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 government and 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, 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. Course work 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 (GPA) of 3.000 overall as well as in the student’s concentration area. A final cumulative GPA of at least 3.000 in all course work 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 course work, 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 (co-op) can also satisfy the experiential education requirement. Cooperative 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**

Complete all courses and requirements listed below unless otherwise indicated.

### Core Requirement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INSH 6500</td>
<td>Statistical Analysis</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or INSH 7400</td>
<td>Quantitative Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or INSH 7500</td>
<td>Advanced Quantitative Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or INSH 7600</td>
<td>Advanced Methodological and Quantitative Techniques</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PPUA 5263</td>
<td>Geographic Information Systems for Urban and Regional Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or CS 6220</td>
<td>Data Mining Techniques</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PHYS 7331</td>
<td>Network Science Data</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Concentrations

- American Government (p. 1)
- International Relations (p. 2)
- Comparative Politics (p. 2)
- Public Policy (p. 2)
- Security Studies (p. 2)

#### AMERICAN GOVERNMENT CONCENTRATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLS 7205</td>
<td>Seminar in American Government and Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### American Government Courses

Complete 8 semester hours from the following: 8

- POLS 7257 | The U.S. Judicial Process
- POLS 7313 | State Government
- POLS 7341 | Security and Resilience Policy
- 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 6530 | State and Local Public Finance
- PPUA 6551 | Nonprofit Organizations and Social Change
- PPUA 6552 | The Nonprofit Sector in Civil Society and Public Affairs
- PPUA 7232 | Immigration and Urban America
- PPUA 7233 | Contemporary Community Development
- PPUA 7234 | Land Use and Urban Growth Policy
- PPUA 7240 | Health Policy and Politics
### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CONCENTRATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLS 7207</td>
<td>Seminar in International Relations</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### International Relations Courses

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 7370 Europe and European Union Governance
- POLS 7387 Global Governance
- POLS 7394 Topical Seminar in International Relations
- POLS 7441 Cyberconflict
- PPUA 7243 International Development Administration and Planning

### COMPARATIVE POLITICS CONCENTRATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLS 7206</td>
<td>Seminar in Comparative Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Comparative Politics Courses

Complete 8 semester hours from the following: 8

- POLS 7325 Contemporary Issues in Third World Development
- POLS 7333 Science, Technology, and Public Policy
- POLS 7346 Resilient Cities
- POLS 7362 Nationalism
- POLS 7366 Genocide in a Comparative Perspective
- POLS 7370 Europe and European Union Governance
- POLS 7376 Government and Politics of the Middle East
- PPUA 5266 Urban Theory and Science
- PPUA 5268 International Environmental Policy
- PPUA 5270 Food Systems and Public Policy
- PPUA 7243 International Development Administration and Planning

### PUBLIC POLICY CONCENTRATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLS 7204</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Policy</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Public Policy Courses

Complete 8 semester hours from the following: 8

- POLS 7333 Science, Technology, and Public Policy
- POLS 7341 Security and Resilience Policy

### SECURITY STUDIES CONCENTRATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLS 7341</td>
<td>Security and Resilience Policy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Security Studies Courses

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 7370 Europe and European Union Governance
- POLS 7376 Government and Politics of the Middle East

### Electives

Complete 12 semester hours in the following range: 12

- POLS 5100 to POLS 7990

#### Experiential Learning Requirement

- POLS 7980 Capstone Project 4
- or POLS 7976 Directed Study
- or POLS 7990 Thesis
- or POLS 8407 Internship

### Optional Co-op Experience

Complete two consecutive semesters of Co-op Work Experience and Experiential Integration: 2

- POLS 6964 Co-op Work Experience
- and INSH 6864 Experiential Integration

### Program Credit/GPA Requirements

32 total semester hours required (34 with optional co-op)

Minimum 3.000 GPA required

1 Students who decide to fulfill the Experiential Learning Requirement with the optional Co-op, will enroll in one additional elective course and graduate with 34 semester hours instead of 32.