

*DEPARTMENT*  
*OF*  
*POLITICAL SCIENCE*  
*and*  
*INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS*



**GRADUATE HANDBOOK**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

	Page
<b>Introduction</b>	1
<b>GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATE PROGRAMS</b>	
Normal Progress Toward Degree	2
Financial Aid	2
Advisement	3
<b>MASTER OF ARTS</b>	
Required Courses	3
Tracks and Track Courses	3
Writing Requirement	5
<b>DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY</b>	
Admission Requirements	5
Secondary Track	6
Research Seminar	6
PhD Qualifying Examination	6
Additional Course Requirements	6
Language Requirement	6
Comprehensive Examination	6
Admission to Candidacy Examination	7
The Dissertation	8
Teaching Experience	9

## INTRODUCTION

The Department of Political Science and International Relations offers both master's and doctoral degrees. The graduate program is a Ph.D. focused program consisting of coursework during the first five semesters followed by dissertation research and writing. A limited number of students interested in a terminal master's degree will be admitted to a master's track. The master's degree is a two-year, 38 credit hour program. The Ph.D. program is a 62 credit hour program. Students admitted to the master's track but who wish to pursue the Ph.D. degree may apply to the Ph.D. program during their second year of the graduate program.

Graduate study in the department is organized around the theme of *global governance*. Global governance may be defined as an approach to politics and public policy that transcends the nation-state and its formal institutions of government. It is *global* because it recognizes that virtually all problems on the public agenda - environment, public health, crime, migration, etc - transcend in their scope, source, and solution national boundaries. It is *governance* (rather than "government") because non-formal, non-state actors --nongovernmental organization, interest groups, professional associations, and so forth--have increasingly been accorded legitimacy in rule-making and rule-enforcement. The global governance perspective does not insist that the traditional nation-state has collapsed, or even that such a collapse is inevitable. It does suggest, however, that we will increasingly live in a world characterized by powerful tensions between the formal governmental institutions of individual nation-states on the one hand and a vast array of transnational, non-state forces on the other. It is this tension, with each set of forces laying claim to political legitimacy, that will shape the politics of the next century.

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS and Ph.D. PROGRAMS

### A. Admission Requirements

Applicants for financial aid should submit completed applications by February 1. Except for unusual circumstances, all other completed applications should be received by May 15 for admissions effective the following September.

To be accepted into the program students are evaluated on several criteria:

1. Performance on the GRE (normally a minimum of 1100 for the combined verbal and math aptitude scores).
2. Undergraduate grade-point averages (normally a 3.0 overall and 3.25 in major field and a 3.5 in any prior graduate work in political science).
3. Three letters of recommendation.
4. For international students, a TOEFL score (normally at least 600).

Using all of these variables, the department attempts to predict the candidate's success (e.g. low GRE scores could be balanced by high grades and very strong recommendations). Applicants are encouraged to submit examples of written work.

In addition, admission to the graduate program is affected by the number of well-qualified applicants and the limits of available faculty. Those who meet stated minimum academic requirements are not guaranteed admission.

Master's students who would like to enter the Ph.D. track must pass the Ph.D. qualifying exam.

## **B. Normal Progress Toward Degree**

1. To be considered in good academic standing, a student must maintain a minimum cumulative graduate grade point average\_(GPA) of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale each semester. To be eligible for an advanced degree, a student's cumulative grade point average shall be at least a 3.00 and the student's grades in courses counted toward the degree requirements of the program shall equal at least a 3.00. A grade below a B- will not be counted toward the course requirements for a degree but is calculated in the student's cumulative grade point average.
2. Students should avoid accumulating grades of "incomplete." A student who fails to remove an incomplete from his or her record by the end of the sixth week of the semester following that in which it was awarded will be considered no longer making normal progress toward the degree.
3. An assessment of each student's performance and progress will be undertaken at the end of the fall semester by the Director of Graduate Studies in conjunction with other Department faculty. The primary purposes of this effort are to identify any academic problems that may impede progress toward a degree as early as practicable in a student's graduate career, and to make recommendations for appropriate courses of action. It is the responsibility of the Director of Graduate Studies to communicate the assessment to the student.

