Admission Requirements
Applicants are considered on a competitive basis. In addition to the 
Graduate College minimum requirements, applicants must meet the 
following program requirements:

- **Baccalaureate Field** No restrictions.
- **Grade Point Average** At least 3.00/4.00 for the final 60 semester (90 
  quarter) hours of undergraduate study.
- **Tests Required** GRE General.
- **Minimum English Competency Test Score**
  - TOEFL 80, with subscores of Reading 19, Listening 17, Speaking 
    20, and Writing 21 (iBT Test); 60, with subscores of Reading 19, 
    Listening 17, Writing 21 (revised Paper-Delivered Test), OR, 
  - IELTS 6.5, with subscores of 6.0 for all four subscores, OR, 
  - PTE-Academic 54, with subscores of Reading 51, Listening 47, 
    Speaking 53, and Writing 56.
- **Letters of Recommendation** Three required, preferably from faculty 
  members in political science or cognate disciplines who are familiar 
  with the applicant’s training and ability.
- **Personal Statement** Required. The statement should address the 
  applicant’s academic goals.
- **Deadlines** Application deadlines for this program are listed on the 
  Graduate College website.

Degree Requirements
In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, students 
must meet the following program requirements:

- **Minimum Semester Hours Required** 96 from the baccalaureate.
- **Course Work** A grade of B or better is required in all required 
  courses.

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<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLS 401</td>
<td>Data Analysis I</td>
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<td>POLS 482</td>
<td>Theories of Democracy and</td>
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<td>Representation</td>
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<td>POLS 501</td>
<td>Data Analysis II</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 505</td>
<td>Research Design and Methods</td>
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Select one of the following:

| POLS 504 | Seminar in Political Theory          |
| POLS 551 | Seminar in Urban Politics            |
| POLS 560 | Seminar in American Politics         |
| POLS 570 | Seminar in Comparative Politics      |
| POLS 571 | Seminar in International Relations   |

- **Examinations**
  - **Preliminary Examination:** Required. After successful completion 
    of the required course work, students, in conjunction with an 
    advisor, will choose to be examined over one of three core areas 
    of specialization: American politics, urban politics, or comparative 
    politics. A second exam field must be chosen from among 
    the subfields of American politics, comparative politics, urban 
    politics, political theory, international relations, or another advisor-
    approved political science subfield. A third exam will be based on 

the student’s proposed dissertation work. The preliminary exam 
will consist of a written examination in each of the chosen areas.

- **Dissertation** Required. It is expected that students will submit a 
  full statement of dissertation plans to the dissertation committee no 
  later than three months following passage of the preliminary exam. 
  The dissertation prospectus will contain an analysis of the relevant 
  literature, the theoretical issues to be addressed, the data to be 
  used, the methods of analysis, and a statement of the anticipated 
  significance of the research project. Students will not be authorized 
  to proceed with dissertation research until their prospectus has been 
  approved.

- **Other Requirements** In addition to the required courses, the 
  student may also be requested to satisfy an advanced methodology 
  requirement appropriate to the student’s plan of study and approved 
  by the director of graduate studies. Students whose plan of study will 
  require reading or oral proficiency in a foreign language must pass 
  an examination arranged by the department; course work required 
  to prepare for this examination does not count toward the hours 
  required for the degree.

- **Faculty Review** At the end of every spring semester the director 
  of graduate studies conducts a review of the student’s progress in 
  the program to date, based on a variety of student performance 
  indicators which may include progress and earned grades, seminar 
  papers, and research interests. Before taking the preliminary 
  examination, all students must complete an extensive research 
  project. The paper will be evaluated by the project supervisor and one 
  other member of the faculty who has been appointed by the director 
  of graduate studies.

Interdepartmental Concentrations
Students earning a graduate degree in this department may complement 
their courses by enrolling in select concentrations after consulting with 
their graduate advisor. Interdepartmental concentrations available for this 
degree include:

- **Black Studies**
- **Gender and Women's Studies**
- **Latin American and Latino Studies**
- **Survey Research Methodology**
- **Violence Studies**