

Data Analytics for Politics, Policy and Legal Studies (DAPPLS)

Undergraduate Letter of Specialization

Department of Political Science, University of Massachusetts Amherst

The Department of Political Science announces a new Letter of Specialization in Data Analytics for Politics, Policy and Legal Studies (DAPPLS). The new specialization offers many benefits to current and prospective undergraduates. Students gain from increased course offerings that provide them with transferable and career relevant skills. A letter of specialization does not appear on a student transcript but is included in student files and cited as a credential on resumes, personal statements and in letters of recommendation. Some students may want to combine the Letter of Specialization with the accelerated MA program in the Department of Political Science to build greater expertise in data analytic skills that are likely to be highly attractive for positions across the public, nonprofit and private sectors. Students who complete the letter will have a strong foundation in the basics of designing social, political, and legal research, as well as more extensive training in at least two techniques for collecting and analyzing data. Students will additionally have the opportunity to apply these technical skills in substantive coursework and in a hands-on research setting.

REQUIREMENTS

12 CREDITS COURSEWORK + 3 CREDITS RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Requirement	Course	Frequency	Completed (x) or In Progress (IP)
Research Design	POLISCI 328 or POLISCI 750 or LEGAL 393E	Fall	
Research Experience (3 credits)	POLISCI 398R or LEGAL 398R	Fall & Spring	
Optional Course #1 - Technical			
Optional Course #2 - Substantive			
Optional Course #3 - Technical			

Among the technical and substantive courses that may be used to fulfill the requirements are the following:

Optional (Technical)	Instructor	Frequency
POLISCI 297V or LEGAL 297V - Weighing the Evidence	Gross	
POLISCI (TBD) - Experiments	Blinder, Nteta	Biennial
POLISCI 697X – Advanced Quantitative Topics	Gross, Schaffner, Rolfe	Biennial
POLISCI (TBD) – Simulations II	Rolfe	Biennial
POLISCI 391PN - Political Network Analysis or POLISCI 791P – Social and Political Network Analysis	Rolfe, Gross	Biennial
POLISCI 391BH or POLISCI 797SR – Special Topics, Survey Research Methods	Schaffner	Biennial
POLISCI 499C – Honors Seminar	Musgrave	Annual
POLISCI 797AA – Introduction to Quantitative Analysis	Gross	Fall

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Optional (Substantive)	Instructor	Frequency
POLISCI 308 – Public Opinion in Politics	Blinder, Schaffner	Annual
POLISCI 329 or 791 – Political Psychology	Nteta	Biennial
PPA 397P – Policymaking for Social Change	Bushouse	Fall
POLISCI 391FPH – Framing Public Policy and the News	Gross	
POLISCI 320 – Public Administration	Rolfe	Annual
POLISCI 359 – International Political Economy	Young	Annual
LEGAL 394JI – Judges and Judging	Collins	Biennial
LEGAL 391B – Law and Social Activism	Collins	Biennial
LEGAL 397N – Law and Public Policy	Rice	Annual
LEGAL 397V – Civil Liberties in Wartime	Rice	Biennial

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Other courses inside and outside the department may be used to fulfill the Substantive or Technical requirements with the approval of the DAPPLS Advisors. When requesting approval of an unlisted course, please be prepared to share a copy of the course syllabus with the DAPPLS Advisor.

Other courses approved by DAPPLS Advisor:

DAPPLS Advisor Signature: _____

Date Requirements Completed: _____

Political Science/Legal Studies Advisor Signature: _____