THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

THE GUIDE TO DOCTORAL STUDY

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

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March 2025

The Department of Political Science at the University of Iowa offers a rich program of graduate study that has as its foundation a group of faculty members who are committed to first-rate research and teaching. The Department of Political Science ranks among the best in the country in terms of scholarly quality as measured by faculty publications in the leading professional journals. The primary areas of expertise for our faculty are listed on our website.

Students receive graduate training through seminars, through collaborative work with other faculty, and through daily interaction with other students. The result is that graduates from the University of Iowa frequently enter the job market with publications in hand. According to our past experience, after obtaining the doctoral degree, graduates can expect to find employment in high quality colleges and universities.

Graduate students can choose from four fields of study: American Politics, International Politics, Comparative Politics, and Research Methods. The Department of Political Science at the University of Iowa offers comprehensive study in each of these fields, provides training in a variety of methodological and theoretical approaches, and provides opportunities for individualized learning programs. After having completed a sequence of study, each graduate student can expect to be prepared to teach and conduct research in three fields. Because of the importance of statistical methods for the conduct of political science research, the first year course curriculum includes a compulsory sequence in quantitative methods. Advanced graduate students have a wide array of seminars from which they can select and build a general program of study. The Department of Political Science at the University of Iowa focuses on training skilled researchers. Graduate students can expect to receive rigorous training and complete professional preparation.

Department rules and procedures described in this Guide, together with the general University rules set forth in the University of Iowa Operations Manual and the rules of the Graduate College set forth in the Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Graduate College, constitute the body of regulations which govern students pursuing a Ph.D. degree in Political Science.

1. Admissions Requirements

Because the number of positions available in this program is limited, the competition for available openings is high. Those not having majored in political science, however, are not at a disadvantage.

The deadline for application, to be considered for assistantships/fellowships, is January 7—all materials must be on file with the department.

Normal admission requirements include a bachelor's degree, an undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.3 on a four point scale (or its equivalent for foreign applicants), and three letters of recommendation from persons who can comment upon the applicant's academic ability and motivation. Foreign students whose native language is not English must achieve a TOEFL iBT score of at least 100. For applicants who have done graduate work elsewhere, we require a graduate grade point average of at least 3.5.

Because of the structure of our curriculum, new doctoral students must enter the program at the beginning of the fall semester in August.

2. Financial Awards

The Department makes financial awards (Departmental or University fellowships) to about six entering students each year. Pending funding available to the department, those students who do well will continue to receive financial assistance in years two, three, four, and five. During that time, most will serve as teaching assistants and in that capacity will lead discussion sections, grade examinations, and give occasional lectures to undergraduate classes. Some, however, will be invited to work as research assistants on a grant-funded faculty project.

The Department strives to ensure that all students making satisfactory progress toward the Ph.D. receive financial aid. However, awards may be terminated if a recipient is not satisfactorily performing all duties connected with the appointment or stops making satisfactory progress toward a graduate degree. A student who fails to maintain "good standing" (see the section on Good Standing, Satisfactory Progress, Probation below) is not making satisfactory progress toward a degree.

3. Registration Requirement

The department expects a candidate to complete at least thirty-nine semester hours while registered in the University of Iowa Graduate College. Part of this registration must be spent in full-time involvement in one's discipline at this University: beyond the first 48 semester hours of graduate work, students must complete an additional 12 semester hours in their third year. All doctoral programs will contain a minimum of 72 semester hours of graduate work. (See the Graduate College Manual for more information: https://grad.uiowa.edu/academics/manual).

4. Students with Disabilities

Equal access to education is achieved when barriers to learning are removed and students with disabilities are allowed to compete solely on the basis of their academic skills and abilities. Students with disabilities who need accommodations should contact SDS at 141 University Capitol Center. Students will need to submit a Request for Services and Documentation Review form and the appropriate documentation to SDS. After determining what accommodations are judged reasonable, the SDS office provides the student with a Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) form. The student should also meet with the instructor (or exam committee chair or dissertation committee chair or the relevant faculty member) to provide him or her with a copy of the SAAR form and to make any necessary arrangements for the accommodations. See the Students with Disabilities Website: https://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/.

