

Sample POLS MA+PhD Four Year Plan

Course Requirements

The Political Science graduate program requires 12 credit hours in two major subfields, 12 credit hours in one minor subfield, and 12 credit hours of research methods courses. After these 48 credit hours are complete, students are required to enroll in dissertation hours until they complete their degree.

Subfield Options	Major Subfield 1	Major Subfield 2	Minor Subfield
American Politics			
Comparative Politics			
International Relations			
Public Policy			
Political Theory			
Special Field (minor only)			

- Select two major subfields and one minor subfield in the chart on the left. Click the 'subfield options' link to learn more about the different subfields.
- Search for courses at <https://classes.ku.edu>. Most of your courses should be at the 700 level or above. Each subfield may have up to one 600 level course if approved by your advisor and eligible for [graduate credit](#).
- Contact the [Graduate Academic Advisor](#) if you need a permission number for any Political Science courses.

Year One: Coursework

Semester 1:	Course Number (Credits)	Semester 2:	Course Number (Credits)
Major course		Major course	
Major course		Major course	
Major or minor course		Major or minor course	
POLS 705	POLS 705 (3)	POLS 706	POLS 706 (3)

Required Tasks:

- Attend [campus-wide](#) and departmental orientations
- Select an advisor

Year Two: Coursework + MA Thesis/Exam

Semester 3:	Course Number (Credits)	Semester 4:	Course Number (Credits)
Major course		Major course	
Major course		Major course	
Major or minor course		Major or minor course	
POLS 707	POLS 707 (3)	Elective methods course	

Required Tasks:

- Complete [master's thesis or exam](#)

Optional Tasks:

- Independent research
- Seek [conference opportunities](#)

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Year Three: Oral Comprehensive Exam

Semester 5:	Course Number (Credits)	Semester 6:	Course Number (Credits)
Dissertation hours	POLS 999 (9)	Dissertation hours	POLS 999 (9)

Required Tasks:

- Register for [preliminary examinations](#)
- Complete preliminary examinations and [comprehensive oral exam](#)
- Defend dissertation prospectus within six months of completing comprehensive oral exam
- Select [dissertation committee](#)
- Complete 18 hours of [post-comprehensive enrollment](#)

Optional Tasks:

- Research/write papers
- Attend [conferences](#)
- Submit research to journals
- Apply for [dissertation fellowships](#)
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Year Four: Dissertation Research + Defense + Job Applications

Semester 7:	Course Number (Credits)	Semester 8:	Course Number (Credits)
Dissertation hours	POLS 999 (1)	Dissertation hours	POLS 999 (1)

Required Tasks:

- Defend dissertation
- [Apply for graduation](#)
- Job search

Note: While every student's time in the Political Science MA/PhD program looks slightly different, most students should plan to complete their time in the graduate program within four years. If students are planning to conduct field research or archival research, they may plan to complete the program in five years if appropriate. Please consult with your advisor to ensure you're planning a timeline of completion appropriate for your research.