

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS (GVPT)

Graduate Degree Program
College: Behavioral and Social Sciences

Abstract

The Department of Government and Politics offers a Ph.D. degree in political science, intended for those planning academic and research-based careers. Students can specialize in American politics, comparative politics, international relations, as well as a minor in methodology. In addition, students can study in depth more specialized fields such as public law, national security, public policy, political psychology, international and inter-ethnic conflict, international political economy, post-Soviet and post-communist studies, East-Asian studies, and the politics of advanced industrial societies.

Financial Assistance

Students are only admitted with a graduate fellowship. In addition to fellowships and teaching assistantships there are also a limited and variable number of research positions available.

Fellowships in Support of Diversity and Inclusion (<https://gvpt.umd.edu/graduate/fellowships-support-diversity-and-inclusion-behavioral-and-social-sciences/>) (optional): *If you are interested in applying for the Fellowships in Support of Diversity and Inclusion in the Behavioral and Social Sciences, please be sure to upload your materials under "Supplementary Materials" and respond to the following prompt: "Diversity and Inclusion Essay Prompt: Please describe either your interest in addressing issues related to sociocultural diversity and inclusion, your commitment to serving diverse communities, or your interest in advancing/promoting/increasing diversity in the behavioral and social sciences or STEM through your research, teaching, mentoring, and/or service. Please be sure to also describe your past and ongoing experiences in these areas, as well as your plans for using your doctoral training and your career to promote better social science and excellence through diversity and inclusion."*

Contact

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Website: <http://www.gvpt.umd.edu>

Courses: GVPT (<https://umd-curr.courseleaf.com/graduate/courses/gvpt/>)

ADMISSIONS

General Requirements

- Statement of Purpose
- Transcript(s)

- TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/>))

Program-Specific Requirements

- Letters of Recommendation (3)
- Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) (optional) or Graduate Record Examination (GRE) (optional)
- GRE Subject (optional)
- Supplementary Applications (up to two optional, contact dept. for details)
- CV/Resume
- Writing Sample (one required, up to one more optional)

The Department recruits highly qualified students and admits only a limited number of the strongest applicants. The Admissions Committee rarely grants provisional or conditional admission to the graduate program. The Department does not admit M.A. applicants. Only students whose ultimate objective is the Ph.D. should apply for direct admission to the program. Admission is granted only for the Fall Semester.

Application Deadlines

Type of Applicant	Fall Deadline
Domestic Applicants	
US Citizens and Permanent Residents	December 2, 2025
International Applicants	
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A, E, G, H, I and L visas and immigrants	December 2, 2025

RESOURCES AND LINKS:

Program Website: <http://www.gvpt.umd.edu>

Application Process: gradschool.umd.edu/admissions (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/>)

REQUIREMENTS

- Government and Politics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/government-politics-gvpt/government-politics-phd/>)
- Government and Politics, Master of Arts (M.A.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/government-politics-gvpt/government-politics-ma/>)

FACILITIES AND SPECIAL RESOURCES

Graduate students in the department participate in the activities of the Center for International Development and Conflict Management, the Center for Democracy and Civic Engagement, the Interdisciplinary Laboratory of Computational Social Sciences, the Anwar Sadat Chair for Peace and Development, and Project ICONS.