



# **POLITICAL** SCIENCE

## Accelerated BA/MPA Program

### Curriculum and Program Requirements

## PREFACE

This handbook provides an overview of the Accelerated BA/MPA program in Political Science at the University of Nevada, Reno. We, as a department, hope this handbook helps you take advantage of the faculty, staff and student resources available to you. Please feel free to visit us any time in our offices or at our website [www.unr.edu/cla/polisci](http://www.unr.edu/cla/polisci) for additional information or advice.

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**Accelerated BA/MPA PROGRAM HANDBOOK**

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## THE UNIVERSITY AND THE RENO AREA

As Nevada's flagship land-grant institution, the University has been instrumental in the history of the nation's fastest-growing state. One of the top 150 research universities in the country, the University of Nevada, Reno is fully accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, the official accrediting agency of most Western states.

The University of Nevada, Reno was founded in 1874 as the State University of Nevada in Elko, Nevada, about 300 miles northeast of its present-day campus in Reno. The site for the university preparatory school in eastern Nevada (where no state institutions had previously been located) proved to be impractical, as nearly half of the state's residents lived in the Reno-Carson City area. In 1885, the legislature approved the move of the University from Elko to Reno.

By 1958, with 2,000 students attending classes, the institution was on the verge of dramatic change. New colleges of education and business were in their first years. The student body, which had not had a student center building for the first 70 years of the University's tenure in Reno, finally had a headquarters with the opening of the Jot Travis Student Union. The university replaced the Jot Travis Student Union with the Joe Crowley Student Union, one of the most transformational buildings ever built on campus. This 167,000-square-foot, "green" environmentally friendly facility signals a shift in campus expansion, offering the campus and community a new centrally located "front door" to the University from Virginia Street. In 2008, one of the nation's most technologically advanced libraries, the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, opened next to the Crowley Student Union, further signaling the campus' move north. In the last 35 years, the University has met the challenges of leadership in what is now the fastest-growing state in the country, with its enrollment rising to more than 17,000 students in fall 2010.

The faculty of the University is exceptionally well-qualified, with 94 percent of tenured faculty and 79 percent of the full-time faculty holding the highest degrees attainable in their respective fields. More than 50 percent of the faculty has been hired during the past 10 years, reflecting the retirement of the "baby boomer" generation of faculty and general growth of the University. Faculty-initiated research grants and contracts have increased 600 percent during the past 15 years, a result of attracting world-class faculty members. At present, 37 percent of the University's 999 full-time academic faculty members are female, with 15 percent made up of men and women of color. The University's 663 administrative faculty, or professional staff, includes 53 percent women and 16 percent people of color.

Nestled at the base of the Sierra Nevada, the city of Reno is closer to cities such as Sacramento and San Francisco than Las Vegas. In contrast to Las Vegas, Reno offers its residents an invigorating taste of all four seasons. Channeling the crystal waters of Lake Tahoe, the Truckee River runs leisurely through downtown Reno. Numerous mountain ranges rise ruggedly from the desert basin, providing stunning views and unmatched sunsets. When you breathe the crisp mountain air and smell the hint of sagebrush on the breeze, you'll know you're in Reno. Reno, the "The Biggest Little City in the World," and sister city, Sparks, combine for a population of close to 400,000. Reno offers a favorable quality of life that has been recognized by numerous national sources, including *Forbes* magazine. Reno's population enjoys an array of cultural activities, including museums, numerous theatre companies, a symphony, ballet and opera. There are several major venues for concerts, sporting events and other live performances, including the Lawlor Events Center on campus and the Reno Events Center, located less than a 10-minute walk from campus.

## THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Accelerated BA/MPA degree is offered as part of the curricular program of the Department of Political Science. The Department is an academic unit within the College of Liberal Arts. The activities of the Department focus upon undergraduate and graduate education, research, and public service. In addition to the Accelerated BA/MPA (or BA/MA) the Department offers the Bachelor's in Political Science (BA), Bachelor's in International Relations (BA), Master's in Political Science (MA), and Doctorate in Political Science (PhD).

