

POLITICAL SCIENCE (PHD)

The PhD program in political science is intended for students who wish to acquire careers in teaching and research or work in the government or the private sector. The focus includes the four fields of American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory. Students will take most of their courses and specialize in two fields. One of the two fields will constitute the major field and the other the minor field.

Related Programs

Master's

- International Affairs (MA) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/graduate-school/arts-sciences/political-science/international-affairs-ma/>)
- Political Science (MA) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/graduate-school/arts-sciences/political-science/political-science-ma/>)

Combined

- Political Science/Law (MA/JD) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/dual-degree-programs/political-science-jd-ma/>)

Curriculum

Students may enter the PhD in Political Science upon completion of the Master of Arts in Political Science at Loyola or another institution¹. The PhD requires 48 credit hours of coursework, a comprehensive examination, and a dissertation.

Code	Title	Hours
<i>Required Courses</i>		
PLSC 401	Intro to Research Design & Method	3
PLSC 475	Political Analysis I (taken in first fall semester of program)	3
PLSC 476	Political Analysis II	3
PLSC 499	Directed Readings (to develop dissertation proposal)	3
Select Four Courses in Major Field		12
Select Three Courses in Minor Field		9
Select Five Elective Courses from Two Sub-fields		15

The sub-fields that may be chosen between for Major and Minor Fields are International Relations, Comparative Politics, American Politics, and Political Theory.

International Relations Courses

PLSC 430	Theories of International Politics
PLSC 431	Formulation US Foreign Policy
PLSC 432	Comparative Foreign Policy Analysis
PLSC 433	International Organization
PLSC 435	International Political Economics
PLSC 436	International Conflict
PLSC 437	Selected Problems International Law
PLSC 439	Selected Problems in International Politics
PLSC 531	Seminar: International Politics

Comparative Politics Courses

PLSC 420	Comparative Political Systems
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PLSC 421	Democratic Political Systems
PLSC 422	Authoritarian Political Systems
PLSC 423	Soviet & Post-Soviet Politics
PLSC 424	Politics of Developing Areas
PLSC 425	Sub-Saharan Africa
PLSC 426	Latin American Politics
PLSC 427	Politics of the Middle East
PLSC 428	Political Violence
PLSC 429	Comparative Politics Selected Problems
PLSC 520	Seminar: Comparative Politics
PLSC 521	Seminar Western European Politics
PLSC 532	Soviet/Post-Soviet Foreign Policy

American Politics Courses

PLSC 404	Selected Problems in American Politics
PLSC 405	American Executive Branch
PLSC 406	American Legislative Branch
PLSC 407	Public Policy-Making & Implementation
PLSC 410	Urban Politics
PLSC 411	American Political Parties/Electoral Process
PLSC 412	Constitutional Politics
PLSC 417	The American Legal System
PLSC 418	Political Psychology & Socialization
PLSC 419	Managing Urban Government

Political Theory Courses

PLSC 440	Ancient Political Thought
PLSC 442	Modern Political Thought
PLSC 444	Great Authors
PLSC 446	Political Ethics
PLSC 447	American Political Thought to Civil War
PLSC 449	19th Century Political Thought
PLSC 543	Liberalism
PLSC 546	Political Philosophy Selected Problems

Total Hours **48**

¹ Students who do not enter Loyola with an MA may take the master's comprehensive exam after completing 10 courses (including PLSC 401 Intro to Research Design & Method, PLSC 475 Political Analysis I, and PLSC 476 Political Analysis II) and earn the MA en route to the PhD. Students must complete four semesters of residence, including at least two consecutive semesters at Loyola. At least one academic year (two consecutive semesters) must be spent as a full-time student.

Language Proficiency

Students may be required to develop language proficiency to conduct research for their doctoral dissertations. PhD students who need to take language courses that are necessary for dissertation research may be able to secure tuition support from The Graduate School with approval of the Graduate Program Director.

Comprehensive Exams

Candidates must pass three total comprehensive examinations (made up of both written and oral components), culminating in an oral examination where 4/5 faculty examiners must approve. All course requirements, including resolution of any outstanding Incomplete grades,

must be fulfilled before students can take the written comprehensive examinations.

Dissertation

Candidates must complete and successfully defend both a dissertation proposal and the completed dissertation. Sometime in the third year of study, students are expected to form a dissertation committee, with the assistance of the Graduate Program Director.

Suggested Sequence of Courses

The below sequence of courses is meant to be used as a suggested path for completing coursework. An individual student's completion of requirements depends on course offerings in a given term as well as the start term for a major or graduate study. Students should consult their advisor for assistance with course selection.

After coursework listed below is complete, students begin taking PLSC 610 Doctoral Study or PLSC 600 Dissertation Supervision until dissertation defense.

Course	Title	Hours
Year 1		
Fall		
PLSC 401	Intro to Research Design & Method	3
PLSC 475	Political Analysis I	3
One Major Field Course		3
Hours		9
Spring		
PLSC 476	Political Analysis II	3
One Major Field Course		3
One Minor Field Course		3
Hours		9
Year 2		
Fall		
One Major Field Course		3
One Minor Field Course		3
Elective		3
Hours		9
Spring		
One Major Field Course		3
One Minor Field Course		3
Elective		3
Hours		9
Year 3		
Fall		
PLSC 499	Directed Readings	3-6
Hours		3-6
Spring		
Elective		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
Hours		9
Total Hours		48-51

Responsible Conduct of Research

All PhD students and students in thesis-based Master's degree programs must successfully complete UNIV 370 Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship or other approved coursework in responsible conduct of research as part of the degree requirements. It is strongly recommended that students complete this two-day training before beginning the dissertation/thesis stage of the program.

Graduate & Professional Standards and Regulations

Students in graduate and professional programs can find their Academic Policies in Graduate and Professional Academic Standards and Regulations (<https://catalog.luc.edu/academic-standards-regulations/graduate-professional/>) under their school. Any additional University Policies supersede school policies.

Learning Outcomes

The PhD in Political Science offers students:

- An in-depth understanding of the theories and scholarly literature in the sub-fields of Comparative Politics (study of political regimes, including the state, development and modernization, political, economic, and social movements), International Relations (study of global processes throughout the international system), American Politics (study of U.S. institutions and political processes), and Political Theory (study of political philosophy ranging from Ancient to Modern and Contemporary political thought).
- Extensive methods training, including research design and statistical analysis, that will enable the successful candidate to effectively design and conduct research.
- Research and teaching training by serving as both a research assistant for department faculty and professor of record for at least one class during the period of the PhD student's funding.
- An enhanced ability to express their thoughts in writing (all Political Science graduate classes include a significant writing component).
- Preparation for careers in research and teaching at colleges and universities or work in the government, non-profit, and private sectors.
- We also encourage our PhD students to take advantage of additional learning opportunities: Advanced methodological training; Advanced language training/proficiency in a language other than English; Advanced research skills; International, cross-cultural experience; Professional development and experience; and Networking opportunities.