

MAPP Welcome Guide

On behalf of Arizona State University and the School of Politics and Global Studies, we welcome you to the M.A. in Political Psychology (MAPP) program. We hope that you find your program intellectually stimulating as well as personally and professionally valuable. Please know that we are here to assist you as you move through the degree, and we look forward to working together to ensure your individual and collective success.

Our unique program trains students to analyze the political choices and behavior of individuals and groups through an understanding of their motivation, beliefs, emotions, and perception. It is designed to aid professional advancement in both public and private sector careers. The program is based on the idea that effective political organization requires an understanding of both theory and the hands-on application of political psychology principles.

We ask that you review the following information that will offer you support and guidance as you navigate your first semester and beyond. Please feel free to reach out to any of us if you have any questions about the M.A. in Political Psychology program.

Wishing you all the very best and a wonderful start to the semester.

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Program Information for New Students

I'm a newly admitted student, what should I do now?

As you begin the program, we ask that you first complete three critical tasks:

- 1.) One of your first tasks as an admitted student is to read the program's handbook. This handbook can be found on the program's website: <https://spgs.clas.asu.edu/degrees/graduate/ma-political-psychology/mapp-resources>. The handbook will review key policies and guide you through the expectations and requirements of the program. You are expected to familiarize yourself with and abide by the policies set forth in the handbook. The handbook is updated regularly and you will find archived handbooks on the website as well.

*This website is designed to assist current students, and you will also find additional resources that will support you in the program.

- 2.) Secondly, you should register for your course(s) in the semester you were admitted into. Each semester will have deadlines in which registration must take place, and you should consult the ASU academic calendar for these dates each semester: <https://students.asu.edu/academic-calendar>. **We ask that admitted students register for courses within two weeks of admission.** This allows you to prepare for the upcoming semester and complete any administrative tasks, as well as allows faculty and staff to plan course materials. You can complete your course registration through your MyASU page (<https://my.asu.edu>); in the "My Classes" section, follow the registration link. *PPS 501 is the required course for all new students.* Additional courses are at your discretion. Please see below for more information on course selection and course load.
- 3.) Consult your MyASU page regularly for "Priority Tasks." These are items that require your attention. Please be sure your ASU email and/or forwarding email address is set up correctly. University faculty and staff will use your ASU email address for communications and it is your responsibility to make sure you can receive information in this way. You can see your contact and email forwarding information on the "Profile" tab of your MyASU page.

Who is my academic advisor?

The academic advisor for this program is Jenna Roelle. She can be reached via email or phone at Jenna.Roelle@asu.edu or 480-965-1477. Please feel free to contact Jenna with any questions you may have, registration issues, or academic advising. Please remember to include your ten-digit ASU ID number in any communications with your advisor.

What courses should I register for?

For students beginning the program in Fall 2021 or later, there are four required courses in the MA in Political Psychology program:

- PPS 501: Fundamentals of Political Psychology – This course should be taken in the first semester of the program. It will serve as a platform for future courses.
- PPS 504: Attitudes and Persuasion
- PPS 506: Experimental Design
- PPS 550: Capstone – This is the final course in the degree, and should be taken in the last semester. More information will be provided about the Capstone course as you progress through the program.

In your first semester, you should register, at a minimum, for PPS 501. Additional courses, made up of other required and elective courses, are at your discretion. Students are encouraged to review the projected course offerings on the program website (<https://spgs.clas.asu.edu/degrees/graduate/ma-political-psychology/mapp-resources>) in order to plan their courses so that they can complete the degree within their desired timeline. All required courses will be offered at least once per academic year, including the summer semester; students who wish to complete the degree in the shortest time possible should take all required courses when they are offered.

Electives and additional registration information:

All other courses are considered electives; you will take six elective courses (18 credits) over the course of the program. The prefix or “subject” for these programs is “PPS.” You can find all of the courses that are being offered for current, future, and past semesters in the ASU Class Search through your MyASU page, “My Classes” section. Please see the program handbook for more information on the courses offered as part of the degree.

The program faculty directors recommend **no more than two** courses per session in both “A” and “B” sessions. Nine graduate credits in a semester (taken across both A and B sessions) is considered full time. Each semester’s course offerings are released approximately halfway through the previous semester. For example, spring courses are generally released in September/October. Fall courses are generally released in February. You will also see a notice of when you can register for the upcoming semester on your MyASU page.

Please note an important university policy for graduate students is **continuous enrollment**. Graduate students must be enrolled in at least one graduate credit each fall and spring semester. Non-enrollment during a fall or spring semester will result in being discontinued from the program. Enrollment can take place in either A or B session, or both. Summer enrollment is not required for continuous enrollment purposes.

How is the semester structured?

You will notice there are three semesters or terms each year: Spring, Summer and Fall.

Each term is split into two “sessions”:

“A” session refers to the first half of the semester.	“B” session refers to the second half of the semester.
“C” session refers to the full semester and is primarily used for in-person courses.	

Please see the ASU academic calendar (<https://students.asu.edu/academic-calendar>) for the start and end dates for each semester.

You should pay particular attention to the drop and add deadlines for courses; they typically occur very early into A and B sessions. Dropping a class after the deadline may affect tuition and financial aid.

How much work is involved in each class?

Students should expect between 75-150 pages of reading per week, discussion boards, mini exams, and several papers over the 7.5 weeks. Classes are full graduate-level courses condensed into 7.5-week sessions. For this reason, students who are working full-time or close to full-time may want to begin with just one class in Session A, to get a sense of the workload.

The summer A and B sessions are 6 weeks long. The same amount of course material is offered in summer courses as in fall and spring semesters.

What are the academic expectations of the program?

Student progress will be assessed at the end of each semester. The standard for satisfactory progress is:

- Completion of all course requirements with an overall, graduate, and iPOS GPA of at least a 3.0
- No more than one Incomplete grade in a one-year time period
- Steady progress to complete the degree within six years from semester of admission

Any student who receives a B- or lower in any course should contact the program director to discuss academic progress and a plan for improvement.

Again, we welcome you to the MA in Political Psychology program and look forward to working with you. Please let any of the program faculty or staff know if you have questions or feedback about your experience.