

# Department of Political Science Graduate Student Handbook



**College of Arts and Sciences  
University of Kentucky**

# Graduate Handbook

## For the University of Kentucky Department of Political Science

Version: Fall 2026

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## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

### I.1. Departmental Policies

This handbook is meant to be a helpful guide that translates both Departmental and Graduate School rules in a way that is easy for students and faculty to use. It is updated when the DGS finds useful information to add. If the handbook conflicts with Graduate School rules/regulations, the Graduate School rules are the ones students/faculty should follow. If such a situation arises, please contact the DGS about the discrepancy so that the handbook can be updated.

Students bear full and sole responsibility for understanding and abiding by the regulations and procedures required to attain a graduate degree in Political Science. Graduate students are governed by rules and regulations of the Department of Political Science, the Graduate School, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the University. The Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) in the Department is the students' official liaison for all questions relevant to their degree progress. The two primary documents relevant to successfully completing a graduate degree in Political Science are this handbook and the Graduate School Bulletin.<sup>1</sup> There is a "checklist" for the Ph.D. degree in Political Science included at the end of this handbook, which can serve as a general guide to progress. We suggest that students copy the checklist relevant to their degree and keep it handy throughout their academic tenure at the University of Kentucky. At a minimum, we also suggest that students browse the department website<sup>2</sup> and the Graduate School website<sup>3</sup> in order to become familiar with institutional structures, organization, and requirements.

### I.2. Academic Load

The normal graduate student course load during the Fall and Spring Semesters is 9-12 credit hours.<sup>4</sup> Typically, a student who is a Teaching Assistant (TA) will take 9 credit hours per semester. The academic load of a TA shall not exceed 10 credit hours in any semester. Students on Fellowships or other similar types of funding may enroll for 12 credit hours. Students enrolling for more than 12 credit hours must obtain permission from their advisor and the DGS. Under no circumstances may a student exceed 15 credit hours in one semester. A student enrolled in 9 credit hours or more in a semester is considered to be full time. See the Graduate School Bulletin for more information. All courses from any department or program numbered 500 through 799 may be counted for credit toward a graduate degree provided they are approved as an appropriate part of the student's

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<sup>1</sup> <https://catalogs.uky.edu/index.php>

<sup>2</sup> <http://polisci.as.uky.edu/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://gradschool.uky.edu>. Note that the DGS handbook at this link may also be very helpful to both professors and graduate students. See here:

[https://gradschool.uky.edu/sites/gradschool.uky.edu/files/DGSManual\\_01112023.pdf](https://gradschool.uky.edu/sites/gradschool.uky.edu/files/DGSManual_01112023.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> See Section III.h for special rules regarding full-time status for PS 757 and PS767.

graduate program by the student's advisor and the DGS. Courses offered by any other department or program that are numbered 400G to 499G may be counted for graduate credit. Ph.D. students in Political Science generally are discouraged from taking courses below the 600 level.

### **I.3. Student Advising**

The department's graduate program is designed to facilitate close collaboration among faculty and students with shared areas of interest. Consistent with this, as a student progresses through the program, each student will select a professor who will serve as the advisor. In addition, the student will also select an advisory committee. These are important steps for all graduate students.

#### **I.3.1. Advising Procedures and Logistics**

##### **Initial Advising Experience: Semesters 1-3 in the Program**

When each student enters the program the DGS is automatically assigned as the advisor until the student formally selects his or her own advisor and files the paperwork with the Graduate School. The DGS is in a position to provide advice on a wide range of situations that are vital for new students, many of which are not field specific. Per the Graduate School, by the end of the third semester in the program, the student must formally select an advisor as well as an advisory committee. This is done by electronically filing the Formation of an Advisory Committee form, which can be found on the Graduate School website.

In addition to the DGS serving as the formal advisor, from the time the student enters the program until they declare an advisor and committee, the graduate student will also be assigned a faculty member as a substantive advisor with substantive expertise in the student's major field of interest. These "substantive" faculty advisor assignments will be rotated each semester. These assignments will be made by the DGS and will be based on input from both the student and faculty. The substantive advisor accomplishes several things. First, it facilitates students and faculty getting to know each other. Second, it compensates for any shortcoming in substantive expertise of the DGS. Third, the semester limit provides assurances that students get advice from at least three different faculty members before the student must select an advisor.<sup>5</sup> There is no requirement on the number of meetings that should take place, but a guideline of 2-3 meetings a semester seems sufficient to start the substantive advising process. The faculty advisor should initiate the first meeting.

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<sup>5</sup> Importantly, there is a distinction between mentoring and advising. Mentoring involves the informal relationship while advising provides direction and guidance related to professional subject matter. Advising emphasizes the formal relationship between colleagues to capacity build. Specifically, advising roles are where faculty and graduate students should discuss things like each other's research interests, the state of research in the field, relevant course work in a field, and other research related topics. Thus, this is an advising relationship though a mentoring role may develop over time.

Advising for first year students also has a peer component. Each Spring, the DGS will solicit interest from the current graduate students about willingness to serve on a 2-3 person peer advisor committee that will serve as advisors to incoming first year students. The Graduate Committee will select the Committee from those grad students who expressed an interest. There are no requirements for serving on this committee other than being willing to answer questions from first year students. Incoming students wishing to get a student's perspective may use the peer advisory committee for relevant questions. This committee should be formed by the end of the Spring semester.

The timeline of the advising process:

Semester	Formal Advisor	Substantive advisor	Peer Advising	To Do
Fall, semester 1	DGS	Faculty #1 from relevant field	Elected Grad Peer Advising Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meet with formal advisor</li> <li>- Meet with substantive advisor</li> </ul>
Spring, semester 2	DGS	Faculty #2 from relevant field	Elected Grad Peer Advising Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meet with formal advisor</li> <li>- Meet with substantive advisor</li> </ul>
Fall, semester 3	DGS	Faculty #3 from relevant field	~	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meet with substantive advisor</li> <li>- File paperwork with Grad School selecting advisor and advisory committee</li> </ul>
Spring, semester 4 and afterwards	Student selected Advisor along with the other members of the student's Advisory Committee		~	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meet with advisory committee annually</li> <li>- See checklist and "Semester 4 and Beyond" section</li> </ul>

### Selecting an Advisor and Advisory Committee: Semesters 4 and Beyond

Selecting the Advisor and Advisory Committee, and the faculty members' willingness to serve, must be agreed upon by all parties before the paperwork is filed. With respect to

formally selecting the advisor and advisory committee, there are several important considerations.

During the third semester of graduate work, the student must find an advisor (committee Chair) and an “Advisory Committee.” The committee shall include the advisor, two additional members of the Department of Political Science whenever feasible, and one individual from outside the department (i.e., their primary appointment must be in another academic unit). All members of the committee must be members of the Graduate Faculty of the University of Kentucky (with rare exceptions) and three (including the advisor) must possess Full Graduate Faculty status.

Once the Advisory Committee is formed, the student must formally request approval of the committee through the Student Forms portion of the Graduate School webpage. All decisions of the Advisory Committee are by a majority vote of its Graduate Faculty members. Advisory Committee decisions are reported to the DGS who transmits them to the Graduate School when necessary. In addition to advising and program planning, the Advisory Committee undertakes administration of the Qualifying Examination (prospectus defense), supervision of the Dissertation, and administration of the Final Examination (aka dissertation defense).

### **I.3.2. The Advisor-Advisee relationship**

The advisor/advisee relationship is a critical component of student success. It is important to recognize that people have different relationship styles and that there is a diversity of models for what this professional relationship should look like. In order to help ensure a successful relationship, the department recommends that students and faculty members have at least one thorough conversation where they discuss a number of points related to their expectations and understandings of how the relationship will work *before* they enter into the relationship. These considerations might include:

- The student's personal timeline and the timing of committee formation and other program milestones (e.g., student goals, field exam completion, prospectus defense, dissertation).
- The advisor's preferred communication method and frequency.
- The expected supervisory model or style.
- The student's substantive area and questions they may like to study.

Students might consider asking:

- How quickly can you expect your advisor to respond to written submissions turned in on time?
- How quickly can you expect your advisor to respond to requests to schedule meetings or conversations?

- How regularly does your advisor like to meet?
- How often would your advisor like a written report of your progress along degree milestones? What format should this report take?
- What happens if deadlines are missed?

The advisor's role is to assist the graduate student with any problems that may arise in their program, to advise on matters such as course selection, proposal design, grant writing, teaching, conducting research, and to serve as an intellectual mentor during the student's tenure in the department. Students are expected to consult regularly with their advisor.

In all cases, advisor assignment is contingent upon agreement by both parties. Ph.D. advising is a privilege of full graduate faculty membership (i.e., only faculty with full Graduate School status may serve as advisors).

Any student, with the approval of the DGS, may change advisor at any time during their tenure in the program. Likewise, any student, after due consideration and consultation with the DGS and the agreement of the faculty to serve, may change advisor or committee members at any point as long as it is consistent with the rules of the Graduate School. It is understood that changes might occur as a student defines or re-defines their area of interest or otherwise changes focus and direction in the graduate program.

Best practices for advising may include:

Advisors should:

- Maintain regular communication with advisees while in residence.
- Ensure that advisees are supported (either by themselves or another faculty member) when the advisor is on sabbatical or research leave.
- Be aware of advisees' course choices.
- Be mindful of departmental and Graduate School deadlines.
- Monitor GPAs, and other indicators of student performance.
- Review closely (for accuracy, appropriate timeline and other details) and sign-off on the annual student progress reports.
- Help advisees identify opportunities to participate in the larger professional political science community by proposing and delivering conference presentations or pursuing other appropriate activities.
- Mentor students about professional norms and provide guidance as they enter the profession.

