

PhD in Political Science

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** None.
- **Minimum English Competency Test Score**
 - **TOEFL iBT** 80, with subscores of Reading 19, Listening 17, Speaking 20, and Writing 21, **OR**,
 - **IELTS Academic** 6.5, with 6.0 in each of the 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.
- **Coursework** A grade of B or better is required in all required courses.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
POLS 401	Data Analysis I	
POLS 482	Theories of Democracy and Representation	
POLS 501	Data Analysis II	
POLS 505	Research Design and Methods	
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 coursework, 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; coursework 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](#)