PhD in Political Science

Admission Contact Information
Graduate Studies Office
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Admission
Admission into the PhD program is determined by the graduate studies committee’s consideration of the applicant’s academic record, personal statement, letters of recommendation, and the GRE.

Admission Criteria
Fall deadline: December 15
- Minimum TOEFL score for international students: 89
- Minimum GPA: 3.0 overall, in last 60 hours, and in political science courses
- 12 hours of upper-division course work in political science is recommended.

Required Application Materials
- Office of Graduate School online application
- One to two page statement of purpose, describing interests and goals in graduate study in Political Science
- Three letters of recommendation
- Unofficial transcripts from all universities from which degrees were earned (official transcripts required upon admission)
- Official results from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- Academic writing sample
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores (for international students)

Degree Requirements
A student’s doctoral program must include at least 45 hours of graduate seminars, exclusive of comprehensive exams and dissertation research. At the discretion of the student’s doctoral program committee, up to 30 hours of an MA program may be included in the PhD program.

Students choose a primary and secondary field from the four doctoral fields: American political institutions and behavior, comparative politics and government, international relations, and public policy and administration.

Graduate courses must include:
- A minimum of 12 seminar hours in the primary (research) field
- A minimum of nine seminar hours in a secondary field supporting the primary field
- A minimum of 13 hours in a methodology or research tool field.
  Required courses include POL_SC 7000, POL_SC 7010, and POL_SC 9030.
- The remaining six hours in the methodology field may be in advanced formal or quantitative methods, advanced foreign language, or a combination of the two.