Advisees should:

- Initiate regular communication with advisor.
- Inform advisor of the courses the student plans to enroll in and keep advisor informed of progress or problems.
- Work with advisor to create an agreed-upon timeline for reaching program milestones and maintaining timely progress toward degree.
- Learn and comply with departmental and Graduate School deadlines and regulations.
- Consult with advisor about how to best take a role in the discipline of political science by participating in professional meetings or other appropriate forums.

If students have concerns about the advising they are receiving they should arrange to speak with the Director of Graduate Studies. If discussing this with the DGS is not feasible, the student should contact the Department Chair or the Associate Dean of Graduate Education in the College of Arts and Sciences (depending on the personnel involved). The Department wants to support graduate students to the best of our ability, and we will take these concerns seriously. Students may also seek out the guidance of the Academic Ombudsman (<https://ombud.uky.edu>).

#### **I.4. Financial Aid and Funding**

Financial aid (funding) decisions are made on an annual basis for both applicants and currently enrolled students, and are based primarily upon academic merit and, in the case of currently-funded students, academic progress. Applicants to the program should indicate their interest in funding as part of the application package and are subject to application deadlines.

Currently enrolled students must follow two steps to be eligible for funding:

1. Complete and submit the Graduate Student Self-Assessment to the DGS by January 18.
2. Meet with his/her Advisory Committee no later than February 8.<sup>6</sup>

Funding decisions are made during the Spring term. The DGS will in every case contact each graduate student in writing no later than March 1 with information concerning the subsequent year's funding. Once a student is awarded funding, the department makes every attempt to support Ph.D. students for five years. Ongoing funding support is contingent upon the availability of funds, the individual student's good academic progress,

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<sup>6</sup> \*Professors, the Chair of the student's Advisory Committee will receive the Graduate Self-Assessment form from the DGS during sometime around 01/18. Following the student's meeting with the Advisory Committee, the Chair of the Advisory Committee must notify the DGS in writing about the outcome of the meeting by February 15. The 'Advisory Committee Review Report' is the preferable mechanism to relay this information.

the terms of the student's admissions letter, and any terms specified in the student's annual funding/retention letter.

Students should be aware that decisions about funding and retention are made by the DGS in consultation with the Graduate Committee. While the "Graduate Student Self-Assessment" form should give students a good idea as to how they will be evaluated, members of the Graduate Committee will use all available information in making funding and retention recommendations about individual students.

In order to encourage student application for support external to the department, the funding 'clock' may be stopped for any period during which a student is funded through sources external to the department and which the student has garnered through his or her own effort. Determination of appropriate "external support" must be approved by the DGS (in consultation with the Graduate Committee), and the decision must be recorded in the student's permanent record. In general, "departmental support" includes Teaching Assistantship Appointments, UK Fellowships for which the Political Science Department nominates a student (whether through internal competition or not), and any other assistantship or fellowship where the initial offer of support is generated by, through, and on the behalf of the Political Science Department. In every case, approval to stop the funding clock also is dependent upon the timing of the request (i.e., last minute decisions which inconvenience the department and are not the result of planning and consultation with the DGS may not be approved). The Graduate School also has rules on funding timelines that must be followed.

### **I.5. Conference Travel Support**

Students are encouraged to attend conferences. However, students are discouraged from presenting work without close supervision of a faculty member, particularly during their first three years in the graduate program. Thus, students who wish to present single-authored papers or papers co-authored with other graduate students must take the following steps before presenting work at a conference. Note, students who plan to co-author with professors at the conference do not have to get their advisor's approval. Please follow these steps:

1. Consult advisor about presenting at conference (many months before conference and several weeks before the proposal deadline).
2. Notify the DGS in writing about your conference plans with details that include the name, dates, and location of the conference, the proposal information, anticipated expenses and funding request, and verification of advisor support to participate.
3. Next, submit a proposal to get on conference program. Under the new funding rules, getting on the program is an absolute necessity in order to get reimbursed for conference travel expenses.
4. Once you find out your proposal has been accepted, notify advisor and DGS

5. Apply to the DGS for funding. List the conference and city, the paper you are presenting, and how much you are asking for. Also, provide a rough estimate of your costs (transportation, lodging, meals, conference registration, etc.).
6. If the DGS approves funding, work with the department manager (DM) to arrange all details necessary for booking and reimbursement and ensure compliance with department and university rules associated with expenses and travel. Save receipts for major expenditures.

### I.6. Graduate School Awards

The Graduate School offers several awards for both incoming and current students.<sup>7</sup> These awards are broken down into two categories: (1) DGS-nominated awards and (2) student self-nominated awards.

Below are some awards that are particularly applicable to Political Science graduate students. Given that each award requires effort on behalf of the DGS and/or other faculty members, students should follow the following timeline if they wish to apply for each award:

DGS-nominated awards <sup>8</sup>	
	Typical Application Timeframe
Lexmark Fellowship	Early fall semester
Lexington Herald-Leader Fellowship	Early fall semester
Presidential Graduate Fellowship	Early spring semester
Northern KY...Alumni Club Fellowship	Early spring semester
Self-nominated awards <sup>9</sup>	
	Typical Application Timeframe
Matthews/Singletary/Wethington Fellowship	Early spring semester
Emeriti Faculty Endowed Fellowship	Early fall semester
A&S Outstanding TA Award <sup>10</sup>	Early spring semester

<sup>7</sup> Full descriptions and procedures for applying for these awards is available at:

<https://gradschool.uky.edu/fellowships>

<sup>8</sup> For DGS-nominated awards, the DGS will attempt to notify acceptable candidate about each award for which s/he may wish to apply. However, it is ultimately the graduate student's responsibility to seek out and apply for awards. Thus, the department strongly recommends that students keep themselves informed about all potential awards.

<sup>9</sup> Self-nominated awards do not require a letter from the DGS. The dates for notifying letter writers and submitting materials to letter writers should be viewed as guidelines. It is up to the letter writers when the need to know about the student's application (either earlier or later than the recommended dates) and whether or not they want to see the student's full application materials.

<sup>10</sup> The College usually allows the department to nominate 3 students for the TA Award. Students are encouraged to notify the DGS as soon as possible if they want to be nominated by the department. If more than three students wish to be nominated, the DGS (in consultation with the graduate committee) will determine which three students will be eligible for the award.

## I.7. Departmental Awards

The department offers multiple awards to Graduate Students. For more information about these awards and specific instructions on how to apply, please use this link:

<https://polisci.as.uky.edu/honors-awards>.

*Malcom E. Jewell Outstanding Graduate Student Award:* Named in honor of Malcolm E. Jewell, who was a Professor of Political Science for 36 years from 1958 to 1994, this award recognizes the most outstanding Political Science graduate student. All graduate students are eligible to receive this award, and students are automatically considered for this award in the spring of each year. The Graduate Program Committee of the Political Science Department will determine the winner(s) of this award, and the winner(s) will be announced at the Department's spring awards banquet.

*Ken and Mary Sue Coleman, Chris and Vicki Gorman, and Penny Miller Graduate Student Summer Fellowship:* Thanks to the generous donors of the Ken and Mary Sue Coleman, Chris and Vicki Gorman, and Penny Miller Graduate Summer Fellowship, the department is pleased to invite all current graduate students to apply for the Graduate Student Summer Fellowships. We intend to support several awards. Funds may be used exclusively for professional development, which may include specific research activities (e.g., dissertation work), field work, preparing new courses, or taking coursework elsewhere to develop new skills—including teaching skills, language study, accessing data sets, or any other activity that is directly related to the student's professional development.

*S. Sydney and Margaret L. Ulmer Endowed Scholarship:* This scholarship is named in honor of S. Sidney and Margaret L. Ulmer. Recruited as department chair in 1963, Dr. Ulmer was a renowned scholar in judicial behavior and built the Political Science into a leading department focused on quantitative research on political behavior. This scholarship is awarded to an outstanding graduate student in the area of Public Law and Judicial Behavior. The Graduate Program Committee of the Political Science Department will determine the winner(s) of this award, and the winner(s) will be announced at the Department's spring awards banquet. Unless the student requests otherwise, the full award amount will be entered into the student's account through the Student Financial Aid office for the following fall term.

*Political Science Endowed Doctoral Research and Travel Award:* This award is given yearly to full-time graduate students in Political Science who are seeking a PhD and have need of funds for research and/or travel related to their degree.

*Crum Emerging Scholars Awards in American, Comparative, and International Relations:* These three awards recognize the graduate students who show the most long-term promise for having an impact on the field of American Politics, Comparative Politics, and International Relations. All students are automatically nominated for this award each year based on their major field. The winner(s) of the awards will be determined by a vote of the

major field faculty, and winner(s) will be announced at the Department's spring awards banquet.

*Crum Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award:* This award recognizes a graduate student for the best research paper completed between the award due date and the previous calendar year. The paper must be based upon original research in any area using any method. Graduate students may self-nominate or be nominated by a faculty member, and any Graduate Student is eligible to receive this award. The Graduate Program Committee of the Political Science Department will determine the winner(s) of this award, and the winner(s) will be announced at the Department's spring awards banquet.

### **I.8. Graduation**

Advanced degrees may be conferred at the close of either semester or the second summer session, but Commencement exercises are held only in May and December. Students who are eligible to receive degrees at the end of the summer session may participate in the next Commencement exercise.

To be eligible for a degree, a student must file an Application for Degree Card<sup>11</sup> with the Graduate School within 30 days after the beginning of the semester (15 days in the summer session) in which they expect to graduate. Students should also confirm that they have covered all requirements by consulting the "Check Sheet for Doctoral Students."<sup>12</sup>

### **I.9. Summer Programs/Institutes**

The departmental occasionally has funds for students to receive training outside of the University of Kentucky at places like the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), the Empirical Implication of Theoretical Models (EITM) Institute, and the Institute for Qualitative and Multi-method Research (IQMR). Given that these funds are limited, the department must make difficult decisions in regards to how we allocate the funds. Students requesting funding to help defray the costs of these programs/institutes are required to submit applications for relevant awards (see Departmental Awards sections) and/or funding requests to the DGS. Please note that it is very uncommon for students to receive departmental funding for these during their first year of graduate school. Decisions regarding allocation of funding will be made by the departmental chair in consultation with the DGS.

