



# Master of Political Science

Auburn University at Montgomery ■ College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences



# Graduate Program

In the Master's Degree Program in Political Science (MPS) graduate students gain rigorous training in core political science ideas and cutting-edge research and statistical methodology. Students learn how to develop, test, and interpret answers to relevant research questions with significant policy implications. The program requires ten courses (thirty credit hours) and is designed to be completed in four semesters. Classes are offered in-person, online, or in a hybrid format (a combination of classroom meetings and online). In-person courses meet only one evening per week on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. All classes are small, ranging from 10 to 15 students, enabling students to work closely with faculty members and other students.

## Methodology Sequence

All graduate students receive training in research design and statistics in a required two-course sequence during their first year in the program. These courses are followed by a research seminar in which students work closely with program faculty on a topic of individual interest.

## American Politics

Students concentrating in American politics explore its institutions and the interplay between public opinion and policymaking in the context of America's unique political, social, and economic development. Recent course offerings in this area include Congressional Politics, Political Parties, Presidential Politics, Judicial Politics, Constitutional Law, and Southern Politics.

## International Relations

Students specializing in international relations explore a variety of topics of contemporary significance, including a focus on the role of the global economy, international organizations, and changing power differentials. Recent course offerings in this area include the Seminar in International Relations, Comparative Politics, Democracy and Democratization, and Developing Countries.

## Beyond the Classroom

Our graduates go on to pursue a variety of careers in areas such as law, government, education, non-profits, consulting, journalism, policymaking, and lobbying. Some continue their education in doctoral programs including our own program. Given that Auburn University at Montgomery is located in the state capital, many opportunities exist for those interested to undertake internships or work part-time with a variety of state and local governmental and non-governmental organizations.

# Our Faculty



**Tracey Bark**, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., University of Oklahoma. Research interests: Public administration, education policy, and bureaucracies. Her research appears in several journals including *Regulation & Governance*, *Administration & Society*, and *Interest Groups & Advocacy*.



**Andrew P. Cortell**, Professor and Department Chair, Ph.D., Columbia University. Research interests: International economic relations and international organizations. He is the author of *Mediating Globalization: Domestic Institutions and Industrial Policies in the United States and Britain* (SUNY Press), and the author of articles in a number of journals including *International Studies Quarterly* and *Review of International Studies*.



**David A. Hughes**, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of Georgia. Research interests: Southern politics, Judicial politics and quantitative methodology. His research appears in several journals including *Political Behavior*, *Journal of Law and Courts*, *Political Research Quarterly* and *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*.



**Kalu N. Kalu**, Distinguished Research Professor, Ph.D., Texas Tech University. He was a post-doctoral fellow at Yale University and Fulbright Scholar to Finland. Research interests: public administration, organizational theory, and public policy. He is the author of numerous articles including those in *Public Administration Review* and *Administrative Theory & Praxis*. His most recent books include *Technology, Culture, and Public Policy* (Routledge) and *Citizenship* (Routledge).



**Pia Knigge**, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., University of Kentucky. Research interests: Comparative politics, political psychology, and race and gender politics. She is the author of articles on right-wing extremism in Western Europe and political tolerance in *Political Research Quarterly* and the *European Journal of Political Research*.

# How to Apply

The MPS program welcomes applicants throughout the academic year, and students may start the program in either the fall or spring semesters. All applicants must complete a graduate application and submit the following additional materials to [politicalscience@aum.edu](mailto:politicalscience@aum.edu).

- Undergraduate transcripts
- A 500-word statement of purpose
- A current resume
- Two letters of reference

## Scholarship Opportunities

Eligible incoming and continuing master's candidates are considered for scholarships on a merit basis.

## About the Department

The Department of Political Science and Public Administration offers an undergraduate degree program in political science, minors in political science and international relations, master's degrees in political science and public administration, and a Ph.D. in Public Administration and Public Policy jointly with Auburn University's Department of Political Science. The Department's Master's Degree in Public Administration is NASPAA-accredited and is ranked among the best graduate programs in public affairs by *US News and World Report*.

## Questions? Contact Us

- Email: [politicalscience@aum.edu](mailto:politicalscience@aum.edu)
- Phone: 334-244-3698
- Mail: Master's Degree in Political Science

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