POLITICAL SCIENCE, PHD
for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science

The course of study leading to a Ph.D. in Political Science requires a minimum of three years of full-time study, culminating in the successful defense of a doctoral dissertation. A minimum of 96 graduate hours of academic credit is required, 32 of which may be graduate hours of dissertation research. At least 64 of the 96 graduate hours must be taken in residence. A grade of B or better is required in all courses.

In addition to meeting Graduate College requirements, the Department of Political Science requires that students complete a "scope and methods" sequence, acquire proficiency in analytic skills, and demonstrate expertise in several subfields within the discipline. The progress of doctoral candidates is monitored at various points in the program. In addition to an interim evaluation, students must pass a set of qualifying examinations and present a dissertation proposal. Once the doctoral dissertation is completed, the candidate must successfully complete an oral final defense.

For additional details and requirements refer to the department's graduate handbook (https://pol.illinois.edu/academics/graduate-program/graduate-handbook/) and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook/).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PS 521</td>
<td>Phil Bases of Pol Inquiry</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS 522</td>
<td>Research Design and Techniques</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PS 523</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course work in one substantive area of political science</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course work in a minor area.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PS 598</td>
<td>Dissertation Design Seminar</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>PS 599</td>
<td>Thesis Research (min/max applied toward degree)</td>
<td>32</td>
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Total Hours 64

Other Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other requirements may overlap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualifying Exam Required:</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary Exam Required:</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam/Dissertation Defense</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Required:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation Deposit Required:</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum GPA:</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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Entering with approved B.S./B.A. degree

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Information listed in this catalog is current as of 06/2024
Course work in one substantive area of political science 20
Course work in a minor area. 8
PS 598 Dissertation Design Seminar 0
PS 599 Thesis Research (min/max applied toward degree) 32-40

Total Hours 96

Other Requirements

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The Political Science doctoral program is designed to produce broadly educated and well-trained scholars and teachers. Our aim is to produce Ph.D.s who have the breadth and vision to grapple with large questions, the training to make original contributions to research that addresses those questions, and the ability to communicate research results to students, their peers, and society at large. We thus strive to strike an appropriate balance between:

1. Exposure to theoretical models in political and social research,
2. Sophisticated training in the methods and techniques of social science,
3. The development of expertise within a student’s primary area of interest,
4. Exposure to classroom teaching, and
5. Exposure to the discipline’s professional norms and practices.

More specifically, every Illinois Ph.D. should:

1. Be well-grounded in the social sciences. This includes familiarity with the philosophy of science issues that underlie social scientific inquiry. It also includes exposure to or an acquaintance with the literature and approaches of at least one other discipline as they pertain to inquiries in political science and specifically to students’ particular areas of interest.
2. Be familiar with the breadth and diversity of models, approaches, and intellectual traditions within a student’s major subfield of expertise (major fields in the department are American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and political theory).
3. Be competent in at least a second substantive area of political science (minor fields in the department are the same as the four major fields, with the addition of political methodology).
4. Be highly competent in research skills appropriate to his or her research endeavors. An Illinois Ph.D. should be exposed to a broad range of methodologies (including both quantitative and qualitative approaches) and have some deeper familiarity with particular sets of research skills (e.g. statistical analysis, formal modeling, game theory, the comparative case study method).

5. Fully understand the research enterprise. This includes an ability to critique others’ work and an ability to be a contributing scholar by producing original research.
6. Be prepared to teach graduate courses in his or her primary subfield and undergraduate courses in at least two subfields of the discipline, and understand best practices for student engagement.
7. Be familiar with disciplinary norms and standards, including understanding issues related to ethical practices in research, professional and public engagement, and instruction.

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Graduate Degree Programs in Political Science

- Political Science, MA (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/political-science-ma/)
  - concentrations:
    + Civic Leadership (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/political-science-ma/civic-leadership/)
    + African American Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/concentration/african-american-studies/)
- Political Science, PhD (p. 1)
  - concentration:
    + African American Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/concentration/african-american-studies/)
- Joint Programs:
  - Political Science, PhD & Law, JD (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/law/joint-degree/political-science-phd-law-jd/)
  - Political Science: Civic Leadership, MA & Law, JD (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/law/joint-degree/political-science-ma-civic-leadership-law-jd/)

The Department of Political Science offers graduate programs leading to the degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy. Students are not admitted to the master’s degree program in Political Science, except for the Civic Leadership concentration. The department is not accepting applications to the Public Administration program.

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Department of Political Science
Head of Department: Thomas Rudolph
Director of Graduate Studies: Aleksander Ksiazkiewicz
Department of Political Science website (http://www.pol.illinois.edu/)
420 David Kinley Hall, 1407 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 333-3881; fax: (217) 244-5712
Political Science email (gradpol@illinois.edu)

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences website (https://las.illinois.edu/)

Admissions
Graduate College Admissions & Requirements (https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/)