## **C. Financial Aid**

1. Financial aid is available to graduate students in the form of teaching assistantships, research fellowships, tuition scholarships, and University fellowships. These awards are merit based.
2. Students who receive teaching assistantships or fellowships must achieve a grade of B or higher in every course while taking a minimum of 9 credit hours per semester (unless fewer than 9 credits are needed to complete the credit requirements for the degree).

3. Students who receive teaching assistantships or fellowships are normally committed to work 20 hours per week and must satisfactorily fulfill the requirements of their positions.
4. Any student who, in the judgment of the Director of Graduate Studies, with the advice of the graduate faculty, fails to demonstrate sufficiently strong performance in his or her studies, research, and teaching (as applicable) will be subject to the suspension of his or her teaching assistantship, fellowship, or tuition scholarship.

#### **D. Advisement**

1. Students will be assigned an advisor by the Director of Graduate Studies. Students who wish to change advisors are free to do so, but must fill out a change of advisor form available in the department office, obtain the necessary signatures, and return the form to the department office.
2. Students must have their programs reviewed each semester by their advisors. More frequent consultation with the advisor is encouraged to insure satisfactory progress toward the degree.
3. Students must keep the Department and their advisors informed of their current contact information.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE**

**Each student will complete a minimum of 38 credits.**

#### **1. Core Global Governance Courses: 15 credits**

POSC 806	Normative Issues in Global Governance
POSC 807	America and the Global System
POSC 815	Introduction to Statistical Analysis for Political Science
POSC 830	International Relations Theory
POSC 843	Global Governance Theory and Cases

#### **2. Track Courses: 15 credits.**

Each student will choose and declare one of three tracks within the global governance program by the end of their first semester. Track requirements consist of the completion of two required track courses and three elective track courses. The tracks and courses are listed below:

## **Track 1: America and the World**

### **Required Courses:**

- 808 American Political System
- 813 American Foreign Policy

**Elective Courses (3 from the following list and additional courses as approved by the Director of Graduate Studies - American Foreign Policy and American Political System lists are only suggestive):**

#### **American Foreign Policy**

- 604 International Law
- 610 Islam in Global Affairs
- 615 Force and World Politics
- 640 Intl Dev Policy and Admin
- 656 Politics and Disaster
- 804 Post Industrial Systems
- 840 Intl Political Economy
- 845 Human Rights & Global Governance

#### **American Political System**

- 614 Judicial Process
- 651 Problems in Policy & Admin.
- 653 Politics and Healthcare
- 686 State and Local Government
- 803 Public Administration
- 805 Public Law
- 818 Environmental Pol & Admin
- 835 Organization & Management
- 838 Public Policy Analysis

## **Track 2: Global Processes and Transnational Issues Track**

### **Required Courses (choose 2 from the following three courses):**

- 840 International Political Economy
- 842 International Organization Course
- 844 International Security Course

**Elective courses (3 from following list and additional courses as approved by the Director of Graduate Studies):**

- |                                      |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 604 International Law                | 650 Problems Latin Amer Pol       |
| 610 Islam in Global Affairs          | 653 Politics and Healthcare       |
| 612 Post-USSR Foreign Policy         | 656 Politics and Disaster         |
| 615 Force and World Politics         | 802 Developing & Trans Sys.       |
| 628 Comparative Environmental Policy | 804 Post Industrial Systems       |
| 629 Southeast Asia and World         | 813 American Foreign Policy       |
| 639 Problems African Politics        | 818 Environmental Pol Admin       |
| 640 Intl Dev Policy & Admin          | 820 Intl Persp. on Enrgy & Envrn. |
| 642 Problems W European Pol          | 838 Public Policy Analysis        |
|                                      | 845 Human Rights & Global Gov     |

Other Courses as Approved by Graduate Director

## **Track 3: A Comparative Perspective**

**Required Courses:**

- 802 Developing and Transitional Systems
- 804 Post Industrial Systems

**Elective Courses (3 from the following list and additional courses as approved by the Director of Graduate Studies):**

- |                                  |                                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 604 International Law            | 640 Intl Dev Policy & Admin    |
| 605 Topics in Law and Courts     | 642 Problems W European Pol    |
| 610 Islam in Global Affairs      | 650 Problems in Latin Amer Pol |
| 627 Latin American Pol Sys       | 653 Politics and Healthcare    |
| 628 Comparative Environ Policy   | 808 American Pol Institutions  |
| 629 Southeast Asia and World     | 813 American Foreign Policy    |
| 632 Post Soviet Systems          | 820 Intl Persp on Energy & Env |
| 633 African Politics             | 840 Intl Political Economy     |
| 639 Problems in African Politics | 845 Human Rights & Global Gov  |

