

POLITICAL SCIENCE, PH.D.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirements>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/ Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	No	No	No	No

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW–Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirement	Detail
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	51 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	51 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	26 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Details can be found in the Graduate School's Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) policy (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244).
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.00 GPA required. This program follows the Graduate School's policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203 .

Other Grade Requirements No other grade requirements.

Assessments and Examinations Doctoral students must complete exams in two subfields before the end of the sixth semester.

Produce an approved dissertation proposal before the start of the seventh semester, which must be defended prior to the start of the seventh semester in the program.

Write, defend and deposit a dissertation of an acceptable standard that makes an original contribution to knowledge.

Language Requirements No language requirements.

Breadth Requirement All doctoral students are required to complete a minor or a Graduate/Professional certificate.

Students are expected to consult with their advisors concerning the breadth requirement. At the time the student requests the preliminary exam warrant, a summary should be prepared of the effort in interdisciplinary coursework and training.

All Option B minors require the approval of the student's advisor and the associate chair.

With program approval, students may be allowed to count 9 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions toward fulfillment of the minor Option B requirement.

REQUIRED COURSES

The Ph.D. is earned through a combination of coursework and dissertation. The program is designed to provide students with both a general training in political science and the opportunity to specialize in their areas of interest. The subfields of political science found in our department are American politics (<https://polisci.wisc.edu/american-politics/>), comparative politics (<https://polisci.wisc.edu/comparative-politics/>), political theory and philosophy (<https://polisci.wisc.edu/political-theory/>), international relations (<https://polisci.wisc.edu/international-relations/>), and political methodology (<https://polisci.wisc.edu/political-methodology/>). Each student will select a first field and a second field. The first field is the field within which the student expects to write a doctoral dissertation. The second field complements and supports the first field and the student's intellectual and research interests.

Code	Title	Credits
General Structure of the Program		
POLI SCI 800	Political Science as a Discipline and Profession (Must be done in the first semester)	1
POLI SCI 817	Empirical Methods of Political Inquiry	3
	<i>Statistical Methodology Coursework-Graduate Level</i>	3

While POLI SCI 812 (Introduction to Statistical Methods in Political Science) is the course most frequently used to satisfy this requirement, in consultation with the Department and Methods Field Chair, these credits may be taken in another department.

Meet with your advisor to discuss the faculty's First Year Assessment of your progress in the program by the start of your third semester.

Take and pass two general prelims from the specified list (International Relations, American Politics, Comparative Politics, Political Theory, Political Methodology) in June following your fourth semester.

Present one or more possible dissertation ideas to a committee with a minimum of two faculty members no later than September 15th of the 5th semester.

POLI SCI 801	Dissertation Proposal Research and Writing Seminar	3
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Submit a conference level research paper for review by January 15 before start of 6th semester.

Complete the minor requirement.	9
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Workshops

Fulfill any requirements specified by the student's primary subfield, such as presenting at a workshop. Depending on the subfield, students might enroll for credit in POLI SCI 986, POLI SCI 987, POLI SCI 988, and POLI SCI 989, which counts toward the 51 credit minimum.