

ACTION ITEM #2

Establish a Master's in Political Science (Daniel J. Bernardo)

May 4, 2018

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

SUBJECT: Establishment of a Master's in Political Science

PROPOSED: That the Board of Regents establish a Master's in Political Science.

SUBMITTED BY: Daniel J. Bernardo, Provost and Executive Vice President

SUPPORTING INFORMATION: The College of Arts and Sciences proposes the creation of a Master's (MA) in Political Science.

The general MA in Political Science was last awarded in 2009. This was a result of dissatisfaction with the performance of some of the students in their final research projects, which is eliminated in the new plan proposal. The emphasis was then shifted to a master's degree in Political Science with a focus on Global Justice and Security Studies (GJSS). This is a terminal degree program focused on training students for professional careers in intelligence, homeland security, or federal law enforcement. While getting the MA in Political Science, students must also take a combination of two courses in Political Science and two in Criminal Justice to get the certificate. Students were only admitted into the MA program if they desired a certificate in GJSS. Over time it became apparent that every year three or four applicants were denied who were interested in general Political Science focusing on domestic American politics and public policy, and not the GJSS focus. In faculty discussions this year, it was noted that there are very few opportunities in the state of Washington to earn a Master's in Political Science. Western Washington University is the only public university offering the degree. There are no public or private universities in eastern Washington offering the degree. Consequently, The School of Politics, Philosophy, and Public Affairs (PPPA) would like to reactivate its general MA in Political Science. We anticipate this degree to be attractive to people in or planning to go into government, public service, non-governmental organizations, non-profits, and public or private school teachers.

The degree will be a non-thesis terminal degree. The degree will not require any additional resources or personnel since we already teach the required and elective courses as part of our PhD program. Students in the MA program will not be eligible for funding from PPPA. Students should be able to complete the degree in three to four semesters, going full time. Because these students are interested in different careers, the new plan would have no impact on the GJSS certificate MA in Political Science. We expect there to be about three to four admissions in the first year, growing to no more than seven or eight in the following years. We intend to have a very high quality control on admissions, admitting only those with clear goals for their professional development.

The complete proposal for the Master's in Political Science is attached. This proposal was reviewed carefully and has support from the Provost's Office. This recommendation was passed by the Faculty Senate on January 25, 2018.

The College of Arts and Sciences proposes creation of the Master's in Political Science degree effective Fall 2018.

ATTACHMENT: Attachment A: Proposal for a New Plan for the General Masters in Political Science

Proposal for a New Plan for the General Masters in Political Science

Rationale:

The general MA in Political Science was last awarded in 2009. This was a result of dissatisfaction with the performance of some of the students in their final research projects, which is eliminated in the new plan proposal. We shifted our emphasis to a master's degree in Political Science with a focus on Global Justice and Security Studies (GJSS). This is a terminal degree program focused on training students for professional careers in intelligence, homeland security, or federal law enforcement. While getting the MA in Political Science, students must also take a combination of two courses in Political Science and two in Criminal Justice to get the certificate. We only admitted students into the MA program who desired a certificate in GJSS. Over time we found that every year we were denying admission to three or four applicants who were interested in general Political Science focusing on domestic American politics and public policy, and not the GJSS focus. In faculty discussions this year we noted that there are very few opportunities in the state of Washington to earn a Master's in Political Science. Western Washington University is the only public university offering the degree. There are no public or private universities in eastern Washington offering the degree. Consequently, PPPA would like to reactivate its general MA in Political Science. We anticipate this degree to be attractive to people in or planning to go into government, public service, non-governmental organizations, non-profits, and public or private school teachers.

The degree will be a non-thesis terminal degree. The degree will not require any additional resources or personnel since we already teach the required and elective courses as part of our PhD program.. Students in the MA program will not be eligible for funding from PPPA. Students should be able to complete the degree in three to four semesters, going full time. Because these students are interested in different careers, the new plan would have no impact on the GJSS certificate MA in Political Science. We expect there to be about three to four admissions in the first year, growing to no more than seven or eight in the following years. We intend to have a very high quality control on admissions, admitting only those with clear goals for their professional development.

Requirements for Master's Degree in Political Science

The general Master's degree in Political Science is designed for those students who seek a *terminal graduate degree* and whose career goals include public service, non-for-profit organizations, or non-governmental organizations. Students may focus on Political Science and public policy broadly defined, or they may concentrate more specifically on American politics or global politics. The core courses will provide students with a strong background in Political Science as a field, and the substantive courses allow students to pick their focus.

Hours: 31 credit hours are required for the Masters of Arts degree

Of those 31 hours:

- **27 hours** shall be graded graduate credit course work;

- **24 hours** shall be graded Political Science course work, no more than **six hours** of which shall be 400 level courses which provide graduate credit in their program statement to the Graduate School;
- **3 out of 4 core courses** in Political Science including:

Pol_S 501 -- The Scope of Political Science (Basic issues in social science epistemology, elements of social science theory-building, theoretical framework, and intellectual history of political science.)

Pol_S 503 -- Introduction to Political Science Research Methods (Introduction to general topics in the area of social science research design including: Theories and Concepts, Measurement, Sampling, Data Sources, Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs, Field and Historical Designs, and Survey Research).

And either:

Pol_S 502 – Seminar in Political Theory (Provides basic training in normative political theory).

Or

Pol_S 504 – Quantitative Methods in Political Science (Applied statistical skills and theories of probability, enabling understanding of substantive political and social questions).

- A minimum of four hours of Political Science 702

Final oral defense: To be scheduled during the final semester of the degree program.

All Political Science Graduate Students are REQUIRED to take the Graduate School and Office of Research Responsible Conduct of Research online training.

Goals	Graduate Student Learning Outcomes	Data Gathered, Sources, When Collected
<p>To prepare students to achieve their professional goals and prepare them to pursue professional careers</p>	<p>Students develop expertise in appropriate concepts, theories and emerging methodologies in Political Science.</p> <p>Students develop skills in interdisciplinary social science and its utility in public policy analysis.</p> <p>Students learn the functions of the policy making process, and issues, problems, and consequences of policy implementation domestically and internationally.</p>	<p>Grades in core courses, PS 501 (Scope of Political Science), PS 503 (Research Methods); and 502 (Political Theory) or 504 (Quantitative Methods)</p> <p>Assessment of their preparation during their final oral exam.</p>
<p>To prepare students to be effective researchers and policy analysts in the disciplines of Political Science.</p>	<p>Students read and synthesize the literature in a variety of subfields in Political Science. (American politics and institutions, global politics, political theory).</p> <p>Students identify research questions and generate hypotheses that are appropriate to an original research problem.</p> <p>Students gather, organize, analyze, and report data on an original research topic.</p> <p>Students communicate research effectively in both written and oral forms</p>	<p>Seminar grades and annual evaluations of students.</p> <p>Rubrics that will be filled in by each committee member at student's oral defense.</p>

<p>To improve students competitiveness for job placement through program training, quality, and reputation.</p>	<p>Students receive effective mentoring from faculty leading to successful completion of graduate education in a timely manner.</p> <p>Students are hired into public policy positions or research analyst positions in domestic and/or international government or private organizations.</p>	<p>Data from student applications (number of applicants, last school attended, etc.) provided by the Graduate School.</p> <p>Time to degree data provided by Graduate School.</p> <p>Job placement data provided by the Graduate Director.</p> <p>Unit Productivity Report provided by the Director of the School.</p>
--	--	--