

# Department of Political Science, International Development, and International Affairs

Allan McBride, Ph.D., Chair  
118 College Drive #5108  
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001  
(601) 266-4310

*Bekafigo, Butler, Covarrubias, Gibson, Greene, Lansford, McBride, Naghshpour, Pauly, Press, Sayre, St. Marie, Steedman, von Herrmann, Wolfe*

## Master's Degree Program

### Requirements for Regular Admission to the Master's Program

The Department of Political Science utilizes the following criteria for evaluating applicants to the master's program:

1. The department prefers that applicants to the program have an undergraduate degree in political science. However, the applications of students who have an undergraduate degree in another discipline will be considered. Students without an undergraduate degree in political science, if conditionally admitted, may be required to take up to nine hours of undergraduate political science coursework.
2. The cumulative undergraduate grade point average (GPA) from all institutions attended as well as the trend of grades over the course of the undergraduate degree program is considered. The department looks especially at the final two years of an applicant's undergraduate program. An overall GPA of at least 3.0 during the final two years of undergraduate study is preferred.
3. Applicants must take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) before they can be admitted to the master's program.
4. Applicants must submit at least two letters of recommendation. Letters of recommendation should be from persons qualified to assess the applicant's academic achievements and qualifications for graduate study and should be sent to the department.
5. Applicants are encouraged to submit a letter of interest and a writing sample.
6. Members of underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply.
7. Applicants who do not meet the criteria for regular admission may, at the department's discretion, be given conditional admission to the program. The requirements for removing the conditional status will be stated at the time of admission.

## Master of Arts

Requirements for the Master of Arts degree include thirty-six (36) semester hours of coursework (21 hours of 600 level or higher), including PS 611 and PS 612, a thesis, comprehensive examination, and thesis defense. SOC 564 (Qualitative Methods) may be substituted for PS 611 with permission of advisor. The thesis committee may, at its discretion, conduct exams concurrently with the thesis defense. A 3.0 GPA is required for graduation. Students must select a major (comprised of at least 9 hours, 3 of which must be 700 level) and two minors (comprised of at least 6 hours, 3 of which must be 700 level) from the 6 fields of political science.

## Master of Science

Requirements for the Master of Science degree include thirty-six (36) semester hours of coursework (21 hours of 600 level or higher), including PS 611 and PS 612. SOC 564 (Qualitative Methods) may be substituted for PS 611 with permission of advisor. Students must select a major (comprised of at least 9 hours, 3 of which must be 700 level) and two minors (comprised of at least 6 hours, 3 of which must be 700 level) from the 6 fields of political science. Passage of a comprehensive exam in these three fields of political science and a 3.0 GPA is required for graduation. M.S. students are allowed to select an outside minor of nine (9) hours which will count towards their thirty-six (36) hour total.

**Plan of Study.** Students must submit their signed, official *Plan of Study Form* to the Graduate School by the end of the **first semester** they are enrolled. The *Plan of Study Forms* are available at [www.usm.edu/graduateschool](http://www.usm.edu/graduateschool).

## Master of Science, International Policy and Developmental Emphasis

This program is intended for graduate students in Political Science with an International Policy Development orientation. Students must be registered at the Gulf Coast campus in order to pursue this emphasis. Students should be aware that while the courses in this emphasis are offered online, completion of the degree requires coursework currently only offered in a traditional face-to-face format. All students are required to prepare an individualized Program Plan with an advisor.

Students must complete the following requirements:

Successful completion of thirty-six (36) semester hours of coursework (21 hours of 600 level or higher), including PS 611 and PS 612. Students must select IPD as a major field (comprised of 12 hours) and two minors (comprised of at least 6 hours, 3 of which must be 700 level) from the six remaining fields of political science. Passage of a comprehensive exam in these three fields of political science and a 3.0 GPA is required for graduation. M.S. students are allowed to select an outside minor of six (6) hours which will count towards their thirty-six (36) hour total.

### Courses Available Online

Research Methods Core  
611, 612, (Gulf Coast IPD students only)  
International Policy Development  
640, 641, 642, 643

### Dual Master's Degree in Political Science and Library and Information Science

The Department of Political Science and the School of Library and Information Science offer a dual master's program leading to the Master of Arts in Political Science and the Master of Library and Information Science degrees. Students must be admitted separately to each program. The total number of hours required for both programs is 60, including 3 hours of thesis in each program - 30 hours for the M.L.I.S. and 30 hours for the M.A. in Political Science. Students must satisfy the requirements of both degrees before the degrees will be awarded.

