



DODGE FAMILY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

WHERE

STUDENTS

GRADUATE STUDIES in POLITICAL SCIENCE

BECOME

LEADERS

Welcome to the University of Oklahoma!

As a graduate student in the Department of Political Science, you will be at the center of our teaching and research community—a community of scholars championing the discovery and dissemination of knowledge in political life.

We are committed to helping our graduate students prepare for a future in academia or the public and private sector. Our faculty and staff are here not only to mentor you through every stage of your graduate education, but also to work alongside you as you reach your career goals. Above all, we believe that academic and professional success grows from compelling and meaningful scholarship. We strive across everything we do to guarantee that students find our graduate programs to be inclusive in ways that work toward respectful and constructive scholarly inquiry in and out of the classroom.



Alisa Fryar
Professor and Department
Chair



Allyson Shortle
Associate Professor and
Director of Graduate Studies

Exceptional Training

Our faculty is comprised of award-winning teachers, researchers, and practitioners pursuing active research in a variety of political science fields. As one of the most academically diverse, well-established doctoral programs in the region, our one-on-one interaction between graduate students and faculty plays a significant role in the intellectual life of the department. We offer a range of field specializations with faculty strengths in American politics, public administration, public policy and political methodology.

Our students work closely with faculty, co-authoring publications through collaborative research. Faculty regularly supervise individualized research courses, coordinate lecture series, and facilitate special topic forums focused on political science trends and research. The department also guides students in the process of professional socialization, including financial support for paper presentations at national and regional conferences. We find many of our recent graduates complete the program within 4-6 years and obtain job placements as faculty, researchers, and administrators in academia, as well as other careers in the public and private sector.

Affiliations and Resources

Faculty members in the Department of Political Science lead a variety of affiliated research organizations at the University of Oklahoma. These affiliations give our graduate students opportunities to broaden and enhance their research agenda. These affiliations include:

- Bhutan Digital Rare and Historical Documents Archive
- Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center
- Community Engagement + Experiments Lab
- Institute for Public Policy Research & Analysis

Graduate Teaching Assistantships

Graduate students have the opportunity to develop and enhance teaching skills under the guidance of a tenured political science faculty member. A Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) will assist in classroom management, provide instructional support, and lead discussion sections for P SC 1113 American Federal Government, a multi-section undergraduate course.

Financial Support

The Department of Political Science offers a limited number of multi-year, renewable graduate teaching assistantships each year. Typically, the financial support package includes a competitive nine-month stipend, graduate tuition waiver and student health insurance.

Graduate Degrees in Political Science

- Doctor of Philosophy
- Master of Arts

Fields of Study

- American Politics
- Comparative Politics
- International Relations
- Political Methodology
- Political Theory
- Public Administration
- Public Law
- Public Policy

Ph.D. in Political Science

Core requirements include:

Minimum of 90 hours beyond a baccalaureate degree.

- Required courses:
 - Introductory Data Analysis
 - Intermediate Data Analysis
 - Survey of a Discipline
 - Research Problems
- Concentration in three fields of study
- Electives to meet degree requirements
- Comprehensive examination and independent directed research
- Dissertation

M.A. in Political Science

Core requirements include:

Minimum of 36 hours beyond a baccalaureate degree.

- Required courses:
 - Introductory Data Analysis
 - Intermediate Data Analysis
 - Survey of a Discipline
- 18 hours of emphasis in two fields of study
- Electives to meet degree requirements
- Non-Thesis or Thesis option

Our faculty consider mentoring to be essential to students' success. We make every effort to pair incoming students with faculty who share research interests. Before you apply, we encourage you to review our faculty list and learn more about their expertise.

How to Apply

Admission to Graduate Studies in Political Science at the University of Oklahoma is highly competitive. Applicants must demonstrate the ability and motivation to succeed in a rigorous program of graduate study, and must make the case that there is a close fit between their aspirations and the offerings of the department. Furthermore, study for the Ph.D. is a full-time endeavor that demands complete intellectual commitment.

The Admissions Committee reviews applications once annually for admission beginning the fall semester. The deadline for receipt of all application materials is Feb. 1 of the calendar year. Prospective students must submit the following materials:

- Apply directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions by submitting the official online application, along with transcripts, application fee and all departmental required application materials.
- Students whose native language is not English will be required to submit their scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The minimum required internet-based TOEFL score is 100.
- All applicants seeking admissions to the doctoral or master's degree are required to submit scores for the GRE. There is no fixed minimum for admission and GRE scores are only one piece of evidence considered for admissions. While not guaranteed, the admissions committee will consider a GRE waiver on a case-by-case basis. An applicant may request a waiver by contacting pscgradprog@ou.edu.
- Three letters of recommendation from persons in a position to speak knowledgeably about the applicant's academic ability. Typically, these would be academic references rather than personal acquaintances or employers.
- A statement of no more than 1,000 words articulating the applicant's specific preparation for graduate study, proposed fields of study and area of focus, and career aspirations. A compelling statement is a critical part of the application; the applicant should invest substantial time in crafting the personal statement.
- A writing sample. The writing sample should be a substantial piece of original work that displays the applicant's writing, analytical and research skills.