5. Intellectual Environment and Culture Within the Department

The Department of Political Science is proud of its record of promoting rich intellectual interchange, including frequent research collaboration, among its members. This environment is critical for the department to fulfill its learning mission. The department can only function well when its students, staff and faculty enjoy a supportive and respectful environment. Discrimination, harassment or disparagement directed at a person or group endanger the unit's mission, including its ability to provide graduate students with quality education and professional training. The department is committed to ensuring that interactions among its members remain supportive and respectful. In addition to the rules and procedures described in this Guide, students are governed by the University of Iowa's Code of Student Life and its Human Rights Policy, which provide all students with a series of rights as well as responsibilities. Violations of these University policies are also violations of departmental policy and can be the basis for sanctions, including probation or dismissal.

6. Curricular Requirements

The following courses are required during the first year of graduate study.

Fall semester:

- POLI:5000 Political Analysis 4 s.h.
- POLI:5001 Introductory Methodology 4 s.h.

Spring semester:

- POLI:5003 Intermediate Methodology 4 s.h.

The following course is required during the second year of study:

- POLI:7003 Advanced Methods 4 s.h.

Students must complete at the earliest opportunity the 5000-level course in the fields in which they will take qualifying examinations (i.e. 5100 American Politics, 5400 Comparative Politics, 5500 International Politics). For example, students choosing International Relations as a subfield will complete POLI:5500 before taking the qualifying examination in International Relations.

The University requires that graduate students receive training in the responsible conduct of research prior to beginning a research assistantship (https://grad.uiowa.edu/postdocs/training-rcr). They do this by completing online CITI training and then enrolling on a satisfactory-unsatisfactory basis in POLI:7270, Responsible Research in Political Science. Generally, students will do this during their first year.

- POLI:7270 Responsible Research in Political Science 1 s.h.

Graduate students are expected to take at least twelve hours of course work per semester through their second year of graduate study. This will normally be in regularly scheduled courses (rather than readings courses).

During the third year they are expected to take a minimum of twelve hours of regularly scheduled course work. Readings courses should be limited to the second semester of the third year.

Doctoral students are limited to 12 hours of credit in readings courses (not counting hours accumulated in summer terms, when readings courses are often all that is available).

Graduate students in political science earn credit hours only in those courses offered specifically for graduate students. In Political Science that means courses numbered 5000 and above.

6.1 The Quantitative Methods Requirement

All doctoral students must demonstrate at least minimal competence in quantitative methods. This is achieved by earning no lower than a B in each of POLI:5001, POLI:5003, and POLI:7003. Students who do not meet this requirement must satisfy it by taking a substitute course selected by faculty members who teach the quantitative methods courses.

6.2 Ph.D. Post-Comprehensive Registration

Graduate College regulations require that a student be registered each semester after passing the comprehensive examination until the degree is awarded, and that this registration "accurately reflect the amount and type of work undertaken, the use of University facilities, and the amount of consultation with the faculty." This normally means that after passing the comprehensive examination, students doing their dissertation research should register in POLI:7910, Ph.D. Dissertation, (using the faculty instructor number of their dissertation advisor as the section number for the course) for the number of hours normally considered a full load for persons in their status.

**Short Hours Form
Graduate students may be exempt from FICA tax if their department completes a Short Hours Form and files that form with the Registrar's Office. To obtain the Short Hours Form, departments should call the Verification Department at the Registrar's Office, 335-0229. For more information about Student FICA tax exemption, please view the Payroll Tax Information website.

6.4 Doctoral Dissertation

The dissertation represents the final stage of doctoral study. Its purpose is to show that the student can do important original research. No more than 30 semester hours of credit (POLI:7910) are granted for the preparation of dissertations. The regulations governing thesis format and procedures for its submission are set forth by the Graduate College: https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/theses-and-dissertations.

7. Advising and Program Planning

All graduate students should formulate their academic plans, long-term and semester-by- semester, in consultation with their faculty advisor. The Director of Graduate Study (DGS) is faculty advisor for first

year students. However, by the end of the second semester of study, each student should choose a faculty advisor who is in the area of the student's primary interest.

