The Department of Political Science offers graduate study leading to the doctor of philosophy in political science. The department admits students only for the Ph.D. program, but a master’s degree may be obtained en route to the Ph.D.

The Ph.D. 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.

The subfields of political science found in the department are American politics (http://polisci.wisc.edu/fields/american-politics/), comparative politics (http://polisci.wisc.edu/fields/comparative/), political theory and philosophy (http://polisci.wisc.edu/fields/political-theory/), international relations (http://polisci.wisc.edu/fields/international-relations/), and political methodology (http://polisci.wisc.edu/fields/political-methodology/). The department has a national and international reputation for the high quality of its faculty and the diversity of their approaches and interests. It has long been recognized for an acceptance of varied approaches to the study of politics and for its collegiality. Political science shares faculty with the Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs (http://www.lafollette.wisc.edu/), the Law School (http://www.law.wisc.edu/), and the Department of Gender and Women’s Studies (http://womenstudies.wisc.edu/). The presence of programs and centers such as the African Studies Program (http://africa.wisc.edu/), the Center for European Studies (http://ces.wisc.edu/), the Center for Jewish Studies (http://jewishstudies.wisc.edu/), the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia (CREECA) (http://www.creeca.wisc.edu/), Integrated Liberal Studies (http://ils.wisc.edu/), the International Studies major (B.A (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/institute-regional-international-studies/international-studies-bs/), and B.S. (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/institute-regional-international-studies/international-studies-bs/), Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies (http://www.lacis.wisc.edu/), and others is also beneficial to graduate students, providing opportunities for the advancement of interdisciplinary approaches in student research.

Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program’s admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program’s website.

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/) of the Graduate School as well as the program(s).

Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Deadline</td>
<td>December 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Deadline</td>
<td>The program does not admit in the spring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Deadline</td>
<td>The program does not admit in the summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)</td>
<td>Not required.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

English Proficiency Test
Every applicant whose native language is not English or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English must provide an English proficiency test score and meet the Graduate School minimum requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency). International applicants whose first language is not English will be admitted only if they have Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) of 100 or more (Internet-based).

Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT) | n/a
Letters of Recommendation Required | 3

Applicants to the Political Science Ph.D. program must apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/) by December 15 for admission the following fall. The online application requires you to complete the Graduate School application, Political Science supplemental application, and provide the names and email addresses of three references who can attest to your success as a graduate student. In addition, you must also upload a statement of reasons for graduate study that is two pages in length, a resume or C.V., scanned official transcripts, and one research paper with an abstract.

Applicants from outside the United States may also need to submit TOEFL scores. International applicants whose first language is not English will be admitted only if they have Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) of 100 or more (Internet-based).

It is the candidate’s responsibility to ensure that all materials are delivered on time.

**FUNDING**

**GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES**

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

**PROGRAM RESOURCES**

The department guarantees funding for all Ph.D. students making satisfactory progress for at least their first five years. Support may be in the form of fellowships, teaching assistantships, or as an assistant for a faculty research project.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS**

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.
MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Evening/Weekend</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Accelerated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mode of Instruction Definitions

- **Accelerated**: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students are able to complete a program with minimal disruptions to careers and other commitments.
- **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

**Requirements Detail**

**Minimum Credit Requirement**: 51 credits

**Minimum Residence Credit Requirement**: 51 credits

**Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement**: Half of degree coursework (26 credits out of 51 total credits) must be completed graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university’s Course Guide (http://my.wisc.edu/CourseGuideRedirect/BrowseByTitle(http://my.wisc.edu/CourseGuideRedirect/BrowseByTitle/)).

**Overall Graduate GPA Requirement**: 3.00 GPA required.

**Other Grade Requirements**: No other grade requirements.

**Assessments and Examinations**: Doctoral students must complete written exams in two subfields before the end of the sixth semester. A dissertation proposal must be defended prior to the start of the seventh semester in the program.

