

POLITICAL SCIENCE, PHD

Banner Code: PP-PHD-POS

Academic Advising

560 Founders Hall
Arlington Campus

A201 Robinson Hall
Fairfax Campus

The doctoral program is designed to prepare students for teaching and conducting research about government, careers in government and politics, and work in domestic and international nongovernmental organizations. The program allows students to combine their academic education with experience in the kinds of complex domestic and international political organizations they are studying. This model for political science education, patterned after the American Political Science Association's Congressional Fellows Program, is designed to foster scholarship and a firsthand understanding of domestic and international institutions such as think tanks, international bodies, nongovernmental organizations, journals of political opinion, and congressional and executive branch offices.

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

Application Requirements

Please see Graduate Admissions for general information on graduate admission to George Mason University. Please see the Schar School of Policy and Government Admissions website (<http://schar.gmu.edu/admissions/doctorate-admissions>) for application requirements and deadlines. Students are considered for admission for the Fall term only.

For students who have been admitted with a bachelor's degree, the Faculty Review Committee will review each student's progress after 30 credits of course work to determine whether the student will be allowed to continue their work toward the PhD. For students entering the program with a master's degree, this review will occur after 12 credits in this program. Students who are not allowed to continue to work toward the PhD will be allowed to complete the MA degree.

Policies

Academic Advising

A total of 12 credits of supporting courses may be taken in other departments to fulfill a minority of the credits for any of the requirements below, including the methodology requirement, with prior written approval of the program director. All courses should be planned with an advisor and appear on a program of study, which requires the approval of the program director.

Reduction of Credit

For students entering the program with a master's or MPA degree, the number of credits required for the doctorate may be reduced by up to 30 credits subject to approval of the graduate coordinator and the dean.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 72

Core Courses

Select three from the following:		9
GOVT 510	American Government and Politics	
GOVT 520	Political Theory	
GOVT 530	Comparative Politics	
GOVT 540	International Relations	
GOVT 550	Seminar in Theories of Public Administration	

Total Credits 9

Advanced Courses in Two Major Fields

Students choose two major fields from the four fields below and complete all course requirements for both fields of study for a total of 21 credits.

American Government and Politics

Required Field Seminars

Select two from the following:		6
GOVT 603	Seminar in the Courts and Constitutional Law	
GOVT 604	Seminar on Congress and Legislative Behavior	
GOVT 605	Seminar on the Presidency	
GOVT 706	Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations	

Electives

Select one to three electives	3-9
Total Credits	9-15

Comparative Politics

Required Field Seminars

GOVT 631	Seminar in Comparative Politics and Institutions	3
GOVT 731	Advanced Seminar in Comparative Politics	3

Electives

Select one to three electives	3-9
Total Credits	9-15

International Relations

Required Field Seminars

Select two from the following:		6
GOVT 641	Global Governance	
GOVT 741	Advanced Seminar in International Politics	
GOVT 743	International Political Economy	
GOVT 745	International Security	

Electives

Select one to three electives	3-9
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Total Credits	9-15
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Public Administration**Required Field Seminars**

GOVT 753	Third-Party Governance	3
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GOVT 755	Seminar in Politics and Bureaucracy	3
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Electives

Select one to three electives	3-9
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Total Credits	9-15
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Advanced Courses in a Minor Field

Select three advanced courses in a minor field in consultation with an advisor. ¹	9
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Total Credits	9
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¹ The courses in the minor field should complement the two major fields and need the prior written approval of the advisor.

Advanced Courses in Methodology**Methodology Courses**

GOVT 500	The Scientific Method and Research Design	3
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GOVT 511	Problem Solving and Data Analysis I	3
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Elective Methodology Course

Select an elective methodology course to meet dissertation research needs. ¹	3
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Total Credits	9
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¹ Course work in language or to help achieve proficiency in quantitative or qualitative research techniques may be used to meet this requirement with certification of proficiency by a specific outside examination.

Electives

Select 0-12 credits of electives	0-12
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Total Credits	0-12
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Advancement to Candidacy

To advance to candidacy, students must complete all course work required by their approved program of study. Students must also successfully complete and pass two qualifying exams in major fields. In addition, students must have an approved dissertation committee as well as an approved proposal. Evidence of the approved proposal must be on file in the Dean's Office before a student can advance to candidacy.

Dissertation Research

Once enrolled in GOVT 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal, students in this degree program must maintain continuous registration in GOVT 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal or GOVT 999 Doctoral Dissertation Research each semester (excluding summers) until the dissertation is submitted to and accepted by the University Libraries. Once enrolled in GOVT 999 Doctoral Dissertation Research, students must follow the university's continuous registration policy as specified in AP.6.10.6 Dissertation Research. Students who defend in the summer must

be registered for at least 1 credit of GOVT 999 Doctoral Dissertation Research.

Students may apply to this degree a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 credits of GOVT 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal and a minimum of 6 credits of GOVT 999 Doctoral Dissertation Research. They apply a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 24 dissertation credits (GOVT 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal and GOVT 999 Doctoral Dissertation Research combined) to the degree. Because of the continuous registration policy, students may be required to register for additional credits of these courses.

Students who do fewer than 24 credits of dissertation will complete their degree with additional electives.

Select 12-24 credits from the following: 12-24

GOVT 998	Doctoral Dissertation Proposal (minimum of 3, maximum of 6 credits)
GOVT 999	Doctoral Dissertation Research (minimum of 6 credits)

Total Credits	12-24
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