

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

PH.D. HANDBOOK

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INTRODUCTION

One of the main missions of the Department of Political Science at MSU is the education of doctoral students. This educational process is a cooperative effort involving students, faculty, and administrative personnel. This handbook will serve as a guide to that educational process, detailing opportunities available to students and their responsibilities in the program. It spells out current requirements and the steps associated with normal progress in the pursuit of the doctoral degree.

The faculty and staff are willing and able to assist you in securing an education. I will be happy to meet with you to discuss any problems you may have or any suggestions you may wish to offer.

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**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
PH.D. PROGRAM**

I. OVERVIEW OF THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

The primary goal of the doctoral program of the Department of Political Science is to produce graduates who become scholars and teachers at leading research institutions. To reach this goal several specific objectives must be achieved.

First, the doctoral student must develop expertise in the subject matter of one of the major and one of the minor fields of political science covered by the Department. The Department offers a major field of study in American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Public Policy, and Political Philosophy, and a minor field of study in American Politics, Comparative Politics, Public Policy, International Relations, Political Philosophy, Formal Theory, and Research Methods.

Second, the doctoral student must develop expertise in research design and quantitative methods, as well as exposure to the major themes of political philosophy and formal models of political science.

Third, the doctoral student must develop expertise in the research enterprise. While the particular nature of the expertise depends on the student's chosen fields of political science, in general the student is expected to learn how a research program is developed and conducted. The doctoral student must also develop advanced skills in the research tools relevant to the subject of the student's doctoral dissertation.

Fourth, the doctoral student must develop expertise in written and oral communication. Expertise in written communication will be developed through writing papers for courses, conferences, and scholarly journals, and through writing the doctoral dissertation. Expertise in oral communication will be developed through participation in classroom discussions and debates, through conference presentations, through involvement in professionalization sessions, seminars, and colloquia, through oral presentations of the dissertation proposal and defense, and (where feasible) through experience as a teaching assistant and graduate instructor.

In support of these objectives for the doctoral student, the Department seeks to provide an environment which supports the conduct of high quality scientific and scholarly research and which is responsive to valid academic needs and desires.

II. DOCTORAL PROGRAM DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

A. Coursework Requirements

The Ph.D. program requires that students take a minimum of 45 semester credits in coursework (which usually means at least 15 semester courses). The program has the following general course requirements:

- Research Methods—three semester courses (9 credits)
- Political Philosophy—one semester course (3 credits)
- Formal Theory—one semester course (3 credits)
- Major Field—four semester courses (12 credits)
- Minor Field—three semester courses (9 credits)
- Electives—three semester courses (9 credits)

Note: A student's Guidance Committee may require the student to take additional coursework (in research methodology or a foreign language, for example) if it is necessary for completion of the student's educational program or dissertation research.

1. Required Core Courses in Research Methods, Political Thought, and Formal Theory

Students are required to take the following five courses:

- PLS 800: Proseminar in Research Methods (Fall Semester)
- PLS 801: Quantitative Techniques in Political Science I (Fall Semester)
- PLS 802: Quantitative Techniques in Political Science II (Spring Semester)
- PLS 803: Proseminar in Political Thought (Spring Semester)
- PLS 809: Proseminar in Formal Theory (Spring Semester)

These five courses will give students an introduction to the fundamental theories and methods of political science research. They are requirements of the Ph.D. program unless they are waived in advance by the Director of the Ph.D. Program. The procedure for obtaining a waiver is as follows:

- (a) Bring to the Director of the Ph.D. Program all supporting evidence of the course or courses you have taken (e.g., syllabi and other relevant materials) which you think might be equivalent to one or more of the required courses. The Director of the Ph.D. Program will review these materials and may then request that you consult with the current Chair of the appropriate Field Committee.
- (b) The Director of the Ph.D. Program will then consider this evidence, may consult with the Chair of the Field Committee, and may require a written examination.
- (c) If the Director of the Ph.D. Program approves a waiver, this should be stated in writing and placed in the student's file.

This process must be completed *before* the course enrollment may be dropped. No waiver requests will be considered after the first week of each course.

2. Major and Minor Field Designations and Requirements

The Ph.D. curriculum of the Department is divided into seven fields: American Politics, Comparative Politics, Formal Theory, International Relations, Political Philosophy, Public Policy, and Research Methods.

Students can choose *one* of the following five areas for a major field specialization:

- American Politics
- Political Philosophy
- Comparative Politics
- International Relations
- Public Policy

In order to satisfy the major field requirements, students must successfully complete at least four courses in the area—one of which must be the mandatory proseminar in that field.

Students can choose *one* of the following seven areas for a minor field specialization:

- American Politics
- Political Philosophy
- Comparative Politics
- International Relations
- Public Policy
- Research Methods
- Formal Theory

In order to satisfy the minor field requirement, students must successfully complete at least three courses in the area—one of which must be the mandatory proseminar in that field. Students with a Minor Field in Research Methods must take at least two Methods courses (either from inside or outside the Political Science Department) beyond PLS 800, PLS 801, and PLS 802. Students may use summer coursework in quantitative methods at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor to fulfill their Methods field requirement.

Minor fields can also be specifically designed by faculty guidance committees to meet the interests and needs of particular students. Any individualized-designed minor fields must be approved by the Department's Graduate Studies Committee.

Proseminars are specifically designed to give students an introduction to the literature, theoretical problems, and methodological directions of each field. The proseminars within each field are:

Research Methods

- PLS 800 Proseminar: Political Theory and Research Methods
- PLS 801 Quantitative Techniques in Public Policy and Political Science I
- PLS 802 Quantitative Techniques in Public Policy and Political Science II

Political Philosophy

- PLS 870 Political Thought

Formal Theory

- PLS 884 Proseminar in Formal Theory

Public Policy

- PLS 811 Proseminar in Policy Analysis

American Politics

- PLS 820 Proseminar in American Politics

Comparative Politics

- PLS 850 Proseminar in Comparative Politics

International Relations

- PLS 860 Proseminar in International Relations

Proseminars are open to all Ph.D. students in the department. But, you *must* take the designated proseminars in your major and minor fields of specialization.

3. Elective Courses

The minimum requirements just listed—15 hours of core