Other Courses as Approved by Graduate Director

**3. Elective Courses and COGGS: 8 Credits**

Students must take an additional two courses over the course of their program and the Colloquium on Global Governance and Society for one credit each spring of their first two years. One of the two elective courses must be a research methods or philosophy of inquiry course. This course must be approved by the Graduate Director.

**4. Writing requirement**

Students will prepare a major research paper in at least one course. For the purposes of this requirement, the Department understands a “major research paper” to be one that addresses an important and well-defined topic, demonstrates mastery of the pertinent literature, strives to make an original contribution to knowledge, and is presented in a coherent and professional manner. In meeting this requirement, students are to identify an appropriate academic journal and write the paper as if they were preparing a manuscript for submission to that journal. It is solely the prerogative of the course instructor to determine whether the student’s work meets the test of this definition. Students will register for POSC 899 MA Long Paper Course (0 credits) in the spring of their second year to facilitate completion of this requirement.

**REQUIREMENTS**  
**FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

- 1. All requirements listed for the Master’s Degree, plus 24 additional credits to total 62.**

## **2. Secondary Track Requirements: 9 Credits**

All students will chose a secondary track in the fall semester of their first year. In this secondary track students must complete the two required courses and one track elective.

## **3. Research Seminar: 3 Credits**

All students must complete a research seminar in conjunction with the Colloquium on Global Governance and Society in the spring semester of their third year. This seminar will provide a significant research experience in addition to the speaker series. Students are expected to complete a major research paper, grant proposal, or dissertation proposal and will present their work.

## **4. Additional Research/Candidacy Credits: 12 Credits**

## **5. Ph.D. Qualifying Exam**

All students admitted to the Ph.D. track and those master's track students who want to apply to the Ph.D. track are required to take an oral qualifying exam in February of their second year. As part of the qualifying exam, students will make an oral presentation of the paper they are submitting in fulfillment of the master's writing requirement. They will be examined by a three-person qualifying committee consisting of the faculty advisor for the paper and two other faculty members appointed by the Director of Graduate Studies. Ph.D. track students who do not pass the qualifying exam may receive a master's degree upon completion of the requirements for that degree.

## **6. Language Requirement**

All candidates for the Ph.D. degree shall demonstrate competence in at least one language other than English. Procedures for certifying competence are maintained by the Director of Graduate Studies. As candidates whose first language is other than English have already demonstrated competence in a second language by appropriate scores on the TOEFL exam, this requirement shall be deemed met in such cases.

## **7. Comprehensive Examination**

Students will take a written, "take home" comprehensive exam in August before the start of their third year. The exam is prepared, administered and evaluated by a committee appointed by the Director of Graduate Studies. Exams are distributed at 8:00 a.m. and are due back by 4:00 p.m. the following day.



- a. The exam consists of two parts. Part I covers the core courses on global governance. Part II covers the student's primary track courses.
- b. Students must pass both Parts I and II to pass the exam.
- c. Grades on the written exam are: Distinction, Pass, Deficient and Fail. Distinction and Pass are considered passing grades. Results of the comprehensive exam will be made known to students as soon as all exams have been graded.
- d. Students who receive a grade of Deficient on either section of the written exam will be permitted to take an oral re-examination for that section. The oral exam will be arranged at the discretion of the examining committee. Grades on any such oral exam are Pass and Fail. Students who achieve a Pass on the oral re-examination(s) shall be considered as having successfully discharged their qualifying examination requirement. If a student fails the oral exam(s), he or she will be permitted to retake that section of the written exam once during the following December.
- e. Students who fail either section of the written exam will be allowed to retake the written exam once during the following December. If a student fails the written exam a second time, s/he will be terminated from the program. If a grade of Deficient is recorded on the second written test, the examining committee will administer an oral re-examination for that section. If the student fails an oral exam after the second written test, s/he will be terminated from the program.
- f. Students who wish to sit for the comprehensive exam must be in good standing, have at least a 3.0 GPA, and have no "Incompletes" outstanding.

