

POLITICAL SCIENCE, PHD

The Graduate Program in Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania reflects the methodological diversity of the discipline. The department has significant strengths in each of the four major subfields in the discipline: American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory.

Courses in each of the four substantive fields clarify important intellectual and conceptual issues and help students learn how to formulate an original research project. Courses in both quantitative and qualitative research methods provide students with cutting-edge tools they can use to conduct their research.

The Ph.D. program includes course work, a teaching requirement, a second-year paper, a preliminary examination, and the preparation and defense of a dissertation. Candidates completing the Ph.D. degree typically pursue careers in academia, government service, and the private sector.

For more information: <http://www.sas.upenn.edu/polisci/content/graduate-program> (<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/polisci/content/graduate-program/>)

Required Courses

Code	Title	Course Units
Requirements		
PSCI 6800	Advanced Statistical Analysis ¹	1
Or another Advanced Statistical Analysis course or comparable course with approval from the Graduate Group		
3 Classes each in Two Subfields:		6
American Politics: Attribute HDPA (http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/hdpa/)		
Comparative Politics: Attribute HDPC (http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/hdpc/)		
International Relations: Attribute HDPI (http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/hdpi/)		
Political Theory: Attribute HDPT (http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/hdpt/)		
8 Electives chosen in consultation with advisor ²		8
<i>Teaching Requirement</i>		
4 semesters of teaching are required		
Total Course Units		15

University PhD Benchmarks

In addition to Program requirements, the following milestones must be completed:

Code	Title	Course Units
	Qualifying Evaluation	
	Candidacy Examination	
	Dissertation Defense/Oral Exam	
	Dissertation Deposit	

For more information view the University's Academic Rules for PhD Programs (<http://catalog.upenn.edu/pennbook/academic-rules-phd/>).

¹ Students pursuing Political Theory as their Primary Subfield are not required to take PSCI 6800. They may take an additional elective instead.

² Students may pursue a Third Thematic Field within their elective coursework. Please see advisor for guidance. All PSCI, COMM, and STAT courses count. Courses taken in other subjects require Graduate Chair approval.

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2025 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.