



the department *of*  
Political  
Science



### Contact Information

#### *Graduate Program*

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## UB Graduates in Political Science

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

## 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](http://www.polsci.buffalo.edu)

## 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.

### ■ 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.





#### ■ 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

### 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](http://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](http://www.grad.buffalo.edu/life).



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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.

## 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 mentally 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? Why have Americans become so ideologically polarized? Do swing voters swing elections? To what extent and how does campaign financing affect elections? How competitive are elections? What are the effects of elections on how leaders govern? How can we accurately forecast presidential elections long before Election Day?



### 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](http://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](http://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. Contingent on the NY State budget, diversity fellowships are also available. All full-time degree students are automatically considered for fellowships and assistantships for their first year. Only those students pursuing the PhD degree are eligible for teaching assistantships after their first year of graduate work in the Department.

The department also encourages students to apply for the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Training (IGERT) Fellowship. For further information regarding this fellowship, please visit: <http://www.geog.buffalo.edu/giscience>.

