One of the key goals of this program is to narrow the gap between substantive political professionals and those involved on the technical analytic side. The program teaches analytics in an explicitly political context, facilitating crosswalk with nontechnical professionals and decision-makers.

Gregory J. Wawro, Ph.D.
Professor of Political Science

Drawing on Columbia University’s academic strength in the quantitative social sciences—particularly political science, statistics, mathematical modeling, and applied analytics—this program meets the needs of learners who aspire to a career in political analytics and consulting.

Gain foundational knowledge, fluency in theoretical and empirical research methods, analytics capabilities, technical skills, and applied practice to impact decision-making at all levels of political analysis

Attain fluency with survey questionnaire design, sampling, data collection and aggregation, and survey data analysis to gain insights and to test hypotheses about the nature of human and social behavior and interaction

Develop core leadership competencies that are essential for high-impact management as well as changing the behavior and the culture of organizations with an emphasis on how to introduce analytic methods and results

Have a strong command of how to navigate the legal and regulatory landscape that governs elections, campaign strategy, and execution, and acquire special proficiency in external communications

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Apply Online sps.columbia.edu/politicalanalytics
Political Analytics

Master of Science
New York City and Online
Full-Time or Part-Time Option

Core Coursework
12 credits, plus 3-credit capstone, online

Introduction to Political Analytics
2 CREDITS
Strategic Thinking
2 CREDITS
Field Experiments
2 CREDITS
Program Evaluation
2 CREDITS
Survey and Polling Methodology
2 CREDITS
Leadership
2 CREDITS
Capstone course
3 CREDITS
The 3-credit capstone course will be a group project advised by a faculty member for a client.

Sample Selective Courses
Divided among 3 fields (21 credits), New York City

FIELD 1
Quantitative Methods in Political Science
9 CREDITS • REQUIRED 2–3 COURSES
Electoral Data & Predictive Modeling
3 CREDITS
Big Data & Campaign Strategy
3 CREDITS
Fundraising Analytics & Campaign Finance
3 CREDITS
Principles of Quantitative Political Research 1
4 CREDITS
Principles of Quantitative Political Research 2
4 CREDITS
Design & Analysis of Sample Surveys
4 CREDITS
Mathematics and Statistics for Political Science
4 CREDITS
Data Science for Political Analytics
3 CREDITS

FIELD 2
Quantitative Methods in Social Science
6 CREDITS • REQUIRED 2–3 COURSES
Qualitative Research Design
3 CREDITS
Theory & Method for Social Science
3 CREDITS
Data Mining for Social Science
3 CREDITS
Natural Language Processing
3 CREDITS
Data Visualization
3 CREDITS
Machine Learning for Social Science
3 CREDITS
Social Network Analysis
3 CREDITS
Modern Data Structures
3 CREDITS
Applied Data Science
3 CREDITS
Machine Learning
3 CREDITS
Data Analytics using SQL and Relational Databases
3 CREDITS
Python for Data Analysis
3 CREDITS
Data Science Consulting
3 CREDITS

FIELD 3
Topics in Politics
6 CREDITS • REQUIRED 2–3 COURSES
Elections
4 CREDITS
State and Local Politics
4 CREDITS
Governing the 21st Century City
3 CREDITS
Political Psychology
4 CREDITS
Urban Politics and Policy
3 CREDITS
Political Communications
3 CREDITS

Who Should Apply
This nonpartisan program is designed for students from diverse political and professional backgrounds.

The full-time program is tailored to recent graduates of public administration or political science programs who aspire to advance in a data-oriented career in all levels of government or NGOs, think tanks, and organizations for research, consulting, or lobbying. The part-time program is designed for mid-career working professionals or career pivoters who aspire to advance their careers by strengthening their quantitative data analysis skills.

Required courses are largely in person, but a number of core courses will be offered online to provide maximum flexibility.

Career pathways may include—but are not limited to—campaign management, consulting, lobbying, public and governmental affairs, policy analysis, political fundraising, and media.