

I am applying to the doctoral program in political science at the University of Annares with a specialization in comparative politics. My principal interests are the origins, causes, and consequences of political and drug-related violence in Latin America.

To prepare myself for a doctoral program in political science, I have earned a B.A. in government and international politics from Dupont University, and am currently completing my M.A. in political science from Western State University (WSU). At WSU, I have worked as a research assistant for multiple political science professors and I have presented a solo-authored empirical paper at the 2017 Political Science Students



black market to purchase weaponry that increases their strength vis-à-vis their opponents. I seek to explain the extent to which DTOs behave like insurgencies in contexts of civil war.

My interests align very well with the work of a number of faculty members, including Walter White, Hector Salamanca, and Lydia Rodarte-Quail. Specifically, Dr. White's work challenges the state incoordination hypothesis, and thus encourages me to revisit my research on mayoral assassinations. If the lack of coordination between multiple levels of government does not explain mayoral assassinations, it may be worthwhile to revisit the criminal fragmentation literature to explore how the particular constraints faced by the security and law enforcement agencies influence DTO violence. For example, while fragmentation at the federal level may cause DTO-DTO violence,

faculty will strengthen my methodological skills and broaden my knowledge of civil conflicts and democratization to understand the dynamics of DTO violence.

I am confident that my education and accomplishments have prepared me to undertake doctoral studies, and I look forward to the opportunity to work with the faculty and students at the University of Annars. As a Mexican-American and first-generation student in higher education, my perspective will contribute to the intellectual diversification of both the program and the political science discipline.