Students in UB’s Political Science Graduate Programs come from a wide variety of undergraduate majors and from all regions of the country and around the world. Graduates of the programs have gone on to successful careers in teaching, research, public service, and business. They have served as faculty in a number of political science departments both in the United States and abroad. These include American University, George Mason University, Indiana University, the University of Missouri at Columbia, the University of Missouri at St. Louis, Northeastern University, Texas A&M University, Bilkent University (Turkey), University College (London), and many other major universities and colleges.

A graduate degree in Political Science may also lead to a rewarding career as an...

Activist, Advocate/Organizer
Campaign Operative
City Planner
Congressional Office or Committee Staffer
Coordinator of Federal or State Aid
Corporate Public Affairs Advisor
Corporation Legislative Issues Manager
Federal Government Analyst
Foreign Service Officer
High School Government Teacher
Intelligence Analyst or Officer
International Agency Officer
International Research Specialist
Journalist or Political Commentator
Legislative Analyst or Lobbyist
Mediator
Policy Analyst
Pollster and Public Opinion Analyst
State Legislator
Urban Policy Planner

Contact Information
Graduate Program
Department of Political Science
520 Park Hall, North Campus
University at Buffalo, SUNY
Buffalo, NY 14260
USA
Telephone: (716) 645-2251 ext.520
e-mail: pscigpro@buffalo.edu
website: www.polsci.buffalo.edu
UB’s Department of Political Science: A Center of Excellence

UB’s Political Science Department is a small research-oriented and collegial department offering students an exceptional opportunity to work closely with a world-class faculty. The department’s programs are especially noted for their strengths in the empirical and formal areas of political science specializing in four fields of political science: American Politics, International Relations, Comparative Politics, and Public Law.

An Accomplished and Accessible Faculty

The Department’s stature as a center of excellence in political science is reflected in the quality and reputation of its faculty. Political Science Faculty have an extensive record of producing high impact, theoretically and methodologically rigorous research, and preparing graduate students to be successful researchers and teachers at universities and colleges. The Department strives to be at the cutting-edge of research, a leader in the scientific study of politics and government. It is at the core of the University’s UB2020 strategic strength in civic engagement and public policy. Faculty have published nearly 40 books with leading university and commercial presses, more than 100 book chapters, and over 200 articles in scholarly journals. More than a third of the articles have been in journals ranked among the top 25 in Political Science— including the American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, World Politics, Comparative Political Studies, Political Research Quarterly, Political Science Quarterly, Journal of Conflict Resolution, and International Studies Quarterly, among others.

A recent study of the research productivity of 400 political science departments internationally ranked the Department in the top 11 percent based on the number of journal publications per faculty member. The national and international reputations of the faculty have been recognized by their appointments to the editorial boards of 15 scholarly journals and the Executive Councils of 10 national political science organizations. Several faculty have held leadership positions in national and international political science organizations and have received national awards for their research. UB is among the leaders of political science nationally.

www.polsci.buffalo.edu

Living in Buffalo

Buffalo — dubbed the City of Good Neighbors — is the second-largest city in New York State, yet it’s a big city with a hometown feel. Located in the Buffalo Niagara region of New York State, Buffalo is a thriving city situated in a region of about 1.3 million people that offers a world of opportunity. World-class art galleries and museums, a comprehensive city-wide system of parks and green space designed by renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, and major and minor league sports teams are just a few of the wide array of cultural and recreational elements that make Buffalo such a great place to study, work, and live. It is approximately six hours driving from New York City, two hours from Toronto, Canada, and three hours from Cleveland, OH. The suburbs of Buffalo, including Amherst, Clarence, and Tonawanda, are located within an easy commute to the University.

About the University at Buffalo

The University at Buffalo (UB), sometimes referred to elsewhere as SUNY Buffalo, stands in the first rank among the nation’s research-intensive universities. It is one of only 60 members of the prestigious Association of American Universities. It is the largest and most comprehensive university in the 64-campus State University of New York system. UB was originally founded as a private university in 1846. The University enrolls approximately 27,000 students, about 18,000 undergraduates and 9,000 graduate and professional students. The Department of Political Science is located in UB’s College of Arts and Sciences.

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FOUR FIELDS OF STUDY

American Politics
The study of the political attitudes and behavior of American citizens, their mediating institutions (political parties, interest groups, and the media), and their government (Congress, the presidency, and state and local governments).