In the past several years, the department has undergone dramatic transformation in student enrollment, faculty, and degree programs. The Political Science undergraduate major has one of the largest enrollments on campus. With the addition of six new faculty members in as many years, the department has expanded and solidified its research and teaching in areas that include environmental policy, American government and elections, public administration and public policy, political violence, international and human security, and comparative politics. As a smaller program, our students are able to work more closely with faculty members to tailor a program that will help them to achieve their research and professional goals. Our graduate students routinely present research at major conferences and publish on their own or with faculty members.

## THE ACCELERATED BA/MPA FOCUS

The BA/MPA program has the following general goals:

- to prepare people for careers in public administration and policy analysis
- to improve managerial competence of persons presently in public service through the advanced study of administrative processes and problems, and through an increased understanding of policy issues and research skills
- to support additional university based research in public administration and policy analysis.

The Accelerated BA/MPA combination degree option allows undergraduate students to pursue coursework to complete their BA and MPA degrees in five years. This accelerated program employs a curriculum that allows students to complete 120 undergraduate level credits and 36 graduate level credits (15 credits must be at the 700 level or higher) in 5 years. Undergraduate students begin graduate level coursework in their 4<sup>th</sup> year. The program culminates the MPA degree suitable for students pursuing careers in public service, public administration, non-governmental organizations or further study in a PhD program outside the University of Nevada, Reno. The courses in public administration are designed to increase the student's understanding of the internal organizational environment, and to help the student develop needed managerial skills. Courses in public policy give the student an understanding of the social, political, and economic environment in which public programs develop and operate. Courses in research methods provide the skills necessary in today's complex government agencies and activities. A track of specialization provides the student with additional competence in an area linked to individual interests and/or career goals.

## ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the Accelerated BA/MPA program is competitive; a limited number of applicants are accepted each year. A departmental graduate Committee makes admission decisions. To be considered, all applications must be complete. Please note that the Graduate School, which has to approve all applicants, has its own deadlines and regulations. Students are expected to know these and meet and follow them. The Graduate School website is [www.unr.edu/grad](http://www.unr.edu/grad).

### APPLICATION DEADLINES

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Students apply to the program during their junior year.

- **Regular Fall Admission:** April 15; this deadline is for students seeking admission for the following fall semester.

### MINIMUM SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENTS

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- **GRE required.** GRE exam should be taken during the student's fall semester, junior year, with application submitted in the spring semester; in line with current admission requirements, students must have a combined 1000 verbal and quantitative GRE scores. These will need to be adjusted to the new GRE scaled scoring methodology by the Department's Graduate Committee.
- Student must have completed 75 credits toward their BA degree
- Political Science Major or other approved major at UNR
- 3.5 GPA overall; 3.5 GPA within major; any exceptions to this will need approval from the Graduate Committee
- Three Letters of Recommendation: two Department faculty members; one from outside the department
- Statement of Purpose
- Student must meet all admission requirements of the Graduate School
- All application material should be submitted through the Graduate School, following normal graduate admission procedures

## REGULAR ADMISSION

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Completed applicant files are reviewed by the department's Graduate Committee and forwarded to the Graduate School for final approval. The Graduate Committee reserves the right to specify additional application material if necessary. It is possible that the Graduate Committee may recommend admission for a student contingent upon the student taking additional coursework to make up for deficiencies in the student's record.

Admitted students will receive an email welcoming them to the department, but the official letter of admission will come directly from the Dean of the Graduate School. The Graduate Dean's letter is the official offer of admission. To accept the offer of admission, students must contact the Director of Graduate Studies by email to acknowledge that they are accepting the admission offer. This communication will allow the department to establish department records and to add the new student to the department's list serves. If the student does not respond to the department's offer of admission by the established deadline, they will forfeit their seat for the incoming class.