Students are encouraged to seek advice and information about any aspect of their program and work from any relevant faculty member as their studies continue.

8. Student Evaluation

8.1 Course Grades and Instructors' Evaluation Reports

Grades in graduate courses can run from A through F, but the meaning of each grade is not the same as that found at the undergraduate level. Any grade below B represents an inadequate performance. Although some variance occurs from instructor to instructor, a student is well advised to regard A- as the minimum grade indicating good performance in a class.

Course work is expected to be completed in a timely manner, that is, by the end of the semester. This expectation should only be set aside in unusual circumstances. In such instances, students may be assigned an Incomplete. Normally, incompletes must be removed during the student's next semester of registration by the date established in the academic calendar, or the incomplete automatically becomes an F. Grades of F can result in a student being placed on academic probation.

Instructors in graduate courses submit, in addition to a letter grade, an individual written report on the student's performance. These reports become a part of the student's departmental file and collectively provide an important basis for future guidance and evaluation by advisors and committees.

The work of students employed as teaching assistants is similarly evaluated at the end of each semester by the faculty member in charge of the course or research activity to which the student is assigned.

As required by the University Operations Manual, first time teaching assistants leading their own discussion sections need to be evaluated by the eighth week of class. Thus, by the eighth week of class, instructors that have a graduate teaching assistant (GTA) are to submit an evaluation of their first time GTA to the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS). This evaluation should include a discussion of the responsibilities of the GTA, the oral communication competence of the GTA, and an evaluation of the teaching competence of the GTA. Instructors may use a variety of methods to evaluate first time GTAs, including a recommended classroom observation. If the instructor's evaluation indicates that the GTA needs assistance, the DGS and instructor will develop a plan for assisting the GTA.

8.2 First-Year Evaluation

After the completion of one academic year of study, the record of each student is evaluated. The evaluation is conducted by a committee made up of all faculty members with whom the student has taken classes or served as a research or teaching assistant. If the student involved does not already have an M.A. from another institution, the committee will choose among four alternatives: (1) to advance the student into the Ph.D. program without the need for additional course work; (2) to postpone the decision concerning the Ph.D. program until additional course work (as specified by the committee) is completed; (3) to allow the

student to complete a terminal MA (with no continuance in the Ph.D. program); or (4) to refuse the student further enrollment in the graduate program. If the student involved has an M.A. from another institution, the committee's choices normally will be limited to the first and fourth of the above alternatives.

9. Good Standing, Satisfactory Progress, Probation

To be eligible for the Ph.D. degree a student must be in "good standing" (and must be registered at the University in the semester during which the degree is to be awarded). Good standing requires that a doctoral student show promise of scholarly distinction by maintaining high-quality written work and by achieving beyond that indicated by a grade-point minimum of 3.4. In addition, graduate students in political science must meet the general requirements of the Graduate College.

Students may be placed on probation if they fail to show promise of scholarly distinction and achievement. Consequences of probation include:

1. Ineligibility to take examinations for the Ph.D;
2. Ineligibility for admission to candidacy for an advanced degree;
3. Ineligibility for renewal, and possible termination, of financial awards; and
4. Dismissal from the graduate program if probation continues for two consecutive semesters following that in which the deficiency occurred. (Summer sessions do not count for this purpose).

Students on probation will be returned to good standing immediately, if probation was for failure to maintain a satisfactory grade-point average and if that average—both semester and cumulative—is raised to the required level in the semester following that which led to probation; or at the discretion of the department if probation was for failure to show promise of scholarly distinction and achievement.

9.1 Dismissal and Review

The Director of Graduate Study, on behalf of the Department, will advise a student immediately by letter of any decision placing the student on probation, denying the student permission to enroll for further graduate study (e.g., following recommendation by a First-Year Evaluation Committee), or dismissing the student from the graduate program. The letter will state clearly the reasons for any action terminating the student's enrollment.

