

Excellence in Graduate Advising & Mentoring

Tom Preston

Professor

Politics, Philosophy, & Public Affairs



A seasoned political science practitioner, Tom Preston inspires and prepares graduate students for successful careers in government, academia, and beyond.

His extensive mentoring portfolio exemplifies his dedication to fostering the next generation of leaders: he has chaired an astounding 75 dissertation committees—54 for master’s students and 21 at the doctoral level—plus he has served on the advising committee for an additional 78 individuals.

Beyond offering active-learning simulations geared toward specific career opportunities, such as seminar courses in intelligence analysis and the psychology of leadership, Tom co-created the WSU graduate program in political psychology. It has become one of the top programs in the nation and is a huge draw for student recruitment.

Tom encourages academic curiosity and collaboration among his students and regularly provides opportunities for professional growth through co-authoring publications, presenting at conferences, and networking with alumni who have gone on to senior positions in national security and defense as well as at top universities and international NGOs.

Tom’s work to bridge the gap between academia and the practitioner community adds immense value to graduate education at WSU.