Students in the combined program must complete the following requirements:

#### Political Science

PS 611 Research in Political Science (3 hrs)  
PS 698 Thesis (3 hrs)  
24 hours in political science, chosen in consultation with the graduate coordinator in three of the following areas:  
Public Administration- PS 570, 572, 574, 770  
Public Law- PS 580, 584, 585, 588, 589, 681, 781  
Political Theory- PS 520, 521, 526, 721  
American Government and Politics- PS 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 700  
International Relations- PS 531, 535, 730, 731  
Comparative Government and Politics- PS 550, 552, 553, 554, 556, 557, 558, 559, 750, 757  
Research Methods- PS 611, 612

#### Library and Information Science

Required:  
LIS 501 Reference Resources and Services (3 hrs)  
LIS 505 Cataloging and Classification (3 hrs)  
LIS 511 Collection Development and Management (3 hrs)  
LIS 540 Information Ethics (3 hrs)  
LIS 605 Library Management (3 hrs)  
LIS 636 Information: The Library and Society (3 hrs)  
LIS 651 Introduction to Information Science (3 hrs)  
LIS 691 Thesis - Research in Library Science (3 hrs)

Electives: Two courses in LIS, 3 hours each, chosen in consultation with an academic adviser. Strongly recommended is at least one practicum (LIS 689, 3 hours).

## Fields of Political Science

- Research Methods Core  
611, 612, (SOC 564, with permission)
- Political Theory  
520, 521, 526, 721
- American Government  
501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 700
- International Relations  
531, 535, 730, 731
- Comparative Politics  
550, 552, 553, 554, 556, 557, 558, 559, 599, 750, 757, 799
- Public Administration  
570, 572, 574, 770
- Public Law  
580, 584, 585, 588, 589, 681, 781

## Comprehensive Examination

A comprehensive examination will be given at or near the end of the coursework in two of the fields of political science listed above.

**Continuous Enrollment Requirement:** Students must meet the requirement specified in the front section of this *Bulletin*.

## Doctoral Program in International Development

### Admission Requirements:

Students will be selected for admission to the program and financial support based on the following criteria:

1. a 1,000 word written statement explaining where the student's research interests fall in one or more of the programs' research areas and ties to faculty research.
2. a research paper writing sample preferably from the student's masters program.
3. a master's degree in a related field with a minimum GPA of 3.50 for regular admission, 3.25 for conditional admission.
4. satisfactory scores on the verbal, quantitative, and analytical sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT).
5. three letters of reference, reflecting academic and professional endorsements, from people qualified to assess the applicant's readiness for graduate study. Letters should be sent to the program director. Two of the three letters must be from academics preferably from the applicant's masters program.
6. For non-native English speakers, a satisfactory score on the TOEFL examination (currently a score of 550 is typical for Southern Miss graduate programs) and a demonstration of verbal communication skills through an examination administered by the Southern Miss English Language Institute.

Requirements for the doctor of philosophy degree include 54 semester hours of coursework to include 12 hours of dissertation research, 12 hours of core courses, successful completion of all research tool requirements (see below), passage of a written and oral comprehensive examination, completion of a dissertation proposal defense, original dissertation research and a successful dissertation defense. A 3.0 GPA is required before a student can sit for the comprehensive exams. Students must select a major (comprised of at least 12 hours) and a minor (comprised of at least nine hours) emphasis area from the four emphasis areas of International Development. With department consent, students may select a minor field in an approved cognate.

## Comprehensive Exam Policies:

### Qualifying to Sit for the Examination

In order to qualify to sit for the Comprehensive Examination, which includes written and oral components, a student must fulfill the following requirements:

- 1) Complete 42 hours of coursework, to include 12 hours of core coursework, 12 hours of coursework in a Major Emphasis Area, 9 hours of coursework in a Minor Emphasis Area and nine hours of electives.\*
- 2) Compile an overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher on coursework.

3) Earn grades of “B-” or higher on all core courses and all courses in the student’s Major and Minor Emphasis Areas.

4) Be enrolled in at least one hour of coursework. If a student is not enrolled in at least 1 hour of coursework they will not be allowed to sit for the comprehensive exams.

\*NOTE: A student can sit for the comprehensive exams before completing all of the above coursework, so long as s/he is enrolled in the remaining hours needed during the semester s/he sits for the comprehensive exams and meets the remaining requirements. It is recommended that the student talk to the IDV Program Director before choosing this option.

### **Notification of Program Director**

A student must inform the IDV Program Director in writing (e-mail included) of their intention to sit for the comprehensive exams by the end of the first In-Person Session during the semester s/he will take the exam.

### **Attendance at Comprehensive Examination Workshop**

If a student is enrolled in coursework that requires attendance at the first In-Person Session during the semester, s/he must attend the Comprehensive Examination Workshop offered during that session in order to sit for the exam.

### **Preparations for Comprehensive Examination**

The IDV Program Director will serve as the point of contact for students preparing for the Comprehensive Examination. Please contact the director or consult the IDV program website ([www.usm.edu/international](http://www.usm.edu/international)) to secure the following preparatory materials:

- 1) Reading lists for the Methodology, Economic Development, Political Development, and Security Studies sections of the exam.
- 2) Sample questions for the Methodology, Economic Development, Political Development and Security Studies sections of the exam.