It is the right of every student receiving such notification to seek further clarification from individual instructors, members of any examining committee concerned, the Director of Graduate Study, and the Chair of the Department. If after these informal discussions the student believes the decision to have been unjust, that student may ask for and receive a formal review of the decision. The student must request such a formal review in a letter to the Department Chair outlining the grievances in detail and describing any prior informal efforts to secure redress. The student's letter should also nominate two faculty members and two political science graduate students to constitute half of an ad hoc panel described below. Upon receipt of such a request, the Department Chair solicits nominations for two additional faculty members and two political science graduate students to the ad hoc panel from the Director of Graduate Study. Four members of an ad hoc review committee are selected from the eight members of the panel as follows: the student

selects one faculty member and one graduate student from the panel members nominated by the Director of Graduate Study; similarly, the Director of Graduate Study selects one faculty member and one graduate student from the panel members nominated by the graduate student. The Department Chair, ex officio, is the chair and fifth member of the ad hoc review committee, unless the student requests that some other department member be chair. In that case, the Department Chair appoints as review committee chair one of two department members nominated by the student.

The committee must be constituted expeditiously, and its chair must convene the committee and conduct its business as quickly as possible. Normally it is expected that the review process will be completed within two weeks of formal initiation by the student. The student requesting the review shall have the opportunity to discuss the grievances directly with the committee and to provide it any supporting material relevant to its review. The committee shall itself determine what additional information or consultation is necessary to complete its review.

Upon review of all the relevant information, the ad hoc review committee communicates its recommendations and its reasoning in writing to the student and to the Department. Final decision rests with the faculty of the Department.

10. Qualifying Examinations and Comprehensive Examination

Qualifying examinations are conducted by committees appointed for that purpose by the Director of Graduate Study in consultation with field faculty.

For the purpose of qualifying examinations, political science is divided into four subfields:

1. American Politics
2. International Politics
3. Comparative Politics
4. Research Methods (Theoretical or Applied)

Candidates must have a minimum of three courses in the fields in which they choose to be examined. Individual courses cannot be used to "double count" as satisfying two field requirements, e.g., research methods and international relations. Students must complete all courses required for a field before they may take the qualifying examination in that field. No course for which the student has an incomplete can be counted towards meeting a field requirement until the course is completed with a passing grade.

Students taking the qualifying exam in the Methods field must meet additional requirements. In addition to the required sequence, students must complete two courses, which must be approved by the Methods Committee. Courses in formal theory (e.g., 5004, 7501) may be approved to meet this requirement as well. Further, a student must have at least a 3.4 GPA in the core methods sequence courses to enter this field.

There are two tiers of fields. Major fields certify readiness for teaching and research; minor fields satisfied by completion of coursework certify readiness for teaching but not necessarily research. Students must complete at least three fields, at least two of them major, in order to qualify for writing a Ph.D. dissertation. Course requirements as stated above must be met in all fields.

A student who wishes to be examined in a specialty field outside of the four standard fields of political science petitions the Department no later than the third semester of residence, and explains why this specialty field is crucial to the student's doctoral program. The DGS determines on a case-by-case basis whether a specialty field is acceptable after consulting with the Graduate Committee and the student's advisors. In each case, the DGS will report to the Department his or her decision. If the specialty field is approved, the qualifying examination committee must include a faculty member from the department in which the specialty field is based and at least one faculty member from inside the Department of Political Science. The qualifying exam for an approved specialty field exam can have no substantive overlap with any other qualifying exam taken by that student.

Candidates for the Ph.D. must pass qualifying examinations in two of the four sub-fields listed above and complete coursework in a third field prior to taking the comprehensive examination (oral defense of the dissertation proposal). The requirements for the third field are satisfied by completing the course requirements necessary to sit for that field's qualifying exam. Currently, this means satisfactorily completing three courses, with the exception of the methods field, which requires two courses in addition to the required courses.

Qualifying exams will consist of a written exam composed by a Qualifying Exam Committee for that field; fields may impose additional requirements listed below. As staffing allows, each qualifying exam committee will consist of a chair and two other members from that field appointed by the Director of Graduate Study in consultation with field faculty. Questions may be submitted by any faculty member from that field. Concentration and Specialty field exceptions are described below.

Procedures and additional requirements for the qualifying examinations in the different fields follow:

10.1A American Politics:

The qualifying examination will be a closed-book, on campus examination. Students are not allowed to consult any notes or outside resources of any kind during the examination. The Department will provide the computers used by students to compose their answers. The computers will lack internet or email access. Students may write their answers by hand only if they provide adequate justification.