### **I.10. Traveling Outside the US**

The University offers insurance for those who are traveling outside of the US for University-related business. It also has a travel registry for communication in case of emergency. The

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<sup>11</sup> <https://ees.as.uky.edu/sites/default/files/DegreeCard.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> [https://gradschool.uky.edu/sites/gradschool.uky.edu/files/Forms/StudentForms/2020-2021/CheckSheet\\_DoctoralStudents.pdf](https://gradschool.uky.edu/sites/gradschool.uky.edu/files/Forms/StudentForms/2020-2021/CheckSheet_DoctoralStudents.pdf)

cost is minimal, and the department encourages students to take advantage of this when traveling beyond the border. For more information, see <https://international.uky.edu/IHSS/RegistryStudents>

### **I.11. Title IX - Student Protection Against Discrimination and Harassment**

If you experience, witness, or if you are aware of, instances of harassment, discrimination or assault, you can report it to the university's Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity (OIEEO) <https://ieeo.uky.edu> and/or Title IX office (<https://ieeo.uky.edu/key-priorities/title-ix-compliance>). You can make a report via an online form or contact the Title IX office, (859) 257-8927 (as of 2023 the Director is Meredith Reeves, [Meredith.reeves@uky.edu](mailto:Meredith.reeves@uky.edu)).

#### Relevant University Regulations

Discrimination and Harassment AR 6.1 - <https://regs.uky.edu/administrative-regulation/ar-61>

Sexual Assault - <https://regs.uky.edu/administrative-regulation/ar-62>

## II. M.A. PROGRAM

The Graduate Program at UK is designed primarily for Ph.D. students. Students seeking admission for the Master's degree are unlikely to receive funding.

The M.A. Degree may be earned under either one of the following two plans:

**Plan A** (M.A. with a thesis):

Plan A requires 30 total credit hours. 24 hours must be from coursework with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, and 6 credits of PS 768 (thesis writing), satisfaction of either a language facility in one language or demonstration of analytical skills, and the writing of a thesis. At least two-thirds of the coursework must be in Political Science, and outside courses must be approved by the DGS. At least one-half of the required hours must be in 600 or 700 level courses. The student's thesis advisor will oversee work on the thesis, and the thesis must be defended before a three member committee, composed of the thesis advisor and two other faculty members.

**Plan B** (M.A. without a thesis):

Plan B requires at least 30 hours of coursework with a standing of a 3.0 or higher, satisfaction of the language or alternative skill requirement, and the passing of both major and minor Field Exams as explained under "III. Ph.D. Program" below. Both of these fields may be in Political Science. However, with the approval of the DGS, the student may choose one field outside of Political Science. At least two-thirds of the coursework must be in Political Science courses, and at least one-half of the required hours must be earned in 600 or 700 level courses. All students pursuing the M.A. degree must take PS 671 (Strategies of Inquiry).

### III. Ph.D. PROGRAM

#### III.1. Introduction

The purpose of the Ph.D. degree is to provide students with advanced knowledge in the philosophy, methodology, and practice of Political Science. Emphasis is placed on providing the theoretical capacity and the methodological skills enabling the student to make significant and original research contributions.

Students should work closely with their advisor and Advisory Committee to design a suitable and comprehensive scholarly program focused on one of the Department's research strengths. Additionally, students will need to know the principles and rules governing the Advisory Committee and Residency Requirements. Common parlance designates the student seeking a Ph.D. as a 'doctoral student' prior to sitting the Qualifying Exam, and as a 'doctoral candidate' after successfully passing the Qualifying Exam. It is during the candidacy stage that one might be referred to as "ABD" (all but Dissertation).

Students may be admitted directly to the Ph.D. program. It is not necessary to pursue the M.A. degree first. The Ph.D. program is divided into a general phase and a specialized phase.

#### III.2. General Phase

The purposes of the general phase are (1) to familiarize students with a specific approach to inquiry and research, and expose them to other important approaches that have been taken to the study of Political Science; (2) to introduce students to some of the techniques of Political Science research, particularly quantitative techniques; and (3) to familiarize students with conceptual approaches, substantive information, and research techniques in as many of the major fields of Political Science as possible, while helping to develop critical skills in the study of such fields.

During the general phase, the student is required to take the following courses: (1) PS 572 - an introduction to statistics in Political Science; (2) PS 671 - dealing with strategies of inquiry in Political Science, (3) PS 672 – focusing on techniques and methods used in carrying out Political Science research and analyzing data. Except under unusual circumstances, these courses will be completed during the student's first year in the program.

**For students who entered prior to Fall 2024:** The student must complete at least three substantive pro-seminars. One pro-seminar must be either American Political Institutions (PS680) or American Political Behavior (PS681), and one pro-seminar must be either Comparative Politics (PS620) or International Relations (PS674). These courses will generally be completed within the student's first two years in the program. Students who have previously taken comparable graduate work at another institution may be exempted

from some of the general phase requirements, though the student should communicate with the DGS when such situations arise to get his/her approval.

**For students entering Fall 2024 or after:** There are three substantive pro-seminars: American Politics (PS650), Comparative Politics (PS620), and International Relations (PS674). Students must complete at least two of these, generally within the student's first two years in the program. Students who have previously taken comparable graduate work at another institution may be exempted from some of the general phase requirements, though the student should communicate with the DGS when such situations arise to get his/her approval.

During the spring semester, all graduate students must be reviewed by the DGS in consultation with the Graduate Program Committee and with invited participation by all faculty. One of three actions must be taken for each student being evaluated:

1. Conclude that the student has completed the year satisfactorily and recommend the student for continuation in the Ph.D. program.
2. Conclude that while there have been positive aspects to the student's performance, serious doubts remain over the student's ability to complete the Ph.D. program. In this case, the student will be afforded the opportunity to complete an M.A. degree (requirements above). The Graduate Program Committee will consider the student's re-application to the Ph.D. program upon completion of the M.A. degree.
3. Conclude that the student's performance is clearly unsatisfactory. In these cases, the student is dismissed from the Ph.D. program. Any student who receives two or more C's in their first 18 hours of study will be dropped from the Ph.D. program. Unsatisfactory performance includes poor classroom performance or substantial documented academic or professional issues.

Students will be informed of the decision of the DGS by March 1.

### **III.3. Specialized Phase**

The purposes of the specialized phase of the Ph.D. program are to provide the student with (1) in-depth familiarity with his or her major and minor fields of specialization, (2) experience and training in research through research papers and Independent reading courses, and (3) sufficient preparation and oversight of the doctoral Dissertation. During the specialized phase, the student will devote her or his time primarily to 700 level courses, which are seminars placing emphasis on research.

During the third semester of graduate work, the student must find an advisor (committee Chair) and an "Advisory Committee." The committee shall include the advisor, two additional members of the Department of Political Science whenever feasible, and one individual from outside the department (i.e., their primary appointment must be in another academic unit). All members of the committee must be members of the Graduate Faculty

of the University of Kentucky (with rare exceptions) and three (including the advisor) must possess Full Graduate Faculty status.

Any student who is in his/her fourth semester or beyond and has not formally declared an advisory committee will not be considered to be in good standing, and risks being removed from the program or having funding revoked.

The advisor and committee help the student prepare a program of study for the specialized phase. A program is a coherent and specially designed course of study drawing upon materials from the major and minor fields. It should have a theoretical focus, should provide for the courses in methods and techniques that will adequately prepare the student for his research, and should lead directly to the preparation of a Dissertation. The program should be defined in terms of two of the departmentally recognized fields or sub-fields of Political Science. The student should also define those fields in which he or she is prepared to teach or to do research.

The Department of Political Science offers specialized training in several fields. A student must declare a major field and a minor field on his/her annual self-assessment.

Three major field options include:

1. American Politics
2. Comparative Politics
3. International Relations

Seven minor field options include:

1. American Politics
2. Comparative Politics
3. International Relations
4. Institutions
5. Behavior
6. Policy
7. Methods

Please note that the major and minor options are not mere guidelines, but are official departmental policy. It will not be possible for a student to major in a field listed as 'minor only,' for example. The DGS will not sign a qualifying exam card if the student's fields deviate from the major/minor options listed above.

The student's advisory committee, in consultation with the DGS if necessary, makes the final determination of the specific courses that count for the major and minor. To provide some guidance on these decisions, the table below lists the courses commonly taught in the graduate program that are likely to count for the major and minor requirements.

**For students who entered prior to Fall 2024: Guidelines for Major and Minor Fields and Related Courses**

	Majors			Minors						
	Amer	CP	IR	Amer	CP	IR	Inst	Behav	Policy	Meth
680 Inst prosem	X	O		X	O		X			
681 Behav pro	X			X				X		
780 Legis behave	O			O	O		O			
711 Presidency	O			O			O			
760 Judicial	O			O			O	O		
750 Part/elec	O			O			O	O		
711 Elec/voting	O			O	O			O		
711 Pub opin	O			O				O		
620 CP prosem		X			X					
711 CP behave	O	O		O	O			O		
711 CP inst	O	O		O	O		O			
735 Democ		O			O					
756 Regional		O			O					
674 Ir prosem			X			X				
711/731 Intl confl			O			O				
733 IPE			O			O				
711 Civil conf			O			O				
711 Intl security			O			O				

Note: "X" above indicates that the course is required for the major/minor listed at the top of the column. "O" above indicates that the course is likely to count as an elective for the major/minor listed at the top of the column.

