

POLITICAL SCIENCE PHD

Degree Requirements

The following requirements are in addition to, or further elaborate upon, those requirements outlined in The Graduate School Policy Guide (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/tgs/academic-policies-procedures/>).

PhD

Total Units Required: 18

Course	Title
Required courses	
POLI_SCI 403-0	Introduction to Probability and Statistics ¹
POLI_SCI 405-0	Linear Models ¹
Other courses approved by the Director of Graduate Studies: 16 units	

¹ Students who have completed a political science graduate methods sequence or equivalent coursework prior to their time at Northwestern may apply for an exemption to this milestone. Political Theory majors are exempt from this requirement but are welcome to explore it.

Other PhD Degree Requirements

- **Research Paper Requirement:** Due on the first day of the Fall quarter of the second year.
- **Second Field Requirement (<https://www.polisci.northwestern.edu/graduate/program-areas/>):** At some point before defending a dissertation proposal, students must qualify in a second field, either by taking a second Qualifying Examination (see below) or by completing five (5) graduate courses in that field with a minimum of a B+ GPA.
- **Examination:** Successful completion of a first-field Qualifying Examination in either Spring of the second year or Fall of the third year. (Before exams may be taken, students must resolve any incomplete grades and fulfill the Research Paper Requirement.)
- **Prospectus:** Successful defense of a dissertation proposal (often called a prospectus) in the Spring of the third year.
- **Final Evaluations:** Oral defense of dissertation.
- **Other:** Teaching requirements begin in the second year.