The Political Science Graduate Admissions Committee typically announces admission decisions by March 1 of the calendar year.



Travis Ruddle, Ph.D. (2023)

Hometown: Adair, OK

Fields of Study: Public Administration,
Public Policy, and Research Methods

Why did you choose OU? The people! I felt valued by the faculty and staff. I recognized immediately how much they cared about my success.

Biggest accomplishment at OU? I was grateful to have received the Ronald Peters Outstanding Teaching Award and the Provost's Award for Teaching. Being able to teach nonprofit management and the introduction to nonprofit sector class was profoundly rewarding and gave me an opportunity to connect students with organizations across sectors.

Do you have any tips for students thinking about getting a Ph.D. at OU? Do not hesitate to reach out to the faculty and discuss your thoughts and ideas about pursuing a Ph.D. They would love to hear from you and connect with you. I would highly encourage students to look at the fantastic research and teaching experiences that you can have as a Ph.D. student. Additionally, I advise students to look at the fantastic job placement across academic and non-academic institutions. The faculty and staff help facilitate your success!

What are you doing now? I am an Assistant Professor serving in the George W. Romney Institute of Public Service and Ethics at Brigham Young University.

2023 Estimated Cost (Credit Hour)

	Resident	Non-resident
Graduate Tuition	\$370.95	\$1,048.45
Fees	\$53.45	\$ 53.45
Total	\$424.40*	\$1,101.90*

* All tuition and fees are for informational purposes only and are subject to change without notice. The quoted tuition and fee information above is in U.S. dollars. Costs for housing, food, books, and other personal expenses are not included. This estimate is based on current rates for Norman campus students only holding a qualifying graduate assistantship only. Prices for developmental courses, Liberal Studies courses, and Extended Campus courses, and fixed rate programs will not be accurately reflected in this estimate. Course-specific fees and international student fees are not included. This is not a guarantee of future costs. Individual courses may have special fees associated. Late registration fee is applied to all students enrolling after first official day of classes. Additional information found at Tuition and Fees.

Graduate Student Profile*

Active Student Population:

34

Average GPA:

3.87

Average Age:

31

Oklahoma Residents:

38%

Out-of-State:

44%

International Students:

18%

*Profile based on
Fall 2023
enrollment data.

Graduate Placement

We are very proud of our recent doctoral program graduates and their success in landing career opportunities in a wide variety of colleges and universities, as well as influential organizations in public policy, research and development, and international and community building. Some of our most recent placements for graduate students include, Brigham Young University, Grand Valley State University, Georgia State University, New Mexico State University-Las Cruces, University of Illinois-Springfield, Western Carolina University, and the California State University-Northridge, as well as research and nonprofit positions at The College Board, Oklahoma State Department of Education, and the Council of Graduate Schools.



Affordable Living, Creative People and Pioneering Spirit—Norman, Oklahoma

Norman is an ideal community in which to pursue your graduate career, with a significantly lower cost of living than similar cities in the region. The City of Norman has ample affordable housing, and convenient and environmentally conscious public transportation. The neighborhoods surrounding the campus offer tree-lined sidewalks and wonderful outdoor spaces with expansive green space for a variety of outdoor activities. The citizens of Norman are proud of the university and go above and beyond to welcome students and faculty.

A self-proclaimed “city of festivals,” Norman has more than 25 festivals throughout the year. Although the city has a typical suburban appearance to the outsider, you will find that the neighborhoods surrounding the campus add their own unique flavor. Campus Corner, located on the north side of campus, has a beatnik and café society vibe, while the south side of campus is dedicated to outdoor endeavors.

Norman is centrally located near Oklahoma City, the state capital of Oklahoma, and is approximately 20 miles from Will Rogers World Airport with direct and non-stop flights served by seven major domestic airlines. AMTRAK provides daily rail service to the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.

For More Information

psc.ou.edu

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Land Acknowledgment Statement Provided by OU's Tribal Liaison office

Long before the University of Oklahoma was established, the land on which the University now resides was the traditional home of the "Hasinai's" Caddo Nation and "Kirikirŋi:s" Wichita & Affiliated Tribes. We acknowledge this territory once also served as a hunting ground, trade exchange point, and migration route for the Apache, Comanche, Kiowa and Osage nations. Today, 39 tribal nations dwell in the state of Oklahoma as a result of settler and colonial policies that were designed to assimilate Native people. The University of Oklahoma recognizes the historical connection our university has with its indigenous community. We acknowledge, honor and respect the diverse Indigenous peoples connected to this land. We fully recognize, support and advocate for the sovereign rights of all of Oklahoma's 39 tribal nations. This acknowledgment is aligned with our university's core value of creating a diverse and inclusive community. It is an institutional responsibility to recognize and acknowledge the people, culture and history that make up our entire OU Community.