**For students who entered Fall 2024 or after: Guidelines for Major and Minor Fields and Related Courses**

	Majors			Minors						
	Amer	CP	IR	Amer	CP	IR	Inst	Behav	Policy	Meth
650 American prosem	X	O	O	X						
780 Legis behave	O			O	O		O			
711 Presidency	O			O			O			
760 Judicial	O			O			O	O		
750 Part/elec	O			O			O	O		
711 Elec/voting	O			O	O			O		
711 Pub opin	O			O				O		
620 CP prosem		X			X					
711 CP behave	O	O		O	O			O		
711 CP inst	O	O		O	O		O			
735 Democ		O			O					
756 Regional		O			O					
674 Ir prosem			X			X				
711/731 Intl confl			O			O				
733 IPE			O			O				
711 Civil conf			O			O				
711 Intl security			O			O				

Note: "X" above indicates that the course is required for the major/minor listed at the top of the column. "O" above indicates that the course is likely to count as an elective for the major/minor listed at the top of the column.

The Political Science Department requires all Ph.D. students to prove competence in one analytical skill. The Advisory Committee will determine which mode of meeting the requirement will enhance the student's overall program and objectives. The two

possibilities include: 1) additional graduate work in Statistics, Computer Science, Mathematics, or methodology within the Political Science Department; or 2) completion of the equivalent of the third year (6 semesters) of a foreign language relevant to the student's research and teaching interests. In recent years, some students have satisfied the research skills requirement by attendance at the ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research. More commonly, students take methods courses outside of the department or courses offered as part of the PSCI/SOC methods collaboration.

### III.4. Qualifying Examination

#### III.4.1. Rules and procedures for students who entered in fall 2015 or after

Students entering the PhD program in fall 2015 and afterwards must complete two Field Exams prior to defending the prospectus. The prospectus defense, which should take place following the second Field Exam, serves as the official "qualifying exam" for these students. Students are eligible to take Field Exams once they have successfully completed 4 major field courses and 3 minor field courses.

Students must pass a Field Examination in both their major and minor fields. Major and minor field options are listed in Section III.c of the handbook. Students may take Field Exams in any order they wish, and both Field Exams may be taken during the same semester. Under normal conditions, fall Field Exams will take place in the first week of October, and spring Field Exams will take place in the first week of March. All Field Exams must be taken in the computer lab where Internet capabilities will be removed from computers before the exam begins. All Field Exams will be 8 hour, closed book exams. As clarified below, students taking major Field exams must also sit for an oral defense.<sup>13</sup>

The Field Exams cover any material that the Field Committee deems relevant to the field. This material need not be specific to the student's research interests or program of study. Students taking Field Exams must answer 3 questions among 6 options.<sup>14</sup>

Below is an outline of initial procedures for all Field Exams.

1. Students wishing to take a Field Exam must notify the DGS by September 1 (for fall exams) or January 15 (for spring exams). The Graduate College does not need to be notified about Field Exams (including scheduling, format, outcome, etc.).
2. Based on the exams that need to be covered, the DGS will be responsible for constituting Field Committees. The DGS will appoint a chair of each Field

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<sup>13</sup> If the student has a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, the student should see the DGS prior to scheduling Field Exams. Field committees will make accommodations in accordance with the student's Letter of Accommodation.

<sup>14</sup> While students must answer 3 questions among 6 options, Field Exams can be set up in sections. For example, an IR exam may be split into (1) theory, (2) conflict processes, and (3) research methodology. In cases like this, students may be required to answer one question in each section, but each section must have more than one option.

Committee. The DGS will make a good faith effort to rotate through available faculty to serve on Field Committees. Any faculty member of the given field wishing to serve on Field Committees may serve upon request.

3. The Field Committees will be responsible for constructing the Field Exams under the leadership of the Field Committee chair.<sup>15</sup> When constructing exams, there is no need to differentiate between ‘major’ and ‘minor’ Field Exams.<sup>16</sup>
4. Once the Field Committees construct exams, it is the Field Committee chair’s responsibility to give the exam to the DGS. It is then the DGS’s responsibility to administer the exams and relay student answers to the Field Committees.

Steps 1-4 above are identical for students taking either major or minor Field Exams. Beyond the written portion of the exams, however, the final steps are different depending on whether the student is taking a major or minor field exam. These final steps are clarified below.

5a. Final steps for students taking *minor* field exams:

After receiving the exam answers from the DGS, the Field Committee will grade the exams and vote on an outcome. Options include: *pass*, *reservations*, and *fail*. A majority of the Field Committee must agree for either a pass or fail outcome. Otherwise, the outcome must be reservations. The Field Committee chair will communicate in writing the outcome of the written evaluations to the student.

- a. If the exam is *pass*, the result will be reported to the DGS by the Field Committee chair. The student will move to either (1) their other Field Exam if they have not taken it yet or (2) the Prospectus.
- b. If the result is *fail*, the result will be reported to the DGS by the Field Committee chair. The student must re-take the Field Exam in a subsequent semester. If the student fails a Field Exam twice, s/he will not be allowed to sit for a future exam in that field.
- c. If the outcome of the exam is “reservations,” the student will be required to sit for an oral defense. It is the student’s responsibility to organize and schedule the oral defense. The DGS need only be notified only after a final pass/fail determination is made.

5b. Final steps for students taking *major* field exams:

After completing the written part of the major field exam, students will be required to sit for an oral exam. It is the student’s responsibility to schedule the oral exam, and it is preferable that the oral exam take place within 2 weeks of the written exam. Once both the written and oral exams have taken place, the Field Committee will

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<sup>15</sup> Questions for Field Exams can come from anywhere, including from faculty members who may not be members of the Field Committee.

<sup>16</sup> For example, in any given semester student A taking a *major* field exam in Comparative will take the exact same exam as student B taking a *minor* field exam in Comparative.

vote on an outcome. Options include: *pass* or *fail*. Field Committee members can use their discretion in how they weigh the oral and written components when arriving at their final pass/fail vote. The final pass/fail outcome will be determined by a majority vote of the Field Committee. The Field Committee chair will communicate in writing the final outcome of major Field Exam to the student.

- a. If the exam is *pass*, the result will be reported to the DGS by the Field Committee chair. The student will move to either (1) their other Field Exam if they have not taken it yet or (2) the Prospectus.
- b. If the result is *fail*, the result will be reported to the DGS by the Field Committee chair. The student must re-take the Field Exam in a subsequent semester. If the student fails a Field Exam twice, s/he will not be allowed to sit for a future exam in that field.

### **III.4.2. Rules and procedures for students who entered in fall 2025 or after<sup>17</sup>**

Students entering the PhD program in fall 2025 and afterwards must complete two requirements prior to defending the prospectus as well as an additional one during their third or fourth year in the program (which can occur either before or after a prospectus defense, but is required in order to complete the PhD). These requirements include (1) the second year poster presentation, (2) the major field comprehensive exam, and (3) the third/fourth year research presentation.<sup>18</sup>

#### **1. The Second Year Poster Presentation**

During their fourth semester in the program, students must present a poster covering original, solo-authored research. The expectation is that the presentation will occur at the department's annual Graduate Research Poster and Awards banquet, although alternative arrangements will be available in exceptional circumstances and with approval of the DGS.

The requirements for the poster presentation are as follows. First, the poster cannot only specify a research design, but must involve a fully developed research inquiry that includes theoretical component, well-specified research design, data analysis, and results. Second, the poster must make clear an original contribution to the literature in the student's major or minor field. Third, the student must supply a poster as well as participate in the poster session, describing their research and answering questions from attendees. However, a written paper accompanying the poster is not required.

Satisfactory completion of this requirement must be certified by the student's advisor in consultation with the DGS. If the student does not have an advisor by the end of their fourth semester in the program, they are unable to complete this requirement. In addition,

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<sup>17</sup> Students who entered prior to Fall 2025 have the option to substitute these requirements for the field exam requirements in place for the year they were admitted. In order to do so, students must notify in writing the DGS before their fourth semester in the program.

<sup>18</sup> All of these timelines will be adapted, as appropriate, for students enrolled in part-time study.

completion of this requirement by the end of a student's fourth semester is required to remain in good standing, and students may not proceed to their comprehensive exam or a prospectus defense until this requirement has been completed.

## 2. Major Field Exam

A field examination is required for a student's major field only. Students are eligible to take Field Exams during their third year in the program and once they have successfully completed 4 major field courses. Students complete their minor field by successfully completing 3 minor field courses, with no examination required.

Below are the procedures and timeline for major field examinations.

1. Before summer break, the DGS will constitute field committees for the coming academic year. Except in exceptional circumstances, committees will consist of three faculty in the major field area, with one appointed to serve as chair.
2. Field exams will be offered twice per academic year: the week prior to the start of Fall and Spring semesters. Students must inform the DGS of their intent to sit for their major field exam by August 1 (for Fall exams) or December 1 (for Spring exams).
3. The exam consists of written and oral portions and cover any material that the Field Committee deems relevant to the field. The written portion requires students to answer 3 questions from among 6 options.<sup>19</sup> Students will have 56 hours to complete the exam. The format is open book, meaning that students may consult the literature and their own notes as they write. A full bibliography is required and students must cite any sources consulted. In addition, students are required to adhere to all university academic policies. Students are prohibited from consulting with other individuals, using generative AI, or otherwise violating prohibitions against plagiarism and cheating. If there is evidence that these policies have been violated, the DGS in consultation with the Field Committee will follow the Academic Misconduct Process with a minimum penalty for a verified offense being failure of the exam.
4. Following the written exam, students must sit for a 90 minute oral defense. It is the student's responsibility to schedule the oral exam, and it is preferable that the oral exam take place within 2 weeks of the written exam.

