June 1, 2014

Dear Prospective Student:

Our department seeks to recruit top applicants into our Ph.D. program. If you are interested in doing graduate work in political science, we hope that you will seriously consider Notre Dame.

The Department of Political Science at Notre Dame is an exciting place for faculty and graduate students alike, offering

- More than 45 tenure-track or tenured faculty
- Several new faculty members this year
- 12-14 new graduate students enrolled each year
- Low faculty/student ratio
- Students and faculty collaboration and co-authorship on research projects, articles, and book chapters

We can train a graduate student for virtually any approach and we do so with a rare spirit of collegiality. A visit to our website will demonstrate that our internationally respected scholars cover most thematic and geographic areas in political science, including quantitative methods, qualitative methods, normative theory, survey research, and formal theory. For more about our work, please see the departmental descriptions of each subfield by clicking here.

Notre Dame, a university with substantial resources, is committed to our Department’s excellence. We provide full tuition scholarships as well as stipend fellowships to all Ph.D. students for at least five years. In addition, each year a number of our admitted students are awarded one of the Graduate School’s Select Fellowships which recognize outstanding undergraduate performance as well as exceptional promise in graduate studies and professional life (http://graduateschool.nd.edu/admissions/financial-support/prestigious-fellowships/).

Our students have opportunities to secure generous funding for collaborative research, annual conference travel, field research, and specialized training. A number of on-campus institutes and centers provide further support and intellectual community:

- Kellogg Institute for International Studies
- Nanovic Institute for European Studies
- Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies
- Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy
- Notre Dame International Security Program
Our students have had great success in winning national research grants. During the past few years, our students have secured grants or fellowships from the following organizations:

- National Science Foundation
- SSHRC
- Javits (U.S. Dept. of Education)
- Fulbright
- U.S. Institute of Peace
- Mellon/ACLS
- National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation

Our students also have been successful in publishing their research (click here for a list of selected recent student publications). Journals in which students have recently published single- and co-authored articles include:

- American Political Science Review
- American Journal of Political Science
- Journal of Politics
- Comparative Political Studies
- World Politics

Our students’ success can be seen in their ability to secure good jobs in academia and elsewhere upon graduation. Recent graduates have secured tenure-track positions at, among other places:

- Ball State University
- Baylor University
- Bethel University
- Centro de Investigacion y Docencia Economicos (CIDE), Mexico
- University of Central Florida
- Lake Forest College
- Miami of Ohio
- Michigan State University
- Northern Illinois University
- Oxford University
- State University of New York, Brockport
- Villanova University
- University of Arkansas, Little Rock
- University of Houston
- University of Richmond
- University of Rhode Island
- University of Texas, Austin
- Wake Forest University
- Western Michigan University

There is much more information about the program on our website. The Graduate School website will provide you with detailed information on procedures for the on-line applications process.

I look forward to receiving your application!

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Layman
Professor and Director of Graduate Studies
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