**Language Requirements**: No language requirements.

**REQUIRED COURSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI SCI 800</td>
<td>Political Science as a Discipline and Profession (Must be done in the first semester)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI SCI 817</td>
<td>Empirical Methods of Political Inquiry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statistical Methodology Coursework-Graduate Level**: 3

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

**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.**

**Present one or more possible dissertation ideas to a committee with a minimum of two faculty members no later than September 15th of the 5th semester.**

**Complete the minor requirement.**

**Meet the minimum graduate credit requirement.**

**Fulfill any requirements specified by the student’s primary subfield, such as presenting at a workshop.**

**Maintain minimum of B average in coursework.**

**Remove all Incompletes before defending the dissertation proposal.**

**Produce an approved dissertation proposal before the start of the seventh semester.**

**Write, defend and deposit a thesis of an acceptable standard that makes an original contribution to knowledge.**

**Total Credits**: 51

POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School’s Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies...
beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the
degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can
be found below.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES
PRIOR COURSEWORK
Graduate Work from Other Institutions
With program approval, students may be allowed to count 9 credits
of graduate coursework from other institutions toward fulfillment of
the minor requirement. While satisfying the minor requirement, these
credits will not count toward meeting the minimum credit requirement.
Coursework earned ten years or more prior to admission to a doctoral
degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

UW–Madison Undergraduate
No credits from a UW–Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to
count toward the degree.

UW–Madison University Special
No credits from a UW–Madison University Special student career may
count toward the degree.

PROBATION
The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who
earned grades of BC, C, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course (300
or above), or grade of U in research credits. This review could result
in academic probation with a hold on future enrollment or in being
suspended from the Graduate School.

1. Good standing (progressing according to standards; any funding
guarantee remains in place).
2. Probation (not progressing according to standards but permitted
to enroll; loss of funding guarantee; specific plan with dates and
deadlines in place in regard to removal of probationary status).
3. Unsatisfactory progress (not progressing according to standards; not
permitted to enroll, dismissal, leave of absence or change of advisor
or program).

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE
All students are required to meet with their advisor to discuss the first
year review.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED
15 credits

TIME CONSTRAINTS
Doctoral degree students who have been absent for ten or more
consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their
absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students
completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that
coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

A candidate for a doctoral degree who fails to take the final oral
examination and deposit the dissertation within five years after passing
the preliminary examination may be required to take another preliminary
examination and to be admitted to candidacy a second time.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS
These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

• Bias or Hate Reporting (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-
reporting/)
• Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/
policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure)
• Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (https://
hr.wisc.edu/hib/)
  • Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (https://
facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/)
• Dean of Students Office (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/) (for all
students to seek grievance assistance and support)
• Employee Assistance (http://www.eao.wisc.edu/) (for personal
counseling and workplace consultation around communication and
conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-
doctoral students, faculty and staff)
• Employee Disability Resource Office (https://
employeeabilities.wisc.edu/) (for qualified employees or
applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
• Graduate School (https://grad.wisc.edu/) (for informal advice at any
level of review and for official appeals of program/departmental or
school/college grievance decisions)
• Office of Compliance (https://compliance.wisc.edu/) (for class
harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and
sexual violence)
• Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (https://
conduct.students.wisc.edu/) (for conflicts involving students)
• Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/)
  (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty
  and staff)
• Title IX (https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/) (for concerns about
discrimination)

Students should contact the department chair or program director with
questions about grievances. They may also contact the L&S Academic
Divisional Associate Deans, the L&S Associate Dean for Teaching and
Learning Administration, or the L&S Director of Human Resources.

OTHER
The Department currently guarantees at least five years of financial
support to all students admitted to the doctoral program, assuming they
are making satisfactory progress toward their degrees. This funding
may be in the form of fellowships, teaching assistantships, or project
assistantships. All appointments receive valuable fringe benefits such as
excellent health insurance and tuition remission.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES
Take advantage of the Graduate School’s professional development
resources (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/) to build skills, thrive academically,
and launch your career.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Master the state of existing research in two or more subfields of
political science.
2. Acquire expert knowledge of methods of political inquiry.
3. Design, conduct, and complete original research of substantive value to the field of political science that makes and original contribution to knowledge.

4. Master the communication of complex concepts to a range of audiences.

5. Demonstrate and foster ethical and professional conduct in research, teaching, and service.

**PEOPLE**

**Faculty:** Professors: Avramenko, Burden, Canon (Chair fall 2020), Cramer, Copelovitch, Kapust, Hendley, Herrera, Kydd, Marquez, Martin, Mayer, Owens, Pevehouse, Ringe, Schweber, Shelef, Straus (Chair starting spring 2021), Tripp, Weimer, Yackee, Weeks, Zumbrunnen; Associate Professors: Bhavnani, Powell, Renshon, Simmons, Tahk, Johnson; Assistant Professors: Brooke, Lei, Lo, Lindsay, Schwarze, Shalaby

More information can be found here: https://polisci.wisc.edu/faculty-2/