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<sup>19</sup> While students must answer 3 questions among 6 options, Field Exams can be set up in sections. For example, an IR exam may be split into (1) theory, (2) conflict processes, and (3) research methodology. In cases like this, students may be required to answer one question in each section, but each section must have more than one option.

5. Once both the written and oral exams have taken place, the Field Committee will vote on an outcome. Options include: *pass* or *fail*. Field Committee members can use their discretion in how they weigh the oral and written components when arriving at their final pass/fail vote. The final pass/fail outcome will be determined by a majority vote of the Field Committee. The Field Committee chair will communicate in writing the final outcome of major Field Exam to the student. If the result is *fail*, the student must re-take the Field Exam in a subsequent semester. If the student fails a Field Exam twice, he or she will not be permitted to continue in the program.

### **3. The Third/Fourth Year Research Presentation**

During their third or fourth years in the program, students must circulate a research paper and present a research talk to the department. The presentation will occur at the department's research colloquium.

The requirements for the presentation are as follows. First, the student's advisor must approve that the student is ready to schedule the presentation. One week prior to the presentation, the student must circulate their completed, solo-authored research paper to the department. The presentation itself must consist of a research talk with slides, lasting approximately 20-30 minutes, plus the remainder of the hour devoted to questions and answers. If the student chooses, the paper may focus on the same topic as their 2<sup>nd</sup> year poster but it must show clear evidence of research progress since the 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

Satisfactory completion of this requirement must be certified by the student's advisor in consultation with the DGS. It is encouraged for the presentation to occur prior to a student's prospectus defense, although students may choose to complete this later so long as it occurs by the end of their fourth year in the program.<sup>20</sup> In addition, completion of this requirement by the end of a student's fourth year is required to remain good standing, and students may not proceed to their dissertation defense until this requirement has been completed.

#### ***Prospectus Defense***

Students are eligible to sit for their Prospectus Defense provided that they (1) have passed the Field Exam(s), (2) have the equivalent of 2 years of residency (36 hours), (3) have letter grades assigned for all courses previously graded as "I" or "S," and (4) have a GPA of 3.00 or higher. The Prospectus Defense is given by the student's Dissertation Advisory Committee. To sit for the Defense, the student must prepare a written Prospectus for his/her Dissertation, and be examined orally on it by the Advisory Committee. The Prospectus should include a review of the relevant literature and a statement of the

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<sup>20</sup> To be clear, the research presentation must occur separately from the prospectus defense.

Dissertation proposal, its theoretical importance, and the contemplated research design, methods and procedures. The Prospectus is a test of the students writing ability, creativity, grasp of the literature, and methodological competence.

There are two key steps for students preparing to defend a prospectus. First, the student must circulate a working draft of the prospectus to the full committee approximately 4 weeks prior to the planned defense. Second, the student must request to schedule the Prospectus Defense (known as the “Qualifying Examination” by the Graduate College) a minimum of 2 weeks in advance of the planned date.<sup>21,22</sup> The prospectus may be defended in the same term as the Field Exams, but it must come after the student passes both Field Exams. If the Prospectus Defense is passed, the student becomes a Ph.D. Candidate and moves towards the Dissertation phase of his/her graduate career.<sup>23</sup>

The qualifying exam typically occurs using an in-person format, although virtual participation of one or more committee members is permissible. Virtual participation of the student is permissible but only under exceptional circumstances. For any exam that includes individuals who participate virtually, the following conditions must be met. First, the student and committee chair must coordinate with all committee members regarding exam protocol. Second, virtual participation must occur using university-adopted videoconferencing tools with all individuals (student and committee) taking part in real time. The committee chair should host the virtual meeting, with a backup plan in place in case technical difficulties arise. Third, the Graduate School must be notified in advance of the exam modality (all in-person, virtual, or hybrid) when the student submits a request to schedule the exam. Fourth, all Graduate School policies governing virtual participation must be observed (see “Policy on Oral Graduate Committee-based Defenses and Exams” in the Graduate Bulletin).

### III.5. The Dissertation

The Dissertation is expected to be a work of original scholarship which adds to the store of knowledge and demonstrates maturity in research. It is written under the direction of the Chair of the Advisory Committee. Procedures for undertaking and writing the Dissertation

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<sup>21</sup> The Qualifying Exam form located here: <https://gradschool.uky.edu/studentforms>

<sup>22</sup> /\* Professors, once the student formally requests to defend his/her Prospectus with the Graduate College, the DGS will approve of the request if the student has completed all requirements as listed above. Once the defense is scheduled, the Graduate College will send a “Qualifying Examination Card” to the DGS. The DGS will then forward this card to the Chair of the Advisory Committee. The Prospectus cannot be defended without this card. All members of the Advisory Committee must be present at the Prospectus Defense. The results of the defense must be reported to the DGS as soon as possible following the defense. The DGS must report the result of the defense to the Graduate College within 10 days of the defense. A majority vote is required to pass the examination. If the student fails the defense, the Advisory Committee Chair should consult with the DGS for clarification on how to move forward. \*/

<sup>23</sup> If the student fails the prospectus defense, the department will follow the Graduate School rules and procedures (see “The Qualifying Exam” section in the Graduate Bulletin: <http://bulletin.uky.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=358#the-qualifying-examination>)

are outlined in the Graduate School's Manual for Theses and Dissertations.<sup>24</sup> The Dissertation must be complete in all ways before the Final Examination can be scheduled. Students should be aware that there is an option to submit the Dissertation in an electronic format.<sup>25</sup>

While writing the dissertation, students should register for PS 767 (Dissertation Residency Credit). The student will receive a grade of S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory) in each term in which the student is enrolled in PS 767. If the student receives 1 unsatisfactory grade in PS 767, s/he will be re-evaluated for continuation in the program. It is the student's responsibility to maintain consistent communication with his/her advisor (and advisory committee, when appropriate) in order to assure that satisfactory progress is being made on the dissertation. While writing the dissertation, a student's good progress towards a degree will be assessed twice each year.<sup>26</sup> These assessments include:

**Fall assessment:** At the end of the fall term, the chair of the student's advisory committee (i.e., the student's dissertation advisor) must relate information to the DGS about the student's progress on the dissertation. The DGS will assign a U or S grade based on the advisor's assessment.

**Spring assessment:** The spring assessment will be undertaken by the DGS in consultation with the graduate committee and the student's advisory committee. The first step in this process is for the student to submit a "Self assessment" by January 18<sup>th</sup>. Failure to submit this form will result in an automatic U for the spring term. Consistent with all graduate students and the directions provided on the self-assessment form, students writing their dissertations will submit a self-assessment, and then meet with their advisory committee to discuss their progress.<sup>27</sup> After this meeting, the chair of the advisory committee will submit a recommendation for a U or S grade to the DGS.<sup>28</sup> The final determination as to whether or not the student is making good progress (i.e., whether or not the student should receive a U or S for the spring term) will be made by the DGS in consultation with the graduate committee.

### **III.6. The Final Exam (aka "Dissertation Defense")**

Final examination on the Dissertation will be conducted by a committee appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School. Such a committee normally includes the members of the student's Advisory Committee as well as an outside person appointed by the Graduate

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<sup>24</sup> <https://gradschool.uky.edu/thesis-dissertation-preparation>

<sup>25</sup> For details, see <https://gradschool.uky.edu/electronic-dissertation-preparation>

<sup>26</sup> The procedure for assessing a student's "good progress" aligns with the policy from the Graduate School. See "Assessment of Good Progress for Doctoral Students" in the DGS Handbook: [https://gradschool.uky.edu/sites/gradschool.uky.edu/files/DGSManual\\_01112023.pdf](https://gradschool.uky.edu/sites/gradschool.uky.edu/files/DGSManual_01112023.pdf)

<sup>27</sup> Meetings done remotely are acceptable, particularly for those students who are away from Lexington.

<sup>28</sup> /\*Professors, the Chair of the student's Advisory Committee will receive the Graduate Self-Assessment form from the DGS during sometime around 01/18. Following the student's meeting with the Advisory Committee, the Chair of the Advisory Committee must notify the DGS in writing about the outcome of the meeting by February 15. The 'Advisory Committee Review Report' is the preferable mechanism to relay this information. \*/

School. Though the Final Exam is commonly referred to as the “Dissertation Defense,” it may cover all aspects of the doctoral candidate’s program.

At least one academic year, but no more than five years, must elapse between the Qualifying Examination and the Final Examination.

As students prepare for the Final Exam, there are a number of important deadlines that must be followed:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Circulate a working draft of the dissertation to the full committee approximately 10 weeks prior to the planned defense.
- \_\_\_\_\_ File the Notification of Intent to Schedule a Final Doctoral Examination (NOTIF) at least 8 weeks before the exam (defense) date.<sup>29</sup> This form will only be approved by the DGS once each member of the student’s advisory committee confirms that s/he (1) believes that the student can reasonably be ready to defend his/her dissertation during the time period specified on the form and (2) will be available during the time period specified on the form.
- \_\_\_\_\_ File the Application for Degree Form by the published deadline of the semester in which the student plans to graduate.<sup>30</sup>
- \_\_\_\_\_ Circulate a completed draft of the dissertation at least 2 weeks prior to the Final Exam.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Also at least 2 weeks prior to the Final Exam, file the Request for Final Doctoral Examination.<sup>31</sup> This form will only be approved by the DGS once each member of the student’s advisory committee confirms that s/he (1) has had an opportunity to suggestions revisions to the dissertation and (2) can meet at the date/time specified on the form.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Note: The Final Exam must take place no later than eight days **prior** to the last day of classes of the semester in which the student expects to graduate.