The exam will consist of three sections: Behavior, Institutions, and Theory and Methodology. The Behavior and Institutions sections will each consist of three questions. The Theory and Methodology section will consist of two questions. Students will answer one question from each of the three sections.

The exam will be conducted over a 6 hour and 45 minute period (e.g., 9 a.m.-3:45 p.m.).Students will receive hard copies of the questions from the Behavior and Institutions sections and have up to four hours to answer one question from each section. The students will then have a 45 minute break for lunch or any other purpose. When they return they will receive a hard copy of the Theory and Methodology section's questions and have two hours to answer one of them.

Students will turn in their answers to the first two sections before they take their break and will turn in their third answer at the end of the exam period.

The members of the American politics field will proctor the qualifying examination.

10.1B International Politics:

The qualifying examination will be a take-home examination. It will be available at 8:00 AM and is due by 8:00 PM of the following day. The exam must be typed. You will be permitted to use whatever notes, references, etc. that you wish. The questions will cover broad theoretical concepts and debates in the field of International Relations, as well as topical areas such as international conflict and cooperation, international political economy, foreign policy, international organizations, and methodology. The international politics faculty will expect a correspondingly higher level of detail in the essay answers than has generally been possible in the four-hour format.

10.1C Comparative Politics:

The Comparative Politics qualifying exam will have two components, a take-home essay and a research paper.

1. The take-home essay

The first component is an open-book take-home essay, to be completed in eight hours over two days. At the start of that two-day period, each student will be given a recently published article reporting on comparative politics research along with a list of questions concerning the article. In their essay, students will critically assess key features of the research being reported in the article by responding to these questions. The full list of questions is available on the department's ICON site, "Political Science Collaboration."

Students will not know which article they will receive until the start of the exam. Each student taking the exam will receive a different article. This component of the exam will occur during the same week as the other qualifying exams. The chair of the exam committee will select the article for each student from among those published in a strong disciplinary or subfield journal in the recent period, including those that have not yet been assigned volume and issue numbers ("FirstView" or equivalent).

2. The research paper

The second component requires students to submit a research paper they have written (sole authored). This paper should be of sufficient quality to submit for publication and should be in complete form: with references, appendices, etc. The paper is due one week before the Monday of the qualifying exam week. The paper may be on any topic in the subfield of comparative politics, that is, any topic seeking to describe or explain some aspect of domestic politics anywhere in the world through explicit or implicit comparison with domestic politics elsewhere. The paper should not, however, be based primarily on questions or literatures associated with a different subfield, such as single-country studies of the United States or works seeking to describe or explain subnational political violence.

Approval of topic

Students taking the qualifying exam in a given fall semester must provide members of the exam committee by the prior May 31 with a description no longer than one page of the paper they propose to submit in August. This should specify their research question, the country or countries to be examined,

the likely data source(s), and the comparative logic to be employed. All members of the committee will review this within a week and decide whether to approve it. If not approved, the chair of the exam committee will work with the student to identify an acceptable topic.

Journal selection

At the same time the paper is turned in, in August, students must provide a cover sheet of no more than one page noting the journal to which the paper will be submitted and explaining what about the paper's question, data, methods, or findings make it appropriate for that journal, with reference to the journal's stated aims and scope or what has been published there in recent years. Depending on the paper, a wide range of journals can be appropriate:

- general journals (APSR, AJPS, JOP, BJPS, PRQ, SSQ, PSRM, EPSR, Research & Politics, etc.)
- thematic journals (like Politics and Gender, Political Behavior, POQ, or LSQ)
- subfield journals (CPS and CP)
- those mainly IR journals that span, to various degrees, into CP (World Politics, ISQ, and IO)
- thematic subfield journals (such as Party Politics, Electoral Studies, Democratization, and SCID)
- area- or country-specific political science journals (like EJPR or Latin American Politics and Society)
- area- or country-specific interdisciplinary journals (such as the LARR or The China Journal)

Assessment of the paper

The exam committee will read the submitted papers and cover sheets within two weeks. In rare cases, the committee may determine that the paper is unsatisfactory and opt not to hold a defense. In such a case, the student will be informed and provided with a list of necessary revisions. In other cases, an oral defense of the paper will be scheduled. The scheduling of the oral defense does not by itself indicate that the outcome of the defense will be a pass.

