

How to Apply to the Department of Political Science at WVU (PhD and MA programs)

Thank you for your interest in graduate study in the Department of Political Science at WVU! The Department welcomes your application and will be happy to answer any questions that you have. Please direct questions to Matthew Jacobsmeier, Director of Graduate Studies: matthew.jacobsmeier@mail.wvu.edu.

In addition to the information below, you should know that the Department considers applications for the PhD and MA programs on a “rolling” basis. However, decisions about what students/applicants will receive offers of funding for the next academic year are made during February. For example, decisions about what students will have assistantships for the 2014-2015 academic year will be made during February 2014. Therefore, the Department encourages you to submit your applications by Jan. 15. TO BE CLEAR, this is the preferred date by which the Department wishes to receive applications. However, the Department still welcomes applications past this date. If funding is freed up because others turn it down, or because funding remains after the Department has considered applications submitted by Jan. 15, you still may receive funding.

In addition, the Department sometimes nominates outstanding applicants for fellowships provided by the University. Applicants wishing to be considered for these fellowships should get their materials in even earlier. All new applicants are considered for funding automatically.

To apply to the PhD or MA program, you must apply to the University online, and note that you are applying to PhD or MA program in Political Science. Almost all of your materials will be submitted through University’s online system, including your GRE scores, letters of recommendation submitted by your “letter writers,” and so on. Here is the online application West Virginia University:

https://app.applyyourself.com/AYApplicantLogin/fl_ApplicantConnectLogin.asp?id=wwugrad

In addition, the Department also requires applicants to complete a separate application and submit it directly to the Department. The application is found here:

<http://politicalscience.wvu.edu/graduate/application-to-the-political-science-department>

Please note that the Department asks you to report your GRE scores on this application. However, you are still required to have these scores submitted directly to the University by the Educational Testing Service.

A final note on letters of recommendation: Have three individuals who are well-positioned to assess your potential for success in the MA program or the PhD program submit a letter of recommendation on your behalf. Your letter writers can submit the application using the online system. You will be asked to set this up when you apply through the University’s online

application system. Alternatively, if your letter writers prefer, they can use this recommendation form:

<http://politicalscience.wvu.edu/files/d/ed9ef178-558e-4d2b-bd15-98801c2f572a/graduate-recommedation-letter.pdf>

and submit it directly to the Department (under separate cover than your application materials) by email, fax, or mail using the contact information provided above. In particular, the Department is especially interested in receiving recommendations from professors that you have had in undergraduate and/or graduate courses who are well-positioned to assess your potential for success in graduate school. Of course, if you have a supervisor from your employment history who is well-positioned to discuss your intellectual potential, a recommendation from them is appropriate as well.