

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-admissions/how-to-apply/>). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

Entrance to the Political Science graduate program occurs in the fall semester. Applications must be received by the department no later than December 10 for fall admission. However, the department will begin accepting applications as of October 1.

The Department of Political Science requires M.A. and Ph.D. program applicants to submit

- official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended (<http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/new-applicants/requirements-for-graduate-admission/>),
- a statement of career plans and proposed emphasis in political science,
- at least three letters of recommendation from persons familiar with the applicant's academic performance, and
- a writing sample demonstrating research and/or analytical skills.

The language of instruction at Penn State is English. English proficiency test scores (TOEFL/IELTS) may be required for international applicants. See GCAC-305 Admission Requirements for International Students (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/gcac-305-admission-requirements-international-students/>) for more information.

Students can be admitted to the master's degree program or, after passing a Ph.D. qualifying exam, can be admitted to the Ph.D. program with a master's degree.