We are proud to offer a high quality political science Ph.D. program that trains students in cutting edge methods of social science research. Class sizes are small, allowing faculty to give students individualized attention. Graduate students typically participate in research beginning in their first year of study, often allowing them to make presentations at academic conferences during their second year. The program is designed to prepare students for academic careers, although our graduates have also found the skills they acquire to be useful in pursuing careers outside academia.

Graduate students may specialize in American Politics, with a focus on political institutions, political behavior, public policy, and representation; Comparative Politics, with emphasis on the cross-national, quantitative study of political institutions and electoral behavior in democracies; and International Relations, with emphasis on the quantitative study of international conflict and cooperation.

The department offers a variety of methodology courses, including advanced statistical techniques, formal and mathematical modeling, survey research, and experimental design. Students with a special interest in methodology can enroll in a joint Ph.D./M.A. program with the Department of Statistics to receive further training in quantitative analysis and an added credential.

The department’s size allows only for the admission of students whose interests match the expertise of the faculty. Please review the faculty’s research interests and determine whether the program meets your needs. Students are required to begin in the fall semester for proper course sequencing. Because graduate study in political science is a rigorous and challenging course of study and entails many obligations outside of the classroom, students are not expected to work outside the department and those admitted to the program normally receive a full tuition waiver and a monthly stipend to meet living expenses.

WHERE POLITICAL SCIENCE GRADUATES GO
In recent years, Rice Ph.D.s have been placed in tenure-track positions at the following institutions: University of Aarhus, Agnes Scott College, Boise State University, Brown University, Fudan University, Kansas State University (two), Purdue University, Universidad del Norte, Universidad EAFIT, University of California-Merced, University of Essex, University of Houston, University of Illinois, University of Kentucky, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, and University of South Carolina. In addition, Rice Ph.D.s currently hold tenured positions at Instituto Tecnologico Autonomo de Mexico (ITAM), Florida Southern College, Kobe University, Louisiana State University, Sam Houston State University, Sciences Po, Rutgers University, Texas A&M University, University at Buffalo (SUNY), University of California-Berkeley, University of California-San Diego, University of Dayton, University of Idaho, University of Leeds, University of Macao, University of Missouri-Kansas City, University of Nebraska-Omaha, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, University of Pittsburgh, and University of Texas-Arlington. Recent graduates who have chosen non-academic jobs have accepted positions with such diverse organizations as Airbnb, Civis Analytics, CIPPEC, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, Instituto Desarrollo, Meta, Russell Reynolds, the State of South Carolina Fiscal Affairs Division, the United Nations and USAA.

TEACHING
Graduate students generally serve as teaching assistants for at least two semesters, and most advanced graduate students who plan to pursue a teaching career are given the opportunity to teach their own courses. The Center for Teaching Excellence at Rice offers an accredited graduate certificate program in pedagogy that provides interested students with formal pedagogical training, exposure to scholarship on teaching and learning, and practical experience.
**FACULTY**

**American Politics**


Melissa J. Marshall. B.A. (1990) Florida State University, M.A. (1993) Bogazici University, Ph.D. (1998) SUNY at Stony Brook. Dr. Marschall’s major areas of study include public policy, urban politics, education policy, representation, local elections, and Turkish politics. She is the Director of the Center for Local Elections in American Politics in the Kinder Institute and Director of the Social Policy Analysis Major in the School of Social Sciences.


**Comparative Politics**


Mark P. Jones. Joseph D. Jamail Chair in Latin American Studies and Professor. B.A. (1989) Tulane University, Ph.D. (1994) University of Michigan. Dr. Jones’s major areas of research are comparative political institutions (e.g., elections, electoral systems, legislatures, political parties), Latin American politics, and Texas politics. Dr. Jones also regularly advises United States government institutions and international organizations on Latin American politics and government.


Randolph T. Stevenson. Radoslav Tsanoff Professor of Public Affairs. B.A. (1991) Texas A&M University; M.A. (1994), Ph.D. (1996) University of Rochester. Dr. Stevenson’s major areas of study include mass political behavior, cabinet formation, comparative political economy, and institutional design in Western democracies. His current research projects include studies of political knowledge, expectation formation, responsibility attribution, and strategic voting in multi-party systems, as well as a book project exploring the sources of cross-national differences in political knowledge and political interest. Dr. Stevenson also teaches a number of graduate courses in advanced statistical techniques.

**GRADUATE STUDY IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AT A GLANCE**

Degree awarded: PhD

Fields of study: American politics, comparative politics, and international relations

Faculty working with students: 15

Students: 28 graduate students

Number of applicants for admission fall 2023: 324

Number of incoming students fall 2023: 6

Percentage of graduate students receiving financial aid: 100%

in years one through five

Degree requirements: 54 semester hours of advanced coursework; successful completion of comprehensive exams in a major field and a minor field; and public oral defense of the dissertation.

Doctorates awarded in 2023: 8
**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**Songying Fang.** Associate Professor. B.A. (1990) University of Science and Technology Beijing; Ph.D. (2006) University of Rochester. Dr. Fang’s major research areas include international organizations, territorial disputes, and peacekeeping. She uses both game-theoretic and empirical analyses in her research. She teaches a graduate game theory course, and undergraduate courses on international organizations and US-China relations.