## **8. Admission to Candidacy Examination**

- a. A Ph.D. student shall officially be admitted to candidacy upon successful completion of a candidacy oral examination by a faculty committee. Although the candidacy examination may address questions that arise from the student's performance on the written comprehensive exam, its primary purpose is for the student to defend the dissertation proposal. Although the precise form of the dissertation proposal will vary from case to case, it is expected to include a clear statement of the problem and an explanation of its significance, a discussion of the methods proposed to investigate the problem, and a full discussion of relevant literature.
- b. The candidacy examination should be held at the end of the fall semester or early in the spring semester of the student's third year.
- c. The candidacy examination committee shall be convened and chaired by the student's dissertation chair and shall consist of members of the student's

proposed dissertation committee. Normally students are expected to select a dissertation chair from faculty whose primary appointment is in the Department. In exceptional circumstances, students may petition the Graduate Policy Committee for approval to have someone whose primary appointment is outside the Department chair the dissertation committee. In deciding whether or not to grant approval, the Graduate Policy Committee shall take into account the needs of the student and the Department.

- d. Other members of the Department are welcome to participate as non-voting members of the candidacy examination committee. The candidacy examination shall be announced and copies of the dissertation proposal shall be made available to all faculty at least one week in advance of the examination.
- e. The candidacy examination committee is charged with determining the student's fitness for advancement to candidacy. The main question the committee has to answer is, 'Is this student prepared to write an acceptable Ph.D. dissertation?' In seeking to answer this question, the committee's focus shall be on the student's dissertation proposal, which shall be made available to all members of the department at least one week in advance of the examination.
- f. If, in the judgment of the committee, the student has passed the oral examination, he or she shall be admitted to candidacy, and, shall begin work on the dissertation (see Section 9 below).
- g. If, in the judgment of the committee, the student has not passed the candidacy examination, the committee may direct the student to (a) rethink, rewrite, and resubmit the proposal prior to a re-examination by the committee; (b) undertake remedial work in research design and methodology; or (c) any combination or variation of the above that the committee deems necessary. In the event that additional work is required, the committee will discuss with the student a reasonable time frame for completion of the necessary work. A written statement completed by the student's dissertation adviser should set forth the nature of the work to be undertaken by the student and the time frame that was agreed upon. This shall be sent to the student, circulated to the faculty members who participated in the oral examination and become part of the student's permanent file. At the conclusion of the agreed upon time period, the committee will reconvene to assess the student's progress toward candidacy. In extreme cases, the committee may determine that the student is unable to advance to candidacy and should be terminated from the program.

## **9. The Dissertation**

- a. A Ph.D. dissertation is a manuscript that reflects "the results of original and significant research written in a scholarly and literate manner worthy of publication" (University of Delaware [Graduate Catalog](#)).

- b. Students are expected to consult closely and regularly with members of their dissertation committee, particularly the committee chair.
- c. Upon completion of the manuscript, a final oral examination--or "dissertation defense"--must be passed. Ordinarily, students will be asked to summarize the major findings of their research and evaluate the significance of these findings for the field more generally. The student shall then be called upon to defend the findings in the face of questions from members of the dissertation committee and other members of the academic community who choose to attend. If, after deliberating, the dissertation committee is unable to reach agreement on whether the student has successfully defended the dissertation, the committee will adjourn after explaining the nature of their objections and providing suggestions on how these might be satisfactorily addressed with guidance from the dissertation chair. It shall be the responsibility of the dissertation chair to reconvene the group to reconsider the revised product.
- d. Detailed guidelines for the preparation and presentation of the dissertation are described in Regulations Governing Theses and Dissertations, which may be obtained from the Office of Graduate Studies. It is also online on the Graduate home page.

## **10. Teaching Experience**

Candidates for the Ph.D. degree planning an academic career are encouraged to obtain teaching experience at the college level. Opportunities to gain this experience may be available either through teaching assistantships, lectureships in political science courses at the University of Delaware, or opportunities to teach at neighboring colleges.