## FINANCIAL AID

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Financial Aid issues and options should be discussed with the office of Financial Aid <http://www.unr.edu/financial-aid> before the student accepts admission to the program.

## PROGRAM GUIDELINES

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- Six credits of graduate work may apply to BA degree program
- Students must be admitted to the program before graduate courses can be taken
- Students who do not finish the requirements for the BA/MPA will be allowed to finish their BA degree; graduate coursework completed will not revert to undergraduate credit
- Students begin graduate coursework in their first semester of their 4<sup>th</sup> year
- Degree culminates in a non-thesis MPA degree
  - Students planning on entering a PhD program later will be strongly encouraged to complete a thesis under their faculty supervisor
- Students must maintain at least a 3.2 GPA in both BA and MPA coursework; anything lower will result in probation with a semester to raise it to 3.2 or above. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the program to finish their BA degree
- Undergraduate credit will not count toward graduate credit coursework

- Graduate credit will not count toward undergraduate credits needed to meet financial aid requirements. With regard to financial aid, students should note that graduate courses do not apply towards the 12 credits required for full time undergraduate standing. In most cases, 12 credits should be taken in addition to the graduate-level courses. The graduate-level courses will require payment of graduate credit tuition. Students should discuss their financial aid options with the office of Financial Aid <http://www.unr.edu/financial-aid>.
- Program of Study (POS) must be completed after the students first semester in the program.

## BA/MPA COURSEWORK

### UNDERGRADUATE COURSEWORK:

**All Accelerated BA/MPA students are required to complete the following University CORE Requirements:**

- **NOTE:** Refer to the Core Curriculum chapter of the University catalog for information regarding the "Core English and Math Completion Policy"
- English (3-8 credits)
  - Refer to the "English" section of the Core Curriculum chapter of this catalog
  - NOTE: Students who place in ENG 102 are not required to complete ENG 101.
- Mathematics (3-6 credits)
  - Refer to the "Mathematics" section of the Core Curriculum chapter in the University catalog (3-6 credits)
- Natural Sciences (6-8 credits)
  - Refer to the "Natural Sciences" section of the Core Curriculum chapter in the University catalog. (6-8 credits)
- Social Sciences (3 credits)
  - Refer to the "Social Sciences" section of the Core Curriculum chapter in the University catalog. (3 credits)
- Fine Arts (3 credits)
  - Refer to the "Fine Arts" section of the Core Curriculum chapter in the University catalog. (3 credits)

- Core Humanities (9 credits)
  - CH 201--Ancient and Medieval Cultures (3 credits)
  - CH 202--The Modern World (3 credits)
  - CH 203--American Experience and Constitutional Change (3 credits)
- Capstone Courses (6 credits)
  - Refer to the "Capstone" section of the Core Curriculum chapter in the University catalog. (6 credits)
- Diversity (3 credits)
  - Refer to the "Diversity" section of the Core Curriculum chapter in the University catalog. (3 credits)
- **II. ADDITIONAL COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS (6-20\* credits)**

*NOTE: Credits may vary depending on initial course placement in foreign language.*
- Foreign Language (0-14 credits)
  - Successful completion of the foreign language requirement may be accomplished through one of five options: complete a fourth semester college course in a foreign language; complete a fourth semester course in American Sign Language; demonstrate proficiency through placement examination or other means through the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures; show transcript evidence of successful completion of a fourth year high school course in foreign language; or participate in a studies abroad program pre-approved by the college to meet the foreign language requirement.
- College Breadth Requirement (6 credits)
  - Students seeking a Bachelor of Arts degree in the college shall be required to take, within the College of Liberal Arts, two courses that are outside the departments in which they major or minor, and that exclude courses taken to fulfill Core Curriculum requirements.
- **III. MAJOR REQUIREMENTS (60-66 credits)**
  - Eighteen of the 30 credits must be taken at the 300-400 level

