Political Science

The doctoral program in political science at Washington University is one of the top programs in the country. Graduate students take classes and engage in research with a faculty recognized nationally and internationally as among the most expert, active, and productive in the country.

Our graduate program is relatively small. We admit around eight to 10 students into the PhD program each year, and most of these complete the doctorate, generally in five to six years. There are approximately 40 graduate students currently in residence.

Washington University’s PhD program in Political Science is designed to prepare students for academic careers in research and teaching at major institutions across the country. While our program stresses the importance of political methodology (applied statistics) and formal theory (game theory and mathematical modeling), our program is designed to teach all students in these methods, regardless of their mathematical background.

We have active research groups in American politics and institutions, comparative politics, international political economy, positive and normative theory, and political methodology. It is important to emphasize that we do not regard these subfields as separate entities. Many of our faculty have research and teaching interests that transcend political science subfields, as well as traditional disciplinary boundaries. We have strong connections with other departments at Washington University, including economics, anthropology, the law school, and with various interdisciplinary research centers on campus.

Contact: Colleen Skaggs
Phone: 314-935-7455
Email: cskaggs@wustl.edu
Website: http://polisci.wustl.edu/graduate

Faculty

Chair
James Spriggs II (http://polisci.wustl.edu/james_spriggs)
Sidney W. Souers Professor of Government
PhD, Washington University

Associate Department Chair
Matthew Gabel (http://polisci.wustl.edu/Matthew_Gabel)
Professor
PhD, University of Rochester

Director of Undergraduate Studies
Justin Fox (http://polisci.wustl.edu/faculty/justin-fox)
Associate Professor
PhD, University of Rochester

Director of Graduate Studies
Andrew Reeves (http://polisci.wustl.edu/faculty/andrew-reeves)
Associate Professor
PhD, Harvard University

Endowed Professors
Randall Calvert (http://polisci.wustl.edu/Randall_Calvert)
Thomas F. Eagleton University Professor of Public Affairs and Political Science
PhD, California Institute of Technology

Lee Epstein (http://epstein.wustl.edu)
Ethan A.H. Shepley Distinguished University Professor
PhD, Emory University

James L. Gibson (http://polisci.wustl.edu/James_Gibson)
Sidney W. Souers Professor of Government
PhD, University of Iowa

Norman J. Schofield (http://polisci.wustl.edu/norman_schofield)
William Taussig Professor of Political Economy
PhD, Essex University

Steven S. Smith (http://polisci.wustl.edu/steven_smith)
Kate M. Gregg Professor of Social Sciences; Director of the Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy
PhD, University of Minnesota

Professors
Brian F. Crisp (http://polisci.wustl.edu/pages.wustl.edu/crisp)
PhD, University of Michigan

William R. Lowry (http://polisci.wustl.edu/William_Lowry)
PhD, Stanford University

Itai Sened (http://polisci.wustl.edu/itali_sened)
PhD, University of Rochester

Associate Professors
Michael Bechtel (http://polisci.wustl.edu/faculty/michael-bechtel)
PhD, University of Konstanz

David Carter (http://polisci.wustl.edu/faculty/david-carter)
PhD, University of Rochester

Justin Fox (http://polisci.wustl.edu/faculty/justin-fox)
PhD, University of Rochester

Clarissa Hayward (http://polisci.wustl.edu/ClarissaRile_Hayward)
PhD, Yale University
Assistant Professors

Deniz Aksoy (http://polisci.wustl.edu/faculty/deniz-aksoy)
PhD, University of Rochester

Sarah Brierley (http://polisci.wustl.edu/faculty/sarah-brierley)
PhD, University of California, Los Angeles

Jacob Montgomery (http://polisci.wustl.edu/faculty/jacob-montgomery)
PhD, Duke University

Keith Schnakenberg (http://polisci.wustl.edu/faculty/keith-schnakenberg)
PhD, Washington University

Professors Emeriti

Gary Miller (http://polisci.wustl.edu/GaryJ_Miller)
PhD, University of Texas at Austin

John Sprague (http://polisci.wustl.edu/John_Sprague)
Sidney W. Souers Professor Emeritus of Government
PhD, Stanford University

Degree Requirements

PhD in Political Science

For more information regarding our doctoral program and the curriculum, please visit our Graduate Program webpage (http://polisci.wustl.edu/graduate).