

POLITICAL SCIENCE, PHD

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum degree requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#requirements>) and policies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policies>), 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 Credit Requirement 51 credits

Minimum Residence Credit Requirement 51 credits

Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement 26 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement policy: <https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244> (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/>).

Overall Graduate GPA Requirement 3.00 GPA required. Refer to the Graduate School: Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement policy: <https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203> (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/>).

Other Grade Requirements No other grade requirements.

Assessments and Examinations 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.

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.

Graduate School Breadth Requirement All doctoral students are required to complete a doctoral minor or graduate/professional certificate. Refer to the Graduate School: Breadth Requirement in Doctoral Training policy: <https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1200> (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1200/>).

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 PhD 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.

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.

The subfields of political science found in our department are:

1. American politics (<https://polisci.wisc.edu/american-politics/>),
2. Comparative politics (<https://polisci.wisc.edu/comparative-politics/>),
3. Political Theory (<https://polisci.wisc.edu/political-theory/>),
4. International Relations (<https://polisci.wisc.edu/international-relations/>), and

5. Political Methodology (<https://polisci.wisc.edu/political-methodology/>).

Code	Title	Credits
Core		
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
POLI SCI 801	Dissertation Proposal Research and Writing Seminar	3
Statistical Methodology Coursework-Graduate Level		
Generally, students complete the following course to satisfy the statistical methodology requirement. Students may complete a course in another department with approval from the Department and Methods Field Chair.		
POLI SCI 812	Introduction to Statistical Methods in Political Science	4
Breadth		9
First Field		
Students must complete any requirements specified by the student's second field.		9-18
Second Field		
Students must complete any requirements specified by the student's second field.		6-15
Dissertation		
Students may complete research credits to satisfy the minimum 51-credit requirement.		16
POLI SCI 990	Research and Thesis	
Total Credits		51

First Year Assessment

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

Dissertation Idea Presentations

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

Conference Level Research Paper

Students must submit a conference level research paper for review by January 15 before start of sixth semester.