The oral defense

The purpose of the oral defense will be for the student to defend intelligently the choices they made regarding theory, research design, data, methods, and conclusions. Note: A good way to prepare for the defense is to answer the questions in parts A-C of the take-home exam with reference to your own paper. The points brought out during the defense will help the exam committee decide if the paper is ready to be submitted to a journal with only minor changes, the criterion for passing.

Passing the exam

Both components of the exam will be graded on a pass/fail basis. The students must pass both. If they fail either or both, they must re-do the failed component(s) in the next semester the exam is offered. Students who fail the first component will receive a different article to analyze for the second attempt. Those who fail the second component will receive a detailed list of necessary revisions within a week of the defense. They will need to improve the paper in response to that list and be prepared to defend the revised version during the next semester's exam period. In exemplary cases, the committee has the option to grade an exam as a whole as "pass with distinction."

10.1D Research Methods:

The methods exam will consist of three sections:

1. A written exam, worth 50%.
2. An original research paper, worth 30%.

3. An oral exam, worth 20%.

The written exam will be a five-hour, closed-book, on campus examination. Students are not allowed to consult any notes or outside resources of any kind during the examination. The Department will provide the computers used by students who choose to compose their answers on computers. The computers will lack internet or email access. The members of the Research Methods field will proctor the written part of the qualifying examination. The written exam will be divided into three sections: Statistics and probability theory; linear regression and basic discrete choice models; and advanced methods and topics in methods. When appropriate, questions related to formal theory would appear in the advanced methods section.

The paper should focus on a suitable methodological topic. Students are encouraged, but not required, to examine a method that they plan to incorporate into their dissertation or into a free-standing, original research paper. Students may produce new and improved iterations of papers previously submitted for classes. Typically, the paper should clearly and thoroughly address the relevant methodological topic and explain how it improves our understanding of political processes. The focus on one methodology does not exempt the paper from other methodological considerations, such as basic research design.

Students are encouraged to discuss the research paper component with members of the committee and the field in advance and to circulate drafts of their papers before final submission. The paper is due one week before the written exam and should be submitted electronically by 5pm to the members of the exam committee.

The oral exam will address, but is not limited to, materials related to the written exam and to the paper. The goal of the oral exam is to follow up on questions arising from the written exam and the paper, but also to assess the student's knowledge in a different environment. Oral exams will be scheduled before the written exam occurs to take place as soon possible after grades on the written exam and paper have been submitted. Typically, oral exams will be completed within a week following the submission of grades for the written exam and paper components.

Progressing to the oral exam requires satisfactory performance on the written section and the paper. The committee may therefore decide to cancel the oral exam after grading the first two components.

10.1E Outside Field:

If approved by the Director of Graduate Studies, students may take a qualifying examination in an outside (specialty) field, but the qualifying exam for an approved outside field exam should have no overlap with any other exam taken by that student—i.e., the part of the outside field which overlaps with the inside field should not be asked about in the inside field exam. The examination format will be determined when the student submits the request to take the qualifying examination.

10.2 Timing and Composition of Qualifying Exams

Qualifying exams for each field will be composed by a Qualifying Exam Committee for that field. As staffing allows, each qualifying exam committee will consist of a chair and two other members from that field appointed by the Director of Graduate study in consultation with field faculty. Whenever possible, committees will be formed and students will indicate their intention to sit for an exam by the end of the

previous semester. Questions may be submitted by any faculty member from that field. Concentration and Specialty field exceptions are described below. Students are encouraged to consult with members of the committee and the field in general as they prepare for the exam.

Written qualifying examinations will be offered twice each year, normally once in the fall semester and once in the spring semester. The fall and spring exams will normally occur during the first week of the semester.

In the fifth semester (or fall of the third year), students are required to take their two qualifying field examinations. Exceptions will be provided for medical and exceptional reasons at the discretion of the DGS. It is expected that students will complete their qualifying examinations by the end of their fifth semester in the program and no later than the sixth semester.