Students are strongly encouraged to complete sample questions and submit them to the IDV Program Director, who will distribute them to core faculty members for feedback. Faculty feedback will then be distributed to the students who have requested it.

### **Composition of Comprehensive Examination**

Comprehensive exams are comprised of a written component and an oral component. Together these two components comprise the comprehensive exams. All students must sit for both the written and oral portions of all three sections of the examination.

The Comprehensive Examination consists of the following three sections:

- 1) Methodology
- 2) Major Emphasis Area
- 3) Minor Emphasis Area

### **Administration of Written Comprehensive Examination**

The written portion of the Comprehensive Examination will be administered at the Gulf Coast Student Service Center in Gulfport and proctored by an IDV faculty or staff member. All students must take the exam in Gulfport. The dates and times for exam will be provided by the IDV Program Director no later than at the Comprehensive Examination Workshop at the first In-Person Session of the fall and spring semesters.

The rules for the examination are as follows:

- 1) Students must bring nothing other than blank scratch paper and a writing implement with them into the room. If students have notes, books, purses, cell phone, PDAs or any other items, they must leave them in a secure area provided by the program. Students may have a drink with them at the computer. A secured, non-Internet connected computer will be provided with a word processing program for use in answering the questions.

3) Earn grades of “B-” or higher on all core courses and all courses in the student’s Major and Minor Emphasis Areas.

4) Be enrolled in at least one hour of coursework. If a student is not enrolled in at least 1 hour of coursework they will not be allowed to sit for the comprehensive exams.

\*NOTE: A student can sit for the comprehensive exams before completing all of the above coursework, so long as s/he is enrolled in the remaining hours needed during the semester s/he sits for the comprehensive exams and meets the remaining requirements. It is recommended that the student talk to the IDV Program Director before choosing this option.

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The rules for the examination are as follows:

- 1) Students must bring nothing other than blank scratch paper and a writing implement with them into the room. If students have notes, books, purses, cell phone, PDAs or any other items, they must leave them in a secure area provided by the program. Students may have a drink with them at the computer. A secured, non-Internet connected computer will be provided with a word processing program for use in answering the questions.

2) Each student will be provided with a blank portable drive on which to store their work. They will be told at the start of the day to create a folder with their last name and to save their work frequently. Students will save each section of the exam as a separate file—one each for the morning of day 1 (File #1), the afternoon of day 1 (File #2) and one for the morning of Day 2 (File #3). There will be three files total. Students will not be allowed to take the drive or any copy of exams with them.

3) Students will have four hours for two of the sections and four hours for the remaining section of the exam. Students may not start early or stay after the examination time ends. Students may leave early if they finish before the allotted four hours expires. Students may leave the examination room to use the bathroom or get a drink of water but will not be permitted to check their cell phones, PDAs or notes during these breaks. They may not remove the portable drive if they leave the room.

The day-by-day format for the administration of the exam is as follows:

Day 1—Morning

Methodology Section

Students will have four hours and must answer two of four questions, organized in sub-sections focusing on quantitative and qualitative methods, respectively. The student must answer one question from each section to demonstrate that he/she is competent in both quantitative and qualitative methods.

Day 1—Afternoon

Major Emphasis Area

Students will have six hours and must answer three of four questions.

Day 2—Morning

Minor Emphasis Area

Students will have four hours and must answer two of four questions.

Students will be provided with the results on the written sections of the exam within two weeks of the last day of the week that they took those sections.

Students may earn one of three grades on each of the sections of the exam: (a) High Pass, (b) Pass, or (c) Fail. If a student earns a grade of High Pass on any one or more sections of the exam, s/he does not have to sit for the oral portion of that/those section(s). Students will sit for the orals of all sections of the exam on which they earn grades of Pass or Fail on the written exams.

All core IDV faculty members will grade the Methodology sections of the written exam. Only those members on the Research Team for a student's Major Emphasis Area and Minor Emphasis Area will grade those respective sections of the written exam unless there is a split vote. In the case of a split vote, an additional core faculty member will grade the written portion of the section in question and cast the tie-breaking vote.

### **Administration of Oral Comprehensive Examination**

The oral portion of all three sections of the exam will be administered on the day before the start of the final In-Person Session each fall and spring.

All core IDV faculty members will sit in on and grade the Methodology sections of the oral exam. Only those members on the Research Team for a student's Major Emphasis Area and Minor Emphasis Area will grade those respective sections of the oral exam (but others may participate), unless there was a tie vote, in which case an additional IDV core faculty member will vote. Two hours will be allotted for each section.

The written and oral portions are separate portions of the same exam and the exam may be taken only twice. If a student does not pass the exam on either the first or second attempt, that student will not be allowed to continue in the IDV Doctoral Program.

