

POLITICAL SCIENCE, M.A.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources (<https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/>) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Department of Political Science Ph.D. students are encouraged to participate in our weekly workshops and colloquia. The workshops and colloquia offered in the department are the American Politics Workshop (<https://sites.google.com/view/uwpolisciapw/home/>), Comparative Politics Colloquium (<https://sites.google.com/wisc.edu/cpcwisc/home/>), International Relations Colloquium (<https://sites.google.com/view/ircwisc/>), Political Economy Colloquium (<https://sites.google.com/wisc.edu/pecwisc/home/>), MEAD – Models and Data Workshop (<https://sites.google.com/view/meadwisc/home/>), and the Political Theory Workshop (<https://sites.google.com/view/uwmadisonptw/home/>).

Workshops are one of the most important intellectual spaces in the department, providing an opportunity to become exposed to cutting-edge research and a chance to meet with scholars from other universities. In addition to featuring faculty papers and outside speakers, the workshops are an integral part of graduate training, serving as a place for students to present papers, as well as dissertation prospectuses, grant proposals, dissertation chapters, and practice job talks.

The department also hosts the Political Science Graduate Workshop (PSGW), which focuses on personal and professional development for graduate students in the department. The PSGW's mission is to "foster communication and information-sharing among the grad students and faculty members of the political science department and to promote professional development opportunities for the grad students." The topics covered in PSGW range from topics in graduate life (health and balance, financial life) to discipline professional development (publishing, communications). This workshop convenes several times per semester each academic year.

The department also actively supports our students throughout their job search. The Director of Graduate Studies and the major advisors review all job market materials such as CVs, writing samples, and diversity and teaching statements. In addition, the department arranges special informational sessions, "mock" interviews, and practice job talks to prepare students for the kinds of questions they will face from potential employers. This support complements other departmental activities designed to professionalize graduate students, including brown bag discussions about attending professional conferences, publishing opportunities, and seeking grant funding.