10.3 Concentration Within a Field

Students may declare a subfield within one field as their area of concentration. That declaration ensures that the students will have the opportunity to answer at least one question in that subfield. The qualifying exam committee for each field with a declared concentration will include at least one faculty member with expertise in that concentration.

10.4 Grading of Exams

Students' answers on the exam will be graded by the qualifying exam committee for each field. The student's written component will receive a grade of "pass with distinction," "pass," "fail pending revisions," or "fail" based on their written answers. If desired, the committee may issue a call to oral examination in order to determine a final grade. For those fields with a required oral component, the committee members will use the same scheme to assign a final grade for the entire exam after the completion of the oral exam. At the discretion of the committee, the required oral examination may be set aside when all committee members give grades of "fail" for the written component and the resulting final grade for the entire exam will also be "fail." Students who fail any qualifying exam will be allowed to retake it one time, normally in the next semester. A second failure of any field exam constitutes grounds for dismissal from the program.

The exam committee chair shall arrange for written revisions or an oral exam as needed. When the committee fails an exam pending further work, the committee chair shall give the student written guidance about the corrections that the committee requires. Written revisions and oral exams should normally be completed within two weeks of the student having received his or her written instructions.

If a student fails to make adequate written corrections or fails to orally demonstrate adequate knowledge and ability, the student will have failed the exam. The student will have no further recourse within that examination cycle.

11. Comprehensive Exam (Dissertation Proposal) Process

After successfully completing the qualifying exams, students begin the comprehensive exam process. The

student must complete a dissertation proposal and successfully defend it to a comprehensive examination committee. The comprehensive examination committee continues on as the student's dissertation committee. The Director of Graduate Study works with students and their dissertation committees of faculty members to insure the timely completion of this requirement. See below for further details.

11.1 Composition of Comprehensive/Dissertation Committee

Each student shall compose a committee of at least four faculty members, three from within the Department of Political Science and one outside member. This committee will then serve as the final Ph.D. defense committee. The committee is approved by the Director of Graduate Study and by the Graduate College.

11.2 Timing of Dissertation Proposal

Following successful completion of the qualifying examination requirements, students are expected to complete an oral defense of their dissertation proposal no later than the end of the first semester of their fourth year and are encouraged to complete it by the end of the second semester of their third year. Students who do not complete an oral defense of their dissertation proposal by the end of the first semester of their fourth year will be considered not to be making adequate progress towards the degree. As discussed in the section on Good Standing, this could result in a variety of consequences. For example, at the discretion of the DEO, a student's funding from the department may be terminated if a dissertation proposal is not defended by the end of the second semester of their fourth year. Exceptions will be granted at the discretion of the DEO for extreme circumstances, such as medical reasons or the need for specialized training to conduct research for the dissertation.

11.3 Evaluation of Dissertation Proposal

The student begins work on her or his dissertation after successfully completing the qualifying examinations and the comprehensive examination (oral evaluation of the dissertation proposal), working toward the final stage of the doctoral program, which is defense of the dissertation.

Following successful completion of all three field qualifying examinations, the student shall submit the dissertation proposal to the advisor and comprehensive exam committee for an oral defense. Members of the committee also assess the student's knowledge of scholarship relevant to the dissertation. Upon a successful oral defense a report is submitted to the Graduate College by the comprehensive exam committee as to whether the student passes, fails or passes with reservations all aspects of the examination.

A grade of "satisfactory with reservations" indicates that the performance was marginal in a significant way and will be considered satisfactory only after the student fulfills a requirement set by the committee, specific to that deficiency. This requirement may pertain to the dissertation proposal or any scholarship related to the dissertation. Until the reservations are resolved, progress on the dissertation will be held up. Failing to address the reservations within three months will be deemed unsatisfactory progress and loss of financial support.