**Retakes**

If a student passes the written exam but fails the orals on one or more sections, that student must retake the orals on those sections they failed.

If students fails one or more written sections but pass the orals on those sections, that student passes the exam on those sections.

Retake of the written and/or oral exam sections will constitute the second attempt in the comprehensive exams.

**Plan of Study.** Students must submit their signed, official *Plan of Study Form* to the Graduate School by the end of the **second semester** they are enrolled. The *Plan of Study Forms* are available at [www.usm.edu/graduateschool](http://www.usm.edu/graduateschool) - click on "Current Students" and then the "Plans of Study" link.

**Required (Core) Courses:**

	<b>Hours</b>
IDV 710 International Development Theory .....	3
IDV 719 Research Design I .....	3
IDV 721 International Development Statistics I.....	3
IDV 729 Qualitative Methods.....	3
Major Emphasis Area .....	12
Minor Emphasis Area .....	9
Electives.....	9
Dissertation Research.....	12
	Total: 54

**International Development Emphasis Areas****Economic Development**

- IDV 713 Globalization (Required core methodology/theory course for this research emphasis area)
- IDV 711 International Political Economy
- IDV 722 International Development Statistics II
- IDV 730 International Development Finance
- IDV 853 Comparative International Economic Development
- IDV 875 The Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa
- IDV 880 The Political Economy of the Global Oil Market

**Political Development**

- IDV 851 Comparative International Political Development (Required core methodology/theory course for this research emphasis area)
- IDV 711 International Political Economy
- IDV 712 International Law and Organization
- IDV 871 Institutions in Development
- IDV 872 Nation/State Building
- IDV 873 The Political Economy of Global Climate Change
- IDV 874 Ethnic Conflict and Civil War

**Security Studies**

- IDV 890 International Security (Required core methodology/theory course for this research emphasis area)
- IDV 795 U.S. National Security Policy
- IDV 874 Ethnic Conflict and Civil War
- IDV 891 Homeland Security
- IDV 892 Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare

**Social/Cultural Development**

- IDV 852 Comparative International Cultural Development (Required core methodology/theory course for this research emphasis area)
- IDV 713 Globalization
- IDV 725 Field Research I
- IDV 730 International Development Finance
- IDV 871 Institutions in Development
- IDV 872 Nation/State Building
- IDV 873 The Political Economy of Global Climate Change

## Research Tool(s)

Students satisfy research tool requirements by:

1. completion of required coursework
2. demonstration of international competency through one of the following: oral language exam, approved international field experience, or by petition
3. successful completion of professional competency experiences to include a) submission of a fundable external funding proposal of research, b) submission of a publishable peer-reviewed article or book chapter, c) presentation of a research paper at a national or international academic conference, d) completion of primary research data collection in an international location during a research abroad class.

## Residency

Students must meet the residency requirements specified in this *Bulletin*.

**Continuous Enrollment Requirement:** Students must meet the requirement specified in the front section of this *Bulletin*.

# Department of Speech Communication

Charles H. Tardy, Ph.D., Chair  
118 College Drive #5131  
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001  
(601)266-4271

*Atkins-Sayre, Conville, Erickson, Hosman, Jung, Maugh, Meyer, Siltanen, Tardy, Venette*

The Department of Speech Communication offers the Master of Arts, Master of Science, and the Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Communication with a speech communication emphasis.

## Admission

Admission deadlines for master's and doctoral students are the same as those published by the Graduate School. Students seeking assistantships for the fall semester are strongly encouraged to apply prior to the March 1 deadline.

**Admission requirements are the same as those of the university, with the following additions:**

### Applicants for the Master's Program

#### Regular Admission:

Undergraduate Record—A cumulative GPA on the last 60 hours from all institutions of our applicants has ranged from 3.0 to 4.0. A 3.0 GPA is required; 3.0 GPA major is also required.

Graduate Record Examination—Scores from the GRE must be submitted (All sections).

Test of English as a Foreign Language—Applicants whose native language is not English must attain a TOEFL score of 550.

Letters of Recommendation—Three current letters of recommendation that refer to the student's academic ability and preparation to pursue graduate study must be submitted. Normally these will be requested from faculty who have taught or supervised the student. The letters should be sent to the Department of Speech Communication.

#### Conditional Admission:

Undergraduate Record—The cumulative GPA of the last 60 hours from all institutions is usually 2.75 or better.

Graduate Record Examination—GRE scores must be submitted.

Test of English as a Foreign Language—Applicants whose native language is not English must attain a TOEFL score of 550.

Letters of Recommendation—Three current letters of recommendation that refer to the student's academic ability and preparation to pursue graduate study must be submitted. Normally these will be requested from faculty who have taught or supervised the student. The letters should be sent to the Department of Speech Communication.