Students should pay particular attention to the need to circulate drafts to their entire committee. While it is common for students to work primarily with one or two faculty in development of the dissertation, it is also necessary for students to keep all members of the advisory committee apprised of their progress (e.g., by circulating chapters frequently). Though the precise procedure for how this is done is largely up to the student and his/her advisor, all members of the committee should have seen enough of the dissertation to feel comfortable with the DGS approving of the defense when the “Notification of Intent” is submitted. The DGS will not approve the “Notification of Intent” until s/he receives confirmation from each advisory committee member that the committee member feels comfortable with the student defending within 8 weeks. In other words, having the approval of the dissertation chair is not enough for the “Notification of Intent” to be

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<sup>29</sup> Notification of Intent to Schedule a Final Doctoral Examination located here: <https://gradschool.uky.edu/studentforms>. This form prompts the Graduate School Dean to appoint an outside examiner to represent the Graduate School (and ensure proper procedure) at the Final Exam.

<sup>30</sup> <https://gradschool.uky.edu/studentforms>

<sup>31</sup> <https://gradschool.uky.edu/studentforms>

approved by the DGS. All advisory committee members must be on board with the defense at least 8 weeks before the defense takes place.

The third bullet point places a second check on each committee member's right to provide input to the dissertation. When the "Request for Final Doctoral Examination" is submitted, all committee members should have already received the dissertation and should have already had the opportunity to suggest revisions. This does not mean that a student must get confirmation from each committee member that s/he is ready to pass the dissertation because only a majority vote is needed for a student to pass the defense. However, it does mean that, at a minimum, they have had the opportunity to read and make suggestions.

The Final Exam must take place no later than eight days prior to the last day of classes of the semester in which the student expects to graduate. Final examinations are public events and must take place while the University is officially in session. If the candidate passes the Final Examination, s/he will be recommended for conferral of the Ph.D. degree. The examination committee may choose to suggest additions or revisions in the Dissertation at the time of Final Examination. If revisions or additions to the Dissertation are required, the Committee Chair or a designate will oversee the work.

The dissertation defense typically occurs using an in-person format, although virtual participation of one or more committee members is permissible. Virtual participation of the student is permissible but only under exceptional circumstances. For any exam that includes individuals who participate virtually, the following conditions must be met. First, the student and committee chair must coordinate with all committee members regarding exam protocol. Second, virtual participation must occur using university-adopted videoconferencing tools with all individuals (student and committee) taking part in real time. The committee chair should host the virtual meeting, with a backup plan in place in case technical difficulties arise. Third, the Graduate School must be notified in advance of the exam modality (all in-person, virtual, or hybrid) when the student submits a request to schedule the exam." Fourth, all Graduate School policies governing virtual participation must be observed (see "Policy on Oral Graduate Committee-based Defenses and Exams" in the Graduate Bulletin).

The final, corrected copy of the Dissertation must be submitted to the Graduate School within 60 days of the Final Examination or all graduate work concerning the Dissertation must be repeated. If the candidate fails his or her Final Examination, the committee may recommend to the Dean of the Graduate School the conditions under which the candidate may have another examination. This examination will be administered by as many of the original committee members as are available, with new members appointed by the Dean to fill any vacancies.

### III.7. Getting your MA along the Way

Though Ph.D. students are not required to file for their MA degree after passing their comprehensive exams, the department encourages them to do so and it is free. The process is not as straight-forward as one might expect, though it should take students little time to complete the application. The following steps should be taken for a PhD student to apply for their MA degree:

1. This should only be done by those who have passed their qualifying exams. If you have not passed qualifying exams, do not do anything right now.
2. Fill out the “Master’s / Specialist Final Examination Online,” which is available at: <https://gradschool.uky.edu/studentforms>
3. On the form, you need to:
  - a. Check ‘PLAN B’ under ‘MASTER’S DEGREE’
  - b. Check ‘ORAL EXAM’ under ‘FOR PLAN B’
  - c. The date/time of the examination should be the date/time that you passed your qualifying exam
  - d. Next to ‘EXAMINATION COMMITTEE’ type ‘Qualifying exam to stand in lieu of Master final examination.’
4. Fill out the “Graduate School Application for Degree” form, which is available at: <https://registrar.uky.edu/sites/default/files/2022-04/Applying%20for%20Degree%20%28PHD%29.pdf>
5. Give both forms to the DGS for his/her signature, and then submit them to the DGS’s office assistant once you have the DGS’s signature. The DGS’s office assistant will submit them to the Graduate College for you.
6. Wait for a week or two, and then check with the DGS’s office assistant to make sure everything is in order. It will take about 30 days to see the degree posted on your transcript and another 60-90 days to receive the diploma in the mail.

### III.8. Incompletes and clarification of PS796 & PS767<sup>32</sup>

#### ***Incompletes***

An incomplete (“I”) grade may be assigned to a graduate student if a part of the work of a course remains undone and there is a reasonable possibility that a passing grade will result from completion of the work. All “I” grades must be replaced by a regular final letter grade within 12 months of the end of the academic term in which the “I” grade was awarded or prior to the student’s graduation, whichever occurs first. If an “I” grade has not been replaced within the allowable period, the University Registrar shall change the “I” grade to a grade of “E” on the student’s permanent academic record and adjust the student’s grade-point standing accordingly, unless otherwise approved because of

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<sup>32</sup> Full documentation for Incomplete procedures can be found under “Grades” here: [https://gradschool.uky.edu/sites/gradschool.uky.edu/files/DGSManual\\_01112023.pdf](https://gradschool.uky.edu/sites/gradschool.uky.edu/files/DGSManual_01112023.pdf)

exceptional circumstances by the Dean of the Graduate School on recommendation of the DGS in the student's program. In exceptional circumstances, the Dean of the Graduate School will consider one semester extensions of "I" grades beyond the 12 month period only (the combined summer terms count as one semester).

In addition, the Instructor of Record must specify the remaining work necessary for the satisfaction of the course requirements, and the time frame over which this work will be completed. All work must be completed, and the grade assigned by the last day of final exams for the semester in which the extension is granted. Note that there are certain courses (seminars, independent work courses, research courses) in which a grade of "S" may be more appropriate than an incomplete; the grade of "S" is not affected by the policy described above.

Instructors of Record who assign an I grade should file with the student's Director of Graduate Studies information which includes 1) the name of the student, 2) the course number and hours of credit, 3) the semester and year of enrollment, 4) specific information on the work to be completed before a final grade can be assigned, and 5) the time frame in which the specific requirements are to be met (not to exceed 12 months).<sup>33</sup> Graduate students are urged to consult with their Director of Graduate Studies concerning procedures relative to the awarding of I grades and the conditions under which they may be removed.

### **PS796**

According to the course description, PS796 is for "Individual research in a particular field of political science under the supervision of selected faculty. Open to advanced graduate students who are prepared for intensive study and research beyond that offered in regular classes in each field. May be repeated to a maximum of 15 hours. Prereq: Consent of the instructor and the director of graduate studies."

Students and professors are often confused about when it should be taken and the purpose of this course. First, be aware that this course *must* be taken at some point. This is a departmental rule, and it is a rule that benefits the student. Second, regarding *when* PS796 should be taken, it is most advantageous to take this course sometime before the semester in which the student takes his/her qualifying exam. It can be taken during the term in which the student takes the qualifying exam, but it seems advantageous to take PS757 during the qualifying exam term (see below). Third, regarding *what* it should be varies depending on the goals of the student and instructor. Most commonly, students taking this course will be focusing on the early stages of their dissertation. This means that they might be writing their prospectus, collecting pilot data to see if their early dissertation

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<sup>33</sup> Instructors, the "Record of Incomplete (I) Grade" form is available at: <https://polisci.as.uky.edu/more-info>. This is the preferable method to communicate the information regarding an I grade to the DGS. Please note that this form (or a comparable alternative) should be submitted to the student's DGS, which may not be the PSCI DGS if the student is from another department.

plan is feasible, reading research not covered in courses but necessary for the dissertation, or writing grant proposals to help fund their dissertation work.

Regarding ‘full time,’ students must take 9 credit hours to remain full time, and PS796 has no special status for this (unlike PS767, see below). Thus, students cannot take PS796 alone and remain full time; they must enroll in other courses if they wish to maintain full time status.

### **PS757**

PS757 is “Residency credit for preparing and taking the qualifying examination. Students may register for one semester of this course in anticipation of completing the qualifying examination during the semester. The course is not repeatable and is not required.”

Enrolling in 2 credits of PS757 course confers full-time status. Students should enroll in this course, but only in the semester of their prospectus defense (commonly, but not always, the 6th semester in the program). However, because the course is not repeatable, the student and advisory committee should anticipate a prospectus defense is very likely during the semester of 757 enrollment. Otherwise, students will need to enroll in an alternative option, such as research credits in PS 796, 9 of which are required for full-time status.

### **PS767**

According to the course description, PS767 is “residency credit for dissertation research after the qualifying examination. Students may no longer register for this course in the semester of the qualifying examination. To register, students must have passed their qualifying exam. A minimum of two semesters are required as well as continuous enrollment (Fall and Spring) until the dissertation is completed and defended.”

There are several sources of confusion with PS767 that are cleared up in the DGS handbook.<sup>34</sup> First, residency is not a requirement for this. The “student need not be physically present on campus while enrolled for credit after the qualifying examination” (I have no idea why it’s called “post-qualifying *residency*”). Second, students enrolled in PS767 (2 credit hours) are considered full-time. Thus, this course (and only this course) can be taken both in the term of the qualifying exam and afterwards. Third, once students are ABD, they must continuously enroll in this course if they want to stay in the graduate program. Failure to enroll in this course means that the student is automatically removed from the program, and will have to re-apply if they want to get back into the program. Given that we do not have a separate re-admission procedure, the re-admission procedure is the exact same thing as the admission procedure. Students who fail to register for PS767 when writing the dissertation, therefore, risk being rejected from the program when they

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<sup>34</sup> To see the DGS handbook, go to [https://gradschool.uky.edu/sites/gradschool.uky.edu/files/DGSManual\\_01112023.pdf](https://gradschool.uky.edu/sites/gradschool.uky.edu/files/DGSManual_01112023.pdf). This is updated frequently, so there’s no permanent link to the handbook.

apply for re-admission and waste a lot of time generating a full application package for re-admission.

