

# GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS (GVPT)

Graduate Degree Program  
College: Behavioral and Social Sciences

## Abstract

The Department of Government and Politics offers a Ph.D. degree in political science, intended for those planning academic and research-based careers. Students can specialize in American politics, comparative politics, international relations, as well as a minor in methodology.

## Financial Assistance

Admitted students are funded through on-campus graduate assistantships for a period of five years.

## Contact

**Director of Graduate Studies**  
**Department of Government and Politics**  
3140 Tydings Hall  
7343 Preinkert Drive  
University of Maryland  
College Park, MD 20742  
**Telephone:** 301.405.4156  
**Email:** gvptdgs@umd.edu (gvptgrad@deans.umd.edu)

**Website:** <http://www.gvpt.umd.edu>

**Courses:** GVPT (<https://umd-curr.courseleaf.com/graduate/courses/gvpt/>)

## ADMISSIONS

### General Requirements

- Statement of Purpose
- Transcript(s)
- TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/>))
  - For best consideration for our program, applicants should have a minimum score of 24\* or higher on the Speaking sub-section of the TOEFL, or a score of 7.5 or higher on the Speaking sub-section of the IELTS, or a score of 80 or higher on the Speaking sub-section of the PTE. (*\*5 or higher on the Speaking sub-section of the TOEFL as of January 26, 2026*)

### Program-Specific Requirements

- Letters of Recommendation (3)
- Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) (optional) or Graduate Record Examination (GRE) (optional)
- GRE Subject (optional)
- Supplementary Applications (up to two optional, contact dept. for details)
- CV/Resume
- Writing Sample (one required, up to one more optional)

The Department recruits highly qualified students and admits only a limited number of the strongest applicants. The Admissions Committee rarely grants provisional or conditional admission to the graduate program. The Department does not admit M.A. applicants. Only students whose ultimate objective is the Ph.D. should apply for direct admission to the program. Admission is granted only for the Fall Semester.

## Application Deadlines

Type of Applicant	Fall Deadline
<b>Domestic Applicants</b>	
US Citizens and Permanent Residents	December 2, 2026
<b>International Applicants</b>	
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A, E, G, H, I and L visas and immigrants	December 2, 2026

### RESOURCES AND LINKS:

**Program Website:** <http://www.gvpt.umd.edu>

**Application Process:** [gradschool.umd.edu/admissions](https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions) (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/>)

## REQUIREMENTS

- Government and Politics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/government-politics-gvpt/government-politics-phd/>)
- Government and Politics, Master of Arts (M.A.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/government-politics-gvpt/government-politics-ma/>)

## FACILITIES AND SPECIAL RESOURCES

Graduate students in the department participate in the activities of the Center for International Development and Conflict Management, the Center for Democracy and Civic Engagement, the Interdisciplinary Laboratory of Computational Social Sciences, the Anwar Sadat Chair for Peace and Development, and Project ICONS.