- PSC 101--American Politics: Process and Behavior (3 credits)
  - One political science course from each of the following five fields (15 credits total):
    - American government (3 credits)
    - Public administration and public policy (3 credits)
    - Political theory--must be 300-400 level (3 credits)
    - Comparative government (3 credits)
    - International relations (3 credits)
- Political science electives (18 credits)

**GRADUATE LEVEL COURSEWORK:**

- General Core Courses – 18 Credits
  - PSC 604b Public Personnel Administration
  - PSC 741 Seminar in Public Administration
  - PSC 744 Governmental Budgeting
  - PSC 750 Seminar in Public Policy
  - PSC 780 Research in Political Science
  - PSC 751 Public Policy Analysis
- Specialization Track – 9 Credits
  - The program offers three defined specialization tracks: Public Management; Policy Analysis and Evaluation; or Environmental Policy and Management.
  - The courses supporting each track may be interdisciplinary, in which case those courses may be taken outside the department. Other courses may be included to match the special interests of individual students, in consultation with the student’s committee chair and the Director of Graduate Studies. Students may augment the required nine credits in the specialization track with additional elective courses.
  - Students may also devise more specifically defined specialization tracks (e.g., Comparative Administration, Urban Management and Planning) upon consultation with and approval by their advisory committee and the Director of Graduate Studies.
- General Electives – 6 Credits
- PSC 795 Comprehensive Examinations (3 Credits Total)

- **IV. MINOR REQUIREMENTS (18-21 credit)**
- Students must complete 18-21 credits in a minor. The Department of Political Science accepts any minor approved by the College of Liberal Arts.
- **V. ELECTIVES (3-30 credits)**
- **VI. TOTAL CREDITS (150-156 credits)**
- NOTE: A candidate for a bachelor's degree must earn a minimum of 42 credits numbered 300 or above. Students in the combined BA/MA or BA/MPA program may apply up to 6 credits of graduate credit toward completion of their BA degree requirements

#### ABOUT COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS

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MPA students are required to pass comprehensive examinations in 3 of the 6 required general core courses, excluding PSC 780 for which there is no comprehensive examination offered. The procedures for the comprehensive examinations are as follows:

1. Students decide in consultation with their advisor which comprehensive examination they would like to take
2. When students sign up take the class in which they would like to take the comprehensive examination, they inform the instructor *at the beginning of the semester* that they wish to take the comprehensive examination for that course
3. The student then registers for 1 credit of PSC 795 Comprehensive Examination and 2 Credits of PSC 791 Special Topics. Why register for the Special Topics? Because students taking the comprehensive examination also have to study additional material for the comprehensive examination as well as the regular course material; the Department grants students extra credits for the time students use to study that material, hence the 2 extra credits.
4. The student takes the comprehensive examination at the end of the course.
5. The instructor grades the examination and submits grades for both the course and separate grades for the comprehensive examination and special topics.

#### ADVISING, COMMITTEES, AND THE PROGRAM OF STUDY

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Upon admission to the program, the Graduate Committee will assign students to an advisor that works in the area of the student's research interests. Students should be in contact with that professor to discuss their first semester of classes and other coursework advice.

At the end of the student's second semester, students must complete a Program of Study ([http://www.unr.edu/Documents/colleges/grad/forms/Program\\_of\\_study.pdf](http://www.unr.edu/Documents/colleges/grad/forms/Program_of_study.pdf)). The Program of Study (POS) is crucial as it represents the plan of study and degree completion. Essentially, your POS is a form of contract with both the department and university— you list out all courses required to complete your degree. This would include accepted transfer credits and Graduate Special credits. You will also establish a committee through the POS, keeping in mind that this committee is not permanent and can change based on the student's needs and advice of your committee chair. It is likely that the POS will change over the course of your studies, so you need to keep this form updated as necessary to reflect changes in your program. All committee members must sign your POS and the Graduate School has to accept it for compliance with degree requirements.