The student's decision on what to take should come from discussions with his/her advisory committee.

## IV. TEACHING

Teaching is an integral part of the graduate student experience. The department prides itself on providing excellent undergraduate instruction, and Teaching Assistants (TAs) are frequently some of the best teachers in the college. Below are some guidelines that are meant to help students fulfill their roles as a Teaching Assistant (TA).

### IV.1. TA Types, Responsibilities and Assignments

The University defines Teaching Assistants (TAs) into one of four types<sup>35</sup>:

Type 1: A Teaching Assistant who has primary responsibility for teaching a class.

Type 2: A TA who teaches a class or lab under the direct supervision of a course coordinator.

Type 3: A TA who serves in a supporting classroom or lab role (i.e., recitation leader or lab assistant) to a primary instructor.

Type 4: A TA serves in a supporting role outside the classroom (i.e., grader).

TAs are assigned as one of the four types listed above as early as possible before the term begins. These decisions are based on a number of factors, including the needs of undergraduates, the TA's experience and educational history, and the preferences of the TAs. TAs wishing to express their ideal teaching preferences are encouraged to communicate with the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) at least one semester in advance. Though the DUS will try to accommodate all requests, students should realize that the DUS must balance many needs beyond what the TA desires.

Aside from Type 1 TAs, all other TAs are under the direct supervision of their advisor. The role of Type 2-4 TAs varies immensely as advisors have great discretion on what they expect from their TAs. In these cases, TAs should assure that they fully understand their responsibilities and frequently meet with their advisor if anything is unclear.

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<sup>35</sup> Further information about TA types, qualifications and responsibilities can be found at: <https://gradschool.uky.edu/ta-types-teaching-credentials>

## IV.2. Head Teaching Assistant<sup>36</sup>

At the beginning of each academic year, the DGS in consultation with the Graduate Committee will assign one TA to be the “Head TA.” Among other things, the head TA will be chosen based on teaching evaluations, leadership, teaching experience and effective mentorship. The Head TA will receive a stipend of \$1000/year (in addition to the regular TA stipend amount).

The Head TA will have two primary responsibilities:

1. The Head TA should be the “point person” for all TAs. While all TAs have faculty mentors who should provide general guidance and advice, the Head TA will be responsible for helping all TAs with “day-to-day” tasks (e.g., explaining how to use scantron forms, run the copier). When in doubt, the head TA should always advise the TA to contact their faculty mentor for guidance.
2. Under the guidance of the DGS, the Head TA will be responsible for ongoing training for all TAs.<sup>37</sup> This includes organizing at least two ongoing training sessions per semester that best meet TA needs.
3. The head TA will be responsible for keeping graduate students informed of all workshops that might help them as their progress through the program (e.g., QIPSR and CELT workshops). Keeping a list updated on the department’s website will likely be the best place for these items.

## IV.3. Course Preparation

TAs have significant responsibilities to assure that they prepare quality lectures, assess students in a fair and transparent manner, and abide by all university regulations. This is particularly true for students teaching their own courses. The information below is meant to help students in this process, though TAs should keep themselves informed of any updates or additional information that becomes available.

Two main areas of support are provided to help students develop a course syllabus. First, the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELТ) provides several suggestions for syllabus development. In addition, there is a syllabus template available at: <https://provost.uky.edu/curriculumproposals/syllabus-information>. Students should be aware that many university rules need to be included in the syllabus, so the template is likely the best way to get started in designing a syllabus.

Second, while the department encourages creativity in how TAs design and present their courses, it is often useful to see how others have taught the course. There is often little reason to ‘reinvent the wheel’ when teaching courses, and students should feel free to

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<sup>36</sup> Future funding for this position will depend on the availability of funds and evidence that this policy is meeting its objectives.

<sup>37</sup> For more information, see “Mandatory Ongoing Training for TAs” at: <https://gradschool.uky.edu/ta-supervision-feedback-overview#Mandatory%20Ongoing%20Training%20for%20TAs>

copy/paste information from others' syllabi. The Department houses syllabi from previous courses that will may be useful in this regard, especially in combination with the template, which is formatted to include all required components.

TAs teaching their own courses will have to think about a plethora of other matters to assure that they are ready to present their course. These include ordering textbooks, reserving materials at the library, setting up a course on Blackboard, and assuring that the course is accessibility/ADA ready. Students are advised to check the course preparation list<sup>38</sup> well before the beginning of the semester.

#### **IV.4. Teaching Effectively**

Learning how to be a good teacher takes time, and all instructors who care about teaching constantly update their material and teaching techniques. TAs in the Political Science department have three main sources to improve their teaching skills.

First, each TA is assigned a faculty mentor at or near the beginning of each term. The faculty mentor's role is to ensure that undergraduate instruction is the highest quality possible. The mentor is required to observe at least one class session of each TA (except Type 4 TAs as defined above). The faculty member must submit the TA Class Observation Form<sup>39</sup> by the end of the semester. The TAs must sign this form, and TAs are encouraged to meet with their advisor for additional feedback following the observation. TAs are encouraged to meet with their teaching mentors as much as necessary to improve their teaching performance. TAs are also encouraged to observe faculty in the classroom. Faculty members must also submit an end-of-semester evaluation form.<sup>40</sup>

Though they are not required, the department strongly encourages students to focus on five points when working with their teaching mentors:

1. Get the mentor's approval of a syllabus before copying and distributing it.
2. Work with the mentor to assure that the student is observed in two of the class meetings so that the mentor can fill out and submit a TA Observation form, which may be arranged in advance or the mentor may choose to conduct unannounced.
3. Run all major course assignments (e.g., exams and paper prompts) by the mentor to get advice/direction before copying and distributing them.
4. Consult with the mentor whenever course policy issues arise that, handled badly, could pose a threat to the fundamental integrity of the course in regard to fairness or consistency with University rules.
5. Have final course grades finished early enough that the mentor can look over them before they are submitted to the registrar.

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<sup>38</sup> <https://provost.uky.edu/curriculumproposals/syllabus-information>

<sup>39</sup> /\* Professors, the digital form (preferred) can be found at: <https://gradschool.uky.edu/studentforms>

<sup>40</sup> \* Professors, the digital form (preferred) can be found at: [https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_74cBhdhYXiRUrit](https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_74cBhdhYXiRUrit) \*/

Second, the Center for Learning and Teaching (CELТ) offers a plethora of resources for instructors. These include consultations with individual instructors, workshops and lunch discussions on a variety of teaching and learning topics, and mid-semester course feedback. Students are strongly encouraged to visit the CELТ website and use their resources to become better instructors.<sup>41</sup> Aside from these more general topics, CELТ provides detailed guidelines and advice on smaller matters that frequently make TAs apprehensive about teaching (e.g., what to say on the first day, how to write good multiple choice questions, duties for students with disabilities). TAs are encouraged to visit this website early and often to assure that they are presenting the best course possible and to assure that they are meeting all university guidelines.

Third, the university provides two more formal programs to support graduate students in developing their teaching skills and teaching portfolios.<sup>42</sup> The first is the Preparing Future Faculty program, which is meant to provide professional development guidance to graduate students who wish to become professors one day. This program is geared towards research, teaching and service.<sup>43</sup> A related program focuses more specifically on teaching: The Graduate Certificate in College Teaching and Learning.<sup>44</sup> This is 12-credit-hour certificate program. Students are encouraged to apply for this program early in their graduate studies.

#### **IV.5. Problems with Students**

The vast majority of potential problems with students can be taken care of by writing a thorough syllabus and consistently abiding by the syllabus. For example, procedures for dealing with late assignments, attendance/participation policies, and plagiarism should all be explained thoroughly in the syllabus. TAs should also fully understand their responsibilities in abiding by the syllabus, including keeping on schedule, grading in a fair and transparent manner, and being present during office hours. However, difficult situations inevitably arise that are not confronted clearly in the syllabus (e.g., the line between sloppy work and plagiarism, accusations of harassment, accusations of unfair grading). When such situations arise, students should immediately contact their teaching mentor (or DGS if the mentor is unavailable) for instruction on how to deal with the situation. This should happen before communicating with the student about the matter. If unsure about anything, TAs are advised to seek advice before moving forward.

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<sup>41</sup> [http://www.uky.edu/celt/CELТ\\_welcome.php](http://www.uky.edu/celt/CELТ_welcome.php)

<sup>42</sup> Before enrolling in either of these two programs, students are strongly encouraged to talk with their advisors to assure that the benefits of the programs are likely to outweigh the costs. The department encourages students to improve their teaching, but realizes that each student's advisor is in the best position to decide whether these programs are worth each student's time – time that could be spent developing other skills. As such, students should understand that the department as a whole (including the Graduate Committee) is unlikely to view participation in these programs as either beneficial or detrimental to the student's record.

<sup>43</sup> <https://gradschool.uky.edu/preparing-future-faculty>

<sup>44</sup> <https://gradschool.uky.edu/graduate-certificate-college-teaching-learning>

## IV.6. Professionalism

Students should maintain a high level of professionalism when dealing with undergraduate students. This includes many ‘common sense’ issues (e.g., not dating and partying with students) and other not-so-obvious issues. From the past, three problems seem to re-occur that should be avoided:

1. TAs should dress professionally when teaching. The norm is ‘business casual.’ Neither a tie nor a dress is required, but jeans and t-shirts should definitely not be worn in front of students. Though TAs might observe professors teaching in more casual clothing, TAs should not emulate this.
2. TAs should be present at all scheduled office hours. Though no rule exists, students should schedule 3+ office hours per week at times that are accessible to the students (i.e., during normal business hours). TAs should also be available to meet with students who cannot reasonably attend scheduled office hours.
3. TAs should respond quickly to all emails/phone calls from students. As a rule of thumb, all emails and calls should be returned within 24 hours during the week, and ASAP following the weekend. It is never acceptable to simply ignore a student.

