

POLITICAL SCIENCE (MA, PHD)

The Department of Political Science offers a graduate program leading to the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) and the 5th Year Master of Arts (M.A.). Only UConn undergraduates are eligible to enter the Master's program. The graduate curriculum is designed to serve the individual needs of students as they prepare for the variety of opportunities that the field offers for teaching, research and administrative positions in the public and private sectors. Emphasis is placed on developing an understanding of the dynamics and institutions of political life and learning the methods necessary for empirical and qualitative research and analysis. The Ph.D. program is designed to be completed in five years, with the first four-five semesters focused on coursework, the third year devoted to preparing for and passing qualifying examinations and preparing the dissertation prospectus, and the final one-two years on research and completion of the dissertation. In addition to the Graduate School requirements, the graduate programs in Political Science have the following requirements.

5th Year Master of Arts

Up to 12 credits of approved graduate coursework included on the student's undergraduate plan of study can also be used toward both the B.A. and M.A. Plans of Study.

Required Courses

All 5th year students must take:

Course	Title	Credits
POLS 5000	Independent Study in Political Science	3
POLS 5605	Seminar in Quantitative Methods of Political Science	3
POLS 5615	Seminar in Qualitative Methods of Political Science	3
POLS 5620	Research Design and Development	3
POLS 5625	Political Science Professional Development	3
Select at least two courses in one of the five POLS subfields:		6
American Politics		
Comparative Politics		
International Relations		
Political Theory		
Public Law		
Three other courses the student's choosing that are approved by their major advisor		9
Total Credits		30

Research Presentation

All 5th Year POLS Master's students must present the research conducted in POLS 5000 Independent Study in Political Science before a three-person faculty committee before the end of their final semester.

Doctor of Philosophy

All students are required to take and pass examinations in two of the five subfields (American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political Theory, and Public Law). The Ph.D. in Political Science

does not have a related area or foreign language requirement. The course requirements are listed below.

Course	Title	Credits
American Politics		
POLS 5406	Special Topics in American Politics	3
POLS 5407	American Political Institutions and Policy	3
POLS 5408	American Political Behavior	3
POLS 5409	American Race, Gender and Ethnic Politics	3
Comparative Politics		
At least four graduate-level courses in Comparative Politics		12
International Relations		
POLS 5300	Proseminar in International Relations	3
Four other graduate-level International Relations courses		12
Political Theory		
POLS 5100	Proseminar in Political Theory	3
At least four graduate courses from Political Theory		12
Public Law		
POLS 5505	Seminar in Public Law	3
POLS 5510	Judicial Decision-Making	3
POLS 5515	Constitutional Interpretation	3
POLS 5010	Investigation of Special Topics in Political Science	1-3
or POLS 5010	Investigation of Special Topics in Political Science	

Additional Doctor of Philosophy Requirements

In addition, all Ph.D. students must successfully complete POLS 5600 Nature of Political Inquiry, POLS 5605 Seminar in Quantitative Methods of Political Science, POLS 5615 Seminar in Qualitative Methods of Political Science; and one advanced methods elective approved by their major advisor. Finally, all POLS Ph.D. students must enroll in GRAD 6950 Doctoral Dissertation Research in their first, second, third, and fourth semesters. Students must earn an average grade of "B" in their coursework.

Qualifying Examinations

Students must take and pass examinations in two subfields, one of which is also their dissertation subfield.

Dissertation Prospectus

The prospectus will be developed in conjunction with and approved by the student's dissertation committee, which must include at least three members of the Political Science graduate faculty. Students must defend their prospectus orally to their dissertation committee. The Graduate School requires that a total of five people must approve the prospectus document, signing off on its acceptability. These five people should be a combination of committee members and/or external reviewers. Students are expected to defend the prospectus within six months of passing their Ph.D. examinations. Students who fail to do this will be notified by the Director Graduate Studies, alerting them that they are in violation of this policy while the Department Head will notify their major advisor. Reason(s) for the student's non-adherence to the timeline will be identified for the purpose of legitimizing the delay and/or devising and implementing measures to expedite progress. Two-month extensions may be granted in the event that reasonable progress is being made towards completion of the prospectus. If a student does not complete the prospectus in a timely manner, their standing in the program will have to

be considered, which may entail losing their funding in the department's graduate program.

Dissertation

When the major advisor and student agree that the dissertation is complete, the major advisor will organize a public defense. The full dissertation committee and any external readers must be present.