

Graduate Certificate in Practical Politics

This certificate is available on campus.

The certificate in practical politics is intended for political practitioners, or for those who intend to become political practitioners, who wish to augment their background and skills through exposure to political science frameworks and concepts with a focus on electoral politics, interest group politics and lobbying, and policy analysis. Students are expected to sharpen the skills and understanding required of thoughtful and effective practitioners in elective and appointive public service. Instruction involves consultation with experienced representatives of government and government-related endeavors in the capital. Students learn political and policy research, organizing and lobbying skills, campaign techniques, and an array of analytical approaches to policy making in partisan and nonpartisan settings.

Practical knowledge is intelligence in context. All graduate students in Political Science have opportunities to enhance their skill and understanding in actual political settings. The department has developed a broad range of internship experiences with legislative staffs and agencies, legislative liaisons, lobbyists, public interest groups, political consultants, and campaign organizations. These learning experiences ensure that M.A. students are effective learners both in the classroom and in the field and that they can transfer their learning from one setting to another, as the professional practice of politics requires.

Students with a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution may apply for admission to the certificate. For admission to the certificate, a minimum 3.0 undergraduate GPA is required, with conditional admission status possible for students with a slightly lower GPA, particularly if a student has significant practical politics experience. Conditionally admitted students will be fully admitted after receiving a grade of B or better in PSC 501.

Students with significant practical experience may submit a Student Petition form to replace the internship requirement with a PSC elective. The certificate can be taken as a part of the M.A. PSC curriculum through electives or independently.

A grade of B or better must be earned in each of the following classes to qualify for the certificate (grades of B- or lower will not be accepted).

Required Courses

PSC 501	Introduction to the Graduate Study of Politics	4
Select two of the following:		8
PSC 562	Practical Politics Seminar in Political Campaigns	
PSC 563	Practical Politics Seminar in Lobbying	
PSC 564	Practical Politics Seminar in Policy Formation, Analysis, and Presentation	
PSC 530	Graduate Internship in Political Science	4
Total Hours		16