

Master of Arts in Political Science (MAPS)

Advance Your Career in Government, Education, or Non-Governmental Organizations

Our MAPS program is designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed for successful careers in government, education, non-governmental organizations, or further academic pursuits.

Choose from three specialized concentrations to tailor your education to your career goals:

- **American Government:** Gain a deep understanding of U.S. political institutions and the behavior of public and political actors. This concentration prepares you to analyze and engage with key issues in American politics and governance.
- **International Relations:** Explore the complexities of global politics by studying the institutions, behaviors, and interactions of foreign governments, transnational actors, and global systems. This concentration equips students to navigate and influence international affairs.
- **Environmental Politics & Policy Analysis:** Dive into an interdisciplinary curriculum that combines political science, public policy, and economics to address environmental challenges. Develop the analytical tools and concepts necessary to understand and shape environmental policy at both domestic and international levels.



Application Essentials

Standardized Exam Waiver Eligibility - The Cratis D. Williams School of Graduate Studies does not require official standardized exam scores (e.g., GRE, GMAT, MAT) for admission.

Admission Requirements - To be considered for admission, applicants must submit the following:

- **Completed Application:** Submit a formal application to the Cratis D. Williams School of Graduate Studies.
- **Statement of Intent:** Provide a written statement outlining your academic and professional goals.
- **Resume:** Submit a current resume detailing your academic and work experience.
- **Letters of Recommendation:** Provide three letters of recommendation from academic or professional references (two letters required for admissions from Fall 2025 onward).
- **Academic Credentials:** A baccalaureate degree with a minimum GPA of 2.75 (a GPA of 3.2 for admissions from Fall 2025 onward), or an earned graduate degree from an accredited institution.
- **Proof of English Proficiency:** Required for international students (e.g., TOEFL, IELTS). The TOEFL/IELTS requirement can be waived for students who have attended a U.S. institution.

Accelerated Admission Option - Undergraduate students currently enrolled at Appalachian State University with a GPA of 3.4+ are eligible to apply for the **Accelerated Admission Option** in the MAPS program.

Appalachian State University's Department of Government & Justice Studies offers undergraduate programs in political science and criminal justice, and graduate programs in political science and public administration. Housed in the College of Arts & Sciences, the department has over 600 undergraduate majors and more than 70 graduate students.

Appalachian
STATE UNIVERSITY



Graduate Careers

- Research Institutes
- Political Campaigns
- Non-Government Organizations
- Media & Publishing Groups
- Investment Firms
- Government Organizations
- College Professors

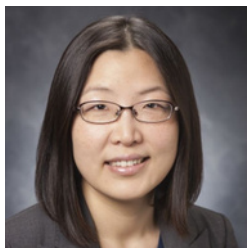
2:1 student/faculty ratio means we're able to provide students with the individual attention they expect and deserve

33 graduate semester hours required for this degree.

1 only stand-alone master's degree in political science within the UNC System

Recent Employers

- United States Senate
- United States Global Leadership Coalition
- United States Department of Health & Human Services
- South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- Pine Gate Renewables
- North Carolina General Assembly
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- Greater Nashville REALTORS
- Environment America
- Boy Scouts of America
- Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation



Each student, in consultation with the program director, develops a program of study that meets their interests and career aspirations.

Dr. Hye-Sung Kim, M.A. Program Director
Email: kimh7@appstate.edu
Phone: 828-262-6920

Application Deadlines

- Spring Admission: November 1
- Summer Session 1 Admission: April 1
- Summer Session 2 Admission: April 1
- Fall Admission: July 1 (Priority Deadline: March 15)

Let's Connect!

To access the inquiry form, scan the code with your phone's mobile phone or visit grad.appstate.edu/register/inquirypoliticalscience.



Where Are They Now?



Ryan Hofmann '17

Hofmann serves as the Deputy Policy Director for the U.S. House Republican Conference, a leadership office within the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C.

"The MAPS program gave me many of the skills that I use every day on Capitol Hill. Whether it be critical thinking, networking, or the ability to synthesize information, the program gave me the tools required to succeed. I am thankful to the program's professors, and my graduating cohort, with whom I remain close to this day."



Molly Thomas-Gregory '22

Thomas-Gregory works as an Associate Project Manager for Pine Gate Renewables, an industrial-scale solar farm developer in Asheville.

"The MAPS program gave me hands-on experience with data and managing data...and the program effectively trained me to think critically and creatively, which allowed me to translate skills I learned within the political realm to the environmental and organizational realms."