Comparative Politics
The study of cross-national political behavior and institutions. The study examines variations in political systems in different nations.

International Relations
The study of the conditions that affect the extent and nature of conflict and cooperation in interactions among nation states, intergovernmental organizations, and nongovernmental organizations.

Public Law
The study of law, courts, and judicial behavior, the political conditions that affect them, and their impact on politics and public policy.

VITAL STATISTICS

Programs:
MA, PhD, and interdisciplinary JD with M.A. or Ph.D.

Faculty:
16 and growing

Graduate Students:
Average, 50

Tuition and Housing
UB is a major research university that offers a top-caliber education at a fraction of the cost of most private schools. For eligible students, there are a number of ways to finance the cost of graduate education. Financial support is available through financial aid administered through the State of New York and the Federal government, as well as through University at Buffalo scholarships and fellowships, assistantships and jobs. For more information see the Costs and Finances link of the Graduate School’s website: www.grad.buffalo.edu.

The University also offers a variety of housing options for students who would like to live close to the heart of where they study, conduct research, and attend class. See the Student Life link of the Graduate School’s website: www.grad.buffalo.edu/life.

A High Quality of Life at a Low Cost

Safe living environment: Amherst, NY voted one of the safest cities in the country
Excellent restaurants and great shopping
Many outdoor recreational opportunities: skiing, hiking, boating
Canada is just across the river and Niagara Falls is just up the road
Great architecture, theater, concerts, museums, and sports teams
Easy commute from the city, the suburbs, or the country
UB graduate tuition is an exceptional value
Very affordable cost of living

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FOUR FOCUS AREAS

In addition to the traditional four empirical fields of study, the Department has four areas of special interest for our faculty: Democracy and Democratization; Political Conflict Resolution; Politics, Race, Law and Minority Groups in America; and Electoral Politics.

Democracy and Democratization

What are the social and economic prerequisites for the establishment and maintenance of stable democracy? What constitutional designs work best? What are the roles of political parties, interest groups, and government bureaucracies in creating a stable democracy? What difference do the attitudes and behaviors of individual citizens make to democratization?

Political Conflict Resolution

When and why are some conflicts ameliorated while others are not? What causes revolutions, ethnic conflicts, civil and interstate wars? Under what conditions can individuals and groups with conflicting interests manage to cooperate with one another? What is the particular dynamic of conflict in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and other geographical areas? Does deterrence work and, if so, under what conditions? What is the geographic basis of political disputes? What role does or should norms play in dispute resolution?

Politics, Race, Law, and Minority Groups in America

How do majority-rule democratic political systems treat and protect politically vulnerable minority groups? How does the legal system affect the rights and interests of African-Americans, Native Americans, Hispanics, the physically and physically handicapped, gays, and women minority groups?

Electoral Politics

What affects whether citizens turn out to vote? How and why has the American party system become realigned? What affects the number of House seats a party gains or loses in an election? How do political campaigns affect election results? In what ways does the economy affect elections? What is the geographic basis of political disputes? What role does or should norms play in dispute resolution?

Collaborative Program in Political Science and Law

The Department is one of only a handful of departments in the nation offering an interdisciplinary program leading to the J.D. degree and the M.A. or Ph.D. in political science. The collaborative degree program is a rigorous course of study intended for outstanding students interested in interdisciplinary perspectives on legal problems and institutions. Students in the program benefit from the Department’s associations with UB’s Baldy Center of Law and Social Policy (www.law.buffalo.edu/BALDYCENTER), an internationally recognized institute that supports the interdisciplinary study of law and legal institutions located in the Law School.

Admissions

Please visit our website (www.polsci.buffalo.edu) for admission requirements and application instructions for our graduate programs. Fall admissions deadline is April 1; however, if you are seeking financial assistance, you will need to have your application in for fall admissions by January 15. Spring admissions, all completed application materials for US applicants must be in the department by November 1, and all International applicants must be in by October 1.

Financial Support

A limited number of fellowships and assistantships are available for qualified graduate students. These assistantships include a stipend for the academic year, plus a tuition award. In addition, the University offers a limited number of one- to four-year fellowships plus a tuition award for outstanding students. For further information regarding this fellowship, please visit: http://www.geog.buffalo.edu/giscience.