## IV.7. Additional Employment

The Graduate School does not allow either TAs or RAs with full-time assistantships (20 hours, 0.5 FTE) to have additional salary or employment. This is to assure that the student maintains his or her academic focus. Exception can be granted in rare circumstances, however. Details are available on the Graduate School’s website.<sup>45</sup>

As of 09/14/15, the College now plays a role in determining whether or not students are eligible for working beyond their normal .5 TA/RA load. In order to work in any paid capacity beyond the normal TA/RA load, students should take the following steps:

1. Create a document that describes the work being pursued. This document should include: (1) the nature of the assignment, (2) the number of hours of work per week required, and (3) how the work will promote the student’s career development and/or not impede progress toward degree.
2. Get approval from both the advisor and the DGS for the work.

Once steps 1-2 have happened, the DGS will email the request. If approved, it is then the student’s responsibility to get approval from the Graduate School. Details are available on the Graduate School’s website.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> Policies here: <https://gradschool.uky.edu/assistantships>.

<sup>46</sup> <https://gradschool.uky.edu/assistantships>

## IV.8. Teaching Assignment Guidelines

Assigning Teaching Assistants to undergraduate course sections is a complicated process led by the curriculum coordinator in consultation with the rest of the faculty, not a procedure that can be reduced to a few bright-line rules. However, the Department seeks to follow these guidelines:

3. In their first year, TA's assist lecture-hall professors rather than teach their own sections (which they're not allowed to do if they lack 18 graduate credit hours in the field).
4. At least once in their second year, TA's teach their own lower-division course
  - i. in which they've previously assisted a faculty member, and/or
  - ii. in a field for which they've taken a proseminar.
5. At least once after their second year, TA's may teach an upper-division course, a privilege that is more likely the closer they are to defending their dissertations and if the teaching requests are courses
  - i. in which they've previously assisted faculty members,
  - ii. closely related to their dissertation topics,
  - iii. part of the standard undergraduate curriculum rather than a topics course, and/or
  - iv. for which they're uniquely suitable (e.g., they've published peer-reviewed work on the topic, lived/studied in the region, worked in the industry).
4. TA's will almost never be allowed to teach courses that may enroll graduate students, although in cases of extreme departmental need a section of such a course could be created that specifically excludes graduate enrollment.
5. On occasion, a TA may be assigned to a non-classroom role, such as to serve as a roving grader or program assistant. However, even in those exceptional cases, rules require that the dominant component of any TA assignment must be activities that contribute directly to Political Science classrooms.

## V. DEPARTMENTAL CITIZENSHIP

The department places great emphasis on a collegial and nurturing academic environment. While we realize that the nature of academic scholarship, especially in the social sciences and humanities, often favors the autonomous and independent researcher, the department nevertheless works to foster a sense of departmental citizenship which transcends the individual faculty or staff member and student. While the responsibilities of departmental citizenship may be somewhat vaguely understood as a commitment to the success of the community as a whole (as a department, within the College of Arts and Sciences, within the Graduate School, within the University, within the discipline of Political Science) in a positive working environment, more mundane considerations include, but are not limited to, a number of ongoing departmental practices. Examples include: Seminar participation that realizes the benefits of working through literatures as a group with sometimes disparate and varied levels of previous experience and preparation; a funding decision matrix that privileges the success of the entire graduate student cohort over individual concerns; the expectation of attendance at all departmental colloquia; student membership on departmental committees; participation at regional and national conferences and papers submitted to refereed journals. Good departmental citizenship extends to all of the identities that every graduate student embodies, whether as individual, scholar, or teacher.

Students should be aware that the department takes issues of departmental citizenship very seriously in making decisions about funding and retention. While we may not formally grade students on things such as participation in talks, dealing professionally with peers and faculty, preparing for effective conference presentations, and dealing professionally with students, we do take these issues into account when making decisions.

Students should also be aware of all issues dealing with sexual (and other forms of) harassment, which are dealt with by the Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity.<sup>47</sup> These issues apply how the student is treated by faculty, how TAs treat their students, and how graduate students treat one another. When in doubt about any behavior, students are strongly encouraged to talk with the DGS (or any other trusted faculty member). Though the DGS (and others) will do all they can to protect a student's identity in sensitive situations, students should be aware that revealing some types of information (e.g., clear examples of when they have been harassed, including names and events) the DGS/professor has no choice but to report the incident or risk losing their jobs.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> <https://ieeo.uky.edu>

<sup>48</sup> Specific procedures for dealing with complaints are available at: <https://oeo.uky.edu/key-priorities/discrimination-and-harassment>

## VI. Ph.D. CHECKLIST<sup>49</sup>

### Tasks that must be completed every year

- \_\_\_\_\_ Review external funding opportunities, particularly those listed on the Graduate College website.<sup>50</sup>
- \_\_\_\_\_ Review internal (departmental) funding opportunities.<sup>51</sup>
- \_\_\_\_\_ Graduate Student Self-assessment form due to the DGS by January 18.<sup>52</sup>
- \_\_\_\_\_ Meet with Advisory Committee (or DGS for those who do not yet have an Advisory Committee) by February 8.
- \_\_\_\_\_ If funding is requested from either the Graduate School or the Department, the student must file the Conference Proposal Form with the DGS prior to submitting a proposal.<sup>53</sup>
- \_\_\_\_\_ For TAs, assure that teaching mentors observe student teaching and submit the teaching observation form.<sup>54</sup>
- \_\_\_\_\_ For students working on their dissertation, communicate frequently with the advisor to assure that satisfactory progress is being made on the dissertation.

### Courses that must be taken

- \_\_\_\_\_ PS572
- \_\_\_\_\_ PS671
- \_\_\_\_\_ PS672
- \_\_\_\_\_ PS620 or PS 674
- \_\_\_\_\_ PS650 / PS680 or PS 681 (depending on program year)
- \_\_\_\_\_ PS772 or advisory committee-approved alternative

### Committee

- \_\_\_\_\_ Advisory committee identified (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> semester), registered w/ DGS & Graduate School<sup>55</sup>

### Becoming an ABD<sup>56</sup>

- \_\_\_\_\_ All required coursework completed
- \_\_\_\_\_ Second year poster presentation completed (depending on program year)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Major or major and minor field exams passed (depending on program year)

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<sup>49</sup> These deadlines and procedures are subject to change. It is also possible that this handbook does not include all relevant information due to an accidental omission. It is the student's responsibility to assure that requirements have been met to move forward and complete the program. See the following website for more information and to check on any changes: [https://gradschool.uky.edu/sites/gradschool.uky.edu/files/Forms/StudentForms/2020-2021/CheckSheet\\_DoctoralStudents.pdf](https://gradschool.uky.edu/sites/gradschool.uky.edu/files/Forms/StudentForms/2020-2021/CheckSheet_DoctoralStudents.pdf)

<sup>50</sup> <https://gradschool.uky.edu/fellowships>

<sup>51</sup> <https://polisci.as.uky.edu/honors-awards>

<sup>52</sup> <https://polisci.as.uky.edu/more-info>

<sup>53</sup> <https://polisci.as.uky.edu/more-info>

<sup>54</sup> <https://gradschool.uky.edu/ta-supervision-feedback-overview>

<sup>55</sup> <https://gradschool.uky.edu/studentforms>

<sup>56</sup> Rules for "Becoming ABD" (e.g., qualifying exam, comprehensive exams, field exams) vary depending on when students entered the program. See the text in this document for these rules.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Dissertation prospectus written and distributed to committee
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dissertation prospectus defense (the Qualifying Exam) scheduled w/ committee & room reserved with at least 2 weeks prior notice
- \_\_\_\_\_ Qualifying Examination Request form filed with the Graduate School at least 2 weeks prior to the Exam.<sup>57</sup>
- \_\_\_\_\_ Oral dissertation defense (the Qualifying Exam) occurs. Passing means that the student is now a Ph.D. candidate (ABD)

### The Dissertation

- \_\_\_\_\_ Third/Fourth year research presentation completed prior to the final exam (depending on program year)
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Notification of Intent to Schedule a Final Doctoral Examination must be filed at least eight weeks before the exam (defense) date.<sup>58</sup>
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Request for Final Doctoral Examination Form must be filed at least two weeks prior to the Final Exam.<sup>59</sup>
- \_\_\_\_\_ Final Examination scheduled with advisor, committee, and identified external Member (Graduate School representative)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Final copy of the Dissertation is filed with the Graduate School. Must be done within 60 days following the Final Exam defense or by relevant term deadline (whatever comes first).

### Graduation

- \_\_\_\_\_ The Application for Degree Form must be filed by the published deadline of the semester in which the student plans to graduate.<sup>60</sup> It is due 30 days after the beginning of the semester (15 days for 2nd summer session).<sup>61</sup> Students must resubmit the application for degree the following semester if they do not graduate.

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<sup>57</sup> <https://gradschool.uky.edu/studentforms>

<sup>58</sup> <https://gradschool.uky.edu/studentforms>

<sup>59</sup> <https://gradschool.uky.edu/studentforms>

<sup>60</sup> <http://myuk.uky.edu/> Click on Student Services / myRecords / Graduate Degree Application

<sup>61</sup> See <https://registrar.uky.edu/academic-calendars/university> for specific deadlines.