policy	
POLS 7343	Counterterrorism	
POLS 7344	Hard Power, Soft Power, and Smart Power	
POLS 7369	International Security	
POLS 7387	Global Governance	

**PUBLIC POLICY CONCENTRATION**

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Seminar</b>		
POLS 7204	Seminar in Public Policy	4
or PPUA 6506	Techniques of Policy Analysis	
<b>Public Policy Courses</b>		
Complete 8 semester hours from the following:		8
POLS 7341	Security and Resilience Policy	
PPUA 5240	Health Policy and Politics	
PPUA 5245	Education Policy in the United States	
PPUA 6500	Principles of Public Administration	
PPUA 6506	Techniques of Policy Analysis	
PPUA 6507	Institutional Leadership and the Public Manager	
PPUA 6509	Techniques of Program Evaluation	
PPUA 6552	The Nonprofit Sector in Civil Society and Public Affairs	

**SECURITY STUDIES CONCENTRATION**

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Security Studies Courses</b>		
POLS 7341	Security and Resilience Policy	4
Complete 8 semester hours from the following:		8
POLS 7207	Seminar in International Relations	
POLS 7343 to POLS 7346		
POLS 7366	Genocide in a Comparative Perspective	
POLS 7369	International Security	
POLS 7387	Global Governance	