

Department of Political Science, Public Law and Administration

Master's Accelerated Program Information (Fall 2025) for MA in Political Science

The MAP program encourages qualified undergraduate students to consider taking graduate-level courses in their junior or senior years. Eligible students can “double count” **up to 12 graduate-level credits** by applying them to their BA degree as well as to the graduate degree if they are later admitted to either the MA in Political Science (or the Masters in Public Administration MPA). Students are advised to not attempt more than 3 credits of graduate coursework in one semester. Students must earn a grade of B or higher to have graduate credits count under the MAP program. Graduate courses completed with a B- or lower are not eligible for MAP credit.

By taking some graduate-level courses in the Department of Political Science, Public Law and Administration, students can get a good idea of whether they wish to pursue a Masters degree. They can also complete a Masters degree in a shorter time period if they are admitted to their chosen degree program.

Coursework tends to include a broader set of readings and more extensive research papers. Students seeking to go further in their understanding of a particular issue or debate can gain experience in developing an original research question, exploring relevant literature and in analyzing new data.

Students admitted to the MAP program continue to pay undergraduate tuition rates and remain eligible for undergraduate scholarships. Students should talk with their financial aid adviser prior to registering for graduate classes under MAP.

Students are not guaranteed admission to a graduate program by participating in the MAP program. They will still need to submit an application for admission if they wish to complete a MA degree (or MPA) in the Department of Political Science, Public Law and Administration. Students may be able to transfer graduate credits to programs at other universities, but the program directors and Graduate Schools of those universities will have their own rules and policies regarding transfer credit and may not accept graduate credits earned at NMSU.

Student Qualifications

Undergraduate students may participate in the Master's Accelerated Program (MAP) in the Department of Political Science, Public Law and Administration after:

- Completing 60 semester hours of undergraduate coursework of which a minimum of 25 semester credit hours must be completed at New Mexico State University and apply towards the undergraduate major;
- The grade point average must be at a minimum of 3.5
- May not have previously earned a Bachelor's Degree
- Students have removed any Incomplete grades or holds at the time that they request admission to a graduate-level class.
- **Honors Credit:** Undergraduate students who obtain a grade of B or higher in graduate level classes **can count their credits as Honors credits**. Undergraduate students who earn a grade of **B or higher in two 3-credit graduate classes will automatically graduate with an Honors Certificate**.

Accepted MAP Courses for MA in Political Science

Students can count **four (4)** graduate-level electives - **up to 12 graduate-level credits** - from those listed below. Sometimes these classes are cross-listed with undergraduate sections. Students who register for the MAP program will take the graduate section and complete the same requirements that are expected of graduate students in these classes.

Any other courses may be considered after a consultation with an advisor. An exception will need to be made to the degree audit in order for the additional course(s) to be included on both the Undergraduate and Graduate degrees.

Eligible undergraduates may take any of the following graduate courses under the MAP rules as established by the NMSU Graduate School and with the written approval of the course instructor, the MA Program Coordinator (or MPA Director), as appropriate, and the Head of the Department of Political Science.

Course List

Prefix	Title	Credit
POLS 517	Selected Topics in Government Selected issues in Political Science such as U.S. Presidency.	3 Credits
POLS 524	Introduction into the Non-Profit Sector Study of the nature and operation of the nonprofit sector and how it interacts with public policy. The course provides an overview of the nonprofit sector, its scope, structure, history, values, contributions to society, and selected public policy issues that affect it.	3 Credits
POLS 527	Issues in Public Management Selected issues in public management. May be repeated under different subtitles for a total of 6 credits.	
POLS 536	Public Policy and Indigenous Communities Indigenous communities are found throughout North, Central and South America. This course addresses the history, development and governance of these communities. Course will consider the governance internal to indigenous communities, including governing relationships between indigenous communities and modern states.	3 Credits
POLS 537	Issues in Public Policy Selected issues in public policy. May be repeated under a different subtitle for a total of 6 credits.	3 Credits
POLS 550	Seminar in American Politics Overview of American political institutions. Includes study of American constitutional theory; legislative, executive, and judicial functions and processes; political parties and interest groups.	3 Credits
POLS 560	International Relations A critical overview of leading approaches and controversies in international relations. The purpose of the course is to introduce students to contending theoretical perspectives and conceptual frameworks that help make sense of contemporary world politics.	3 Credits
POLS 563	Issues in International Relations Major topical, theoretical, and issues in International Relations	3 Credits

POLS 564	Advanced National Security Policy Major topical, theoretical, and issues in national security policy.	3 Credits
POLS 565	Advanced Security Studies Advanced study of theories, concepts and key issues in the area of security studies, including historical security problems and emerging 21st century challenges related to cyberspace, A.I., information warfare and virtual deterrence.	3 Credit
POLS 567	Advanced Issues in Terrorism Advanced study of theories of the causes of terrorism, responses to varieties of terrorism, and major issues in the study of terrorism, historically and today.	3 Credits
POLS 569	Advanced Issues in Globalization Analysis of the globalization process. Covers theories of globalization; global economy; political globalization; global culture; transnational social movements; transnational migration and world labor market; global cities; and local-global linkages.	3 Credits
POLS 570	Seminar in Comparative Politics The seminar provides a survey of the field, issues, methods and theories, including a focus on current debates in comparative politics concerning democracies in crisis and the rise of authoritarianism.	3 Credits
POLS 574	Contemporary Comparative Studies Major topical, theoretical, and regional issues in international politics.	3 Credits
POLS 578	Seminar in the U.S.-Mexican Border An analysis of the political environment along the United States-Mexico border and a survey of the literature available for a number of contemporary issues, including migration, environment, security, trade and development.	3 Credits
POLS 579	Seminar in Mexican Politics Advanced research on politics and government of Mexico.	3 Credits
POLS 580	Seminar in Political Theory Examination of major issues in political theory, including democracy, sovereignty, classical and modern traditions of thought.	3 Credits
POLS 587	Seminar in Religion and Politics Historical, theoretical and comparative analyses of the interaction between politics and religion.	3 Credits
POLS 593	Issues in Public Law Selected issues in public law. May be repeated under a different subtitle e.g. Constitutional Law for a total of 6 credits.	3 Credits
POLS 596	International Law Nature, growth and scope of law of nations; rights and obligations of states in peace and war; current issues.	3 Credits

Courses may be considered after consultation with an advisor. An exception will need to be made to the degree audit in order for the additional course(s) to be included on both the Undergraduate and Graduate degrees.

For more information, contact Anja Hansen: anjah@nmsu.edu