

Ph.D. in Political Science: Ideal Schedule

FIRST YEAR: Methods Training; Develop Knowledge in Two Fields; Deepen Research Interests; Professionalization

<i>Fall Term</i>	<i>Spring Term</i>	<i>Summer</i>
Courses: PS 800, PS 812, PS 817 (If offered)	Courses: PS 813	Pre-dissertation research
Courses: Field Seminar or equivalent	Courses: Mix of substantive and methods	Additional methods training
Professionalization: Attend workshops, meet speakers, read journals and books	Professionalization: Workshop/Speakers, Journals/books	Work on papers
Meet with advisors and faculty	Meet with advisors and faculty	Read journals and books
		Start planning for exams

SECOND YEAR: Prepare for Exams; Develop Dissertation Topics and Research Papers; Methods Training; Professionalization

<i>Fall Term</i>	<i>Spring Term</i>	
Methods and substantive courses	Methods and substantive courses	Sit for qualifying exams
Language training (if applicable)	Language training (if applicable)	Pre-dissertation research
Continue with Workshop/Speaker/reading	Continue with Workshop/Speakers/reading	Develop dissertation ideas
Start preparing for exams	Identify draft prospectus committee	Develop research paper
Continue to meet with faculty and discuss dissertation topics	Continue to meet with faculty	Read journals and books
	Develop plans for a minor	
	Attend MPSA	

THIRD YEAR: Develop and Defend Dissertation Proposal; Develop Research Portfolio; Professionalization

<i>Fall Term</i>	<i>Spring Term</i>	<i>Summer</i>
Meet with at least two faculty to discuss dissertation ideas (by 9/15)	Finish courses	Dissertation Research
PS 801 (Proposal Writing Class)	Defend prospectus	Work on papers for publication
Methods / Substantive/ Language courses	Continue professionalization	
As before: workshops, speakers, reading, and meet with faculty regularly	Attend placement meeting	
Submit research paper by January 15	Discuss with faculty plans to present paper at conference and attend conference	

FOURTH YEAR: Dissertation and research; develop plan to present at conferences

<i>Fall Term</i>	<i>Spring Term</i>	<i>Summer</i>
Dissertation Research	Dissertation Research and publications	Dissertation Research
Develop publications	Placement Meeting	Conference prep
Attend Scholarly Conference and workshops	Attend Scholarly Conference and workshops	Develop papers

FIFTH YEAR: Dissertation and research; prepare for job market

<i>Fall Term</i>	<i>Spring Term</i>	<i>Summer</i>
Dissertation Research and Publications	Dissertation Research and Publications	Dissertation Research and Pubs
Conferences and workshops	Conferences and workshops	Conferences
	Placement meeting	Prepare job market materials

FIFTH or SIXTH YEAR: Finish dissertation, get job, graduate