The chair of your committee directs class advisement, exam study, and thesis advising. Your other committee members serve in an advisory capacity—they are not your primary advisors, but they are there to offer specific advice about topics related to your coursework, exams, and dissertation. Members of the committee should be individuals with whom the student can work, who have some interest in the student's research, and who can materially aid the student's development. All committee members on faculty at the university must be designated graduate faculty (professors approved by the Graduate School as qualified to work with graduate students). MPA Committees consist of three members. The chair and another member must be drawn from our department; one must be from another department (The Graduate School Representative).

## POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY

**William L. Eubank.** Ph.D., University of Oregon. Associate Professor. Areas of interest: Research Methods, Judicial Process and Constitutional Law, Voting Behavior and Parties, Public Choice.

**Stacy Fisher.** Ph.D., University of California, Davis. Associate Professor and Undergraduate Program Director. Areas of interest: Research Methods, Legislative Politics, American Government, Comparative Politics.

**Eric B. Herzik.** Ph.D., University of North Carolina. Professor and Chair of the Department. Areas of interest: State and Local Government, Policy Analysis and Evaluation, Executive Politics.

**Derek Kauneckis.** Ph.D., Indiana University, Bloomington. Associate Professor. Areas of interest: Public Policy, Environmental Policy, Property Rights Theory, Institutional Analysis, Research Methods, and Comparative Politics.

**John Marini.** Ph.D., Claremont Graduate School. Professor. Areas of interest: Political Philosophy, Organizational Theory, Bureaucratic Politics.

**N. Susanne Martin.** Ph.D., University of Texas, Austin. Assistant Professor. Areas of interest: Comparative Politics and International Relations; Political Parties, Terrorism and Violence.

**Robert Ostergard.** Ph.D. State University of New York, Binghamton. Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director. Areas of interest: International Relations and Security policy, Comparative Politics (regional focus on Africa), International Political Economy, Civil-Military Relations, and Civil Conflict.

**Jennifer Ring.** Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley. Professor. Areas of interest: Political Philosophy, Feminist Theory, Multicultural Politics.

**Jessica Terman.** Ph.D., Florida State University. Assistant Professor. Areas of interest: Public Management, Contracting-out and procurement, State and local government use of contractors in energy policy, The development of administrative rules and other formal public institutions.

**Bozena Welborne.** Ph.D. University of Colorado, Boulder. Assistant Professor  
Areas of Interest: Comparative Politics: Middle East and North Africa, Democracy and Development, Women and Politics, International Political Economy and International Security.

**Leah Wilds.** Ph.D., Colorado State University. Associate Professor. Areas of interest: Public Policy, Environmental Politics (global and domestic), Western Land and Water Resources.

## ADJUNCT FACULTY

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**Carina Black.** Ph.D., University of Nevada, Reno, Adjunct Professor. Areas of interest: Comparative Politics, Public Policy and International Affairs.

**Robert Dickens.** Ph.D., University of Arizona, Director, Governmental Relations, University of Nevada, Reno. Areas of interest: Public Policy, Bureaucratic Politics, Intergovernmental Relations, Public Choice.

**Richard Harris.** J.D. Stanford University, Adjunct Professor. Areas of interest: Natural Resource and Environmental Law.

**John Scire.** Ph.D., University of Nevada, Reno, Adjunct Professor. Areas of interest: Energy Policy, Foreign Policy, International Conflict Studies, and Terrorism.

**Sue Wagner.** M.A. University of Arizona, Adjunct Professor. Areas of interest: Legislative Process, Economic Development and Nevada Gaming.

**Sally Zanjani.** Ph.D., New York University, Adjunct Professor. Areas of interest: American West and Nevada History.

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

Political Science Department website: <http://www.unr.edu/cla/polisci>

Where to write:

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