

Political Science Graduate Admissions Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Does the Department of Political Science offer an MA program?

The Department of Political Science offers a full-time Ph.D. program. Part-time study is not available. Prospective applicants who are not primarily interested in the Ph.D. should consider applying to other programs, such as those offered by the [International Relations MA program](#) or [Area Studies Programs](#).

Q. What are the requirements for admission to the Ph.D. program?

Applicants to the program should submit the Yale Graduate School Application, 3 letters of recommendation, a personal statement, a writing sample, transcripts, GRE score and TOEFL score if you are not a native English speaker, except if you have a BA from an undergraduate institution where English is the language of instruction.

Q. Do you require a writing sample?

Yes, a writing sample is required as part of your application. There is no page limit for the writing sample, so please feel free to submit a writing sample that you feel best supports your application.

Q. What is the minimum GRE score required to apply?

There is no minimum GRE score required. GRE scores of previously admitted students have ranged between 550-800 for the verbal section and 550-800 for the quantitative section. Please keep in mind that GRE scores are but one of many criteria used to evaluate an applicant.

Q. Do you prefer the revised GRE General Test or is the “old” one ok if I have already taken it?

We will accept either your previously taken GRE or the Revised GRE - the choice is yours.

Q. Does the department conduct admissions interviews? Can I visit campus, visit the department or speak with someone about admissions?

We do not make use of interviews for admission and because we receive over 600 applications per year, we cannot conduct admissions interviews. The Director of Graduate Studies or Graduate Registrar will be happy to try to answer any questions you have that are not answered on the department web page or the graduate admissions web sites.

Should you decide to visit campus, you might consider taking a free campus tour through the Visitors Center. You can visit the Visitor Center’s web site for more details: <http://www.yale.edu/visitor/>

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Q. Attached is my academic vita. Can you tell me if I am likely to be admitted to your program?

Due to the large number of inquiries we receive we are unable to answer individual questions regarding assessments of your chances of admission until seeing your entire application and those of all the other students applying. All application materials are taken into account when making decisions on admission.

Q. How many students are accepted into the program?

Our target size for the entering class is 18-20.

Q. How long before I know if I have been accepted?

Decisions are made and letters of acceptance are sent by mid-March. Applicants must make admission decisions by mid-April.

Q. Do you offer any visiting student or non-degree programs?

If you are interested in applying as a non-degree student in our program you must first find a suitable Yale political science faculty member who is willing to serve as your Yale advisor if you were to be admitted to the non-degree program. Once you have a faculty member willing to do this you can submit an application. You can find out more about the non-degree program offered, as well as the application, here: <http://www.yale.edu/graduateschool/admissions/nondegreeprograms.html>
Please note that the faculty member must provide a letter of support that should be included with your application.