POLITICAL SCIENCE, PHD

for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science

head of department: Thomas Rudolph
director of graduate studies: Matthew Winters
department website: http://www.pol.illinois.edu/
college website: https://las.illinois.edu/
overview of graduate college admissions & requirements: Graduate Admissions (https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/)
overview of college admissions & requirements:
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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.

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_joint_degree/political-science-phd-law-jd/)
  - Political Science: Civic Leadership, MA & Law, JD (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las_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.

Admission

Admission to the Ph.D. Program
The Graduate College admission requirements apply. The student should have a minimum of 20 hours of undergraduate work in political science and cognate disciplines such as economics, psychology, finance, sociology, or history. All applicants are required to submit Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores, a personal statement, and an example of written work. Applicants whose native language is not English must submit the TOEFL iBT or IELTS score. The Ph.D. program typically admits students for the fall semester. Application deadline is December 15th.

Admission to the Master of Arts with Concentration in Civic Leadership
Admission is restricted to students who were accepted to the Civic Leadership Program as undergraduates at the University of Illinois. Application deadline is December 15. Applicants who wish to obtain a joint MA-JD degree program must apply separately for admission to the Law School.

Graduate Teaching Experience
Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement, experience in teaching is considered an important part of the graduate experience in this program and is essential for students whose career goals include college teaching.

Financial Aid
Students accepted into the department’s Ph.D. program are eligible to apply for financial aid. Most incoming students with good credentials and continuing students demonstrating satisfactory progress will receive some type of financial aid, but the type and amount will vary. The Department of Political Science provides, on a competitive basis, aid packages up to $22,000, plus waivers of tuition and some fees. Financial aid is usually a
combination of fellowship money and assistantships. Limited amounts of aid are also available for dissertation field research, internships, and the presentation of papers at professional meetings.