**Connor Huff.** Assistant Professor. B.A. (2010) University of California, Santa Cruz. Ph.D. (2019) Harvard University. Dr. Huff’s major areas of study include civil war and terrorism. His current research focuses on why individuals decide to participate in political violence, and why they decide to stop.

**Brett Ashley Leeds.** Radoslav Tsanoff Professor of Political Science. B.A. (1991) University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill, Ph.D. (1998) Emory University. Dr. Leeds’s major areas of study include international conflict and cooperation, international institutions, and the influence of domestic politics on international relations. Her current research focuses on the design and influence of military alliances and on the impact of leadership change on foreign policy.

**T. Clifton Morgan.** Albert Thomas Professor. B.A. (1978) University of Oklahoma; M.A. (1980), Ph.D. (1986) University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Morgan’s current research interests focus on the development and empirical testing of formal models of international conflict processes. He has published widely on international crisis bargaining, domestic political influences on conflict behavior, foreign policy substitutability and the effectiveness of economic sanctions.

**Kaitlyn Robinson.** Assistant Professor. B.A. (2015) University of Michigan, Ph.D. (2022) Stanford University. Current research seeks to explain how violent non-state actors organize, build relationships with foreign states, and carry out violence in armed conflict. This work draws on original datasets, fieldwork interviews, and archival materials.

**Richard J. Stoll.** Albert Thomas Professor. (1974) University of Rochester, Ph.D. (1979) University of Michigan. Dr. Stoll’s current research interests include the study of naval arms races, explaining public opinion on whether war is sometimes necessary to achieve justice, and the use of Twitter to track public opinion.
We encourage you to visit Rice at any time for a firsthand look at the department and the beautiful, tree-lined campus near the heart of historic Houston. If you apply and are admitted, you may be invited to visit the campus later at departmental expense. During your time here, you will not only visit with faculty, but usually you'll meet current graduate students from whom you can learn more about graduate life and lifestyles in Houston. In the meantime, feel free to contact the department with any questions you may have.

For inquiries regarding the GRE or TOEFL exams, contact:
Educational Testing Service
Rosedale Road
Princeton, NJ 08541 USA
609-921-9000
etsinfo@ets.org or www.ets.org

The deadline for sending completed applications to the department is January 5. Rice will send a notification of acceptance no later than April 1.

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   etsinfo@ets.org or www.ets.org
ABOUT RICE AND HOUSTON

Rice is a leading American research university—small, private and highly selective—distinguished by a collaborative, interdisciplinary culture and a global perspective. Only a few miles from downtown Houston, it occupies an architecturally distinctive, 285-acre campus shaded by nearly 4,000 trees. State-of-the-art facilities and laboratories, internationally renowned centers and institutes and one of the country’s largest endowments support an ideal learning and living environment.

The university attracts a diverse group of highly talented students and faculty with outstanding graduate and professional programs in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, engineering, architecture, music and business. With just 4,085 graduate students and 4,480 undergraduates, it offers an unusual opportunity to forge close relationships with eminent faculty scholars and researchers and the option to tailor graduate programs to specific interests.

Houston offers all the expected educational, cultural and commercial advantages of a large urban center, and more. In addition to being the fourth largest city in the U.S., Houston is also the most racially and ethnically diverse of the country’s 10 most populous metropolitan areas. It is the home of the Texas Medical Center, the largest concentration of medical schools, hospitals and research facilities in the world, as well as several other universities. Rice has cooperative programs with the University of Houston, Baylor College of Medicine, the University of Texas Health Science Center and Texas Southern University.

Houston is one of the few U.S. cities with resident companies in all four major performing arts—drama, ballet, opera and symphony. It also boasts a museum district featuring exhibits of national and international prominence.

As urban as it is, Houston also is a surprisingly green city. Houstonians enjoy the outdoors in more than 300 municipal parks and 120 open spaces, and many frequent the beach at Galveston Island, only a 45-minute drive away. Other short trips include Austin, the state’s capital, and historic San Antonio, both of which are a little more than three hours away.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Please indicate on your application whether you wish to be considered for financial aid. Most students accepted into the program will receive some degree of financial assistance. Rice provides financial aid in four ways: tuition waivers, graduate fellowships, research assistantships based on merit, and need-based aid such as federally insured loans. Tuition waivers are granted in an amount equal to Rice’s tuition, which is $57,210 for 2023-24. Graduate fellowships currently provide $32,000 per year. Additional funding for the summer is typically available. In addition, a number of graduate students have been recipients of external fellowships. All financial aid decisions are made shortly after the January 5 application deadline.

HOW TO APPLY

Use our online application process found under the Apply link in the Graduate Studies section of our website. Further information may be obtained by contacting:

Graduate Program Administrator
Department of Political Science–MS 24
Rice University
P.O. Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251-1892
Phone: 713-348-4842 • Fax: 713-348-5273
E-mail: poli@rice.edu
Web site: politicalscience.rice.edu

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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