Political Science, Ph.D.

Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy program in political science requires a minimum of 72 s.h. of graduate credit. Students must maintain a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.40.

The program is designed to prepare students for research, teaching, and scholarly endeavor in academic settings and private or governmental institutions. It produces graduates who are deeply committed to the study of politics, familiar with fundamental knowledge about political processes, well trained in methods and techniques for careful investigation of basic and applied research questions, and determined to make contributions to the discipline of political science and to society.

The department usually admits six to eight Ph.D. students each year, so students work closely with faculty members, often collaborating on research and publication. Graduate students know one another and enjoy supportive, congenial working conditions.

Five fields of study are available: American politics, comparative politics, international relations, formal theory, and research methods. Each student chooses three fields of study for qualifying examinations.

Doctoral study usually lasts four to five years. The first-year curriculum for all students consists of core courses equally divided between substance and methodology. Emphasis is on basic research methods, including quantitative methods, that political scientists must understand thoroughly. Special attention is given to research design, collection of observations, and data analysis and interpretation.

The second and third years of study are spent in small seminars with focused, substantive topics. Papers written for these seminars might be submitted to journals or read at professional meetings. Students must complete their qualifying examinations by the end of the third year. They take their comprehensive examination (oral defense of the dissertation proposal) by the middle of the first semester of their fourth year.

The fourth and fifth years are spent on dissertation research and writing. Students who do basic research and gather data abroad often require an additional year to complete the dissertation.

The following courses are required during the first and second years of graduate study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</table>
| First Year, Fall Semester
| POLI:5000 | Introduction to Political Analysis | 4     |
| POLI:5001 | Introductory Methodology | 4     |
|        | A 5000-level field seminar (see “Field Seminars” below) | 4     |
| First Year, Second Semester
| POLI:5003 | Intermediate Methodology | 4     |
|        | Two 5000-level field seminars (see “Field Seminars” below) | 8     |

Field Seminars

The 5000-level field seminars are as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI:5100</td>
<td>American Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:5400</td>
<td>Comparative Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:5500</td>
<td>International Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:5700</td>
<td>Introduction to Formal Models in Political Science</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students must complete the appropriate 5000-level course before enrolling in a 7000-level course. In unusual circumstances and with the permission of the instructor teaching the higher-level course, a student may enroll in that course and the 5000-level course at the same time.

Graduate students are expected to take at least 12 s.h. of coursework per semester through their second year of graduate study. Typically, this is in regularly scheduled courses rather than readings courses. During the third year, students are expected to take a minimum of 12 s.h. of regularly scheduled coursework; readings courses should be limited to the second semester of the third year. Students may take up to 12 s.h. in readings courses (not counting coursework accumulated in summer terms, when readings courses are often all that is available).

Core Graduate Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI:5000</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Analysis</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:5001</td>
<td>Introductory Methodology</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:5100</td>
<td>American Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:5400</td>
<td>Comparative Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:5500</td>
<td>International Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:5700</td>
<td>Introduction to Formal Models in Political Science</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:6635</td>
<td>Crossing Borders Seminar</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Advanced Graduate Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI:5003</td>
<td>Intermediate Methodology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:5111</td>
<td>American Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:5117</td>
<td>Bureaucratic Politics and Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:5200</td>
<td>American State Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:7002</td>
<td>Topics Methodology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:7003</td>
<td>Advanced Methodology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:7100</td>
<td>Modeling American Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:7150</td>
<td>Problems in American Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:7202</td>
<td>Public Opinion and Electoral Behavior</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:7270</td>
<td>Responsible Research in Political Science</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:7409</td>
<td>Democratization and Authoritarianism</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:7423</td>
<td>Comparative Parties and Elections</td>
<td>4</td>
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</table>
Quantitative Methods

All doctoral students must demonstrate at least minimal competence in quantitative methods. Students must earn at least a B grade in POLI:5001 Introductory Methodology, POLI:5003 Intermediate Methodology, and POLI:7003 Advanced Methodology. Students who do not meet this requirement must take a substitute course selected by faculty members who teach the quantitative methods courses.

Postcomprehensive Registration

Graduate College regulations require that students be registered at the University of Iowa each semester after passing the comprehensive examination until their degree is awarded, and that this registration accurately reflects the amount and type of work undertaken, the use of University facilities, and the amount of consultation with the faculty. After passing their comprehensive examination, students working on their dissertation research should register in POLI:7910 Ph.D. Dissertation. No more than 30 s.h. are granted for dissertation preparation.

The Guide to Doctoral Study, available from the Department of Political Science and on its website, provides a comprehensive statement of departmental requirements.