11.4 Final Ph.D. Dissertation Defense

Before the final deposit of the dissertation with the Graduate College (see the Graduate College Thesis Manual for official dissertation formatting instructions, available only on their website: http://www.grad.uiowa.edu/theses-and-dissertations), the candidate must pass an oral examination by her or his dissertation defense committee (the comprehensive exam committee). The examination is open to the public. It covers the candidate's doctoral dissertation and research and all matters relating to it. It must be taken no later than five years after passing the comprehensive examination. Failure to meet this deadline entails the re-examination of the candidate to determine the student's qualifications for the final dissertation defense. The final defense is graded as satisfactory or unsatisfactory. The requirements for the doctoral degree are met after first passing this dissertation defense and then making the final dissertation deposit with the Graduate College.

Note: Deadlines for degree application, final examination, and final thesis deposit are noted on the Graduate College website and are available from the Registrar's Office.
(http://grad.admissions.uiowa.edu//academics/political-science-ma-or-phd)
(http://www.registrar.uiowa.edu/Calendars/AcademicDeadlines/tabid/67/Default.aspx)

12. Graduate Course Offerings

12.1 Core Graduate Courses

- **POLI:5000** Introduction to Political Analysis 4 s.h. — Conceptual problems of political analysis; empirical research strategies and philosophy of science.
- **POLI:5001** Introductory Methodology 4 s.h. — Introduction to quantitative techniques in political science. Selected topics include set theory, probability distributions, estimation and testing. Emphasis will be placed on establishing the mathematical prerequisites for doing more advanced quantitative work in political science.
- **POLI:5100** American Politics 4 s.h. — Review and analysis of major literature of American politics, stressing comparative, systemic, and behavioral studies.
- **POLI:5400** Comparative Politics 4 s.h. — Current approaches to comparative analysis of political systems; special attention to conceptual and other methodological issues.
- **POLI:5500** International Politics 4 s.h. — Emphasizes various approaches to the study of international politics

12.2 Advanced Graduate Courses

- **POLI:5003** Intermediate Methodology 4 s.h. — Analytical techniques of data analysis; statistical models, and relationship of models to hypotheses to be tested. Prerequisite: one semester of intermediate statistics.
- **POLI:5700** Intro to Formal Models in Political Science 4 s.h. -- Use of formal mathematical models; current modeling techniques, applications in American politics, comparative politics, international politics.
- **POLI:7002** Topics in Methodology 4 s.h. — Application of advanced statistical techniques in political science; limited dependent variable regression techniques, simulation methods, missing data techniques, event history/rare events analysis and maximum likelihood, development and applications

of formal models, and topics tailored to students' research; focus on learning how and when to apply these techniques. Repeatable with consent of instructor.

- **POLI:7003** Advanced Methodology 4 s.h. — Introduction to regression techniques for limited dependent and qualitative variables in political science. Topics include logit, probit, multinomial logit and probit, ordered logit and probit, event history models and event count models. Emphasis will be on understanding how and when to apply these models when doing quantitative work in political science.
- **POLI:7150** Problems in American Politics 4 s.h. — Selected problems in the study of the American political system, including structures, functions, and behavior. May be repeated with consent of instructor.
- **POLI:7202** Public Opinion and Electoral Behavior 4 s.h. — Analysis of political attitudes and beliefs in mass publics; voting behavior, functioning of electoral systems.
- **POLI:7450** Problems of Comparative Politics 4 s.h. — Selected problems in comparative analysis of politics. May be repeated with consent of instructor.
- **POLI:7502** International Systems and Global Governance 4 s.h.— Literature of international systems and international organization; major schools of thought in international relations theory, their utility in explaining evolution of the international system and recent developments in international organization and global governance.
- **POLI:7503** International Conflict and Cooperation 4 s.h. — Recent theoretical and empirical debates in international relations literature; emphasis on formal and quantitative research.
- **POLI:7550** Problems in International Politics 4 s.h.— Intensive examination of selected issues of international politics, emphasizing problems of theoretical analysis. May be repeated with consent of instructor
- **POLI:7900** Readings Tutorial arr. — Independent individual study. Prerequisite: consent of supervising faculty member. May be repeated.
- **POLI:7901** Readings Tutorial arr.— Individual training in applied research. May be repeated with consent of instructor. Consent of supervising faculty member required.
- **POLI:7910** Ph.D. Dissertation arr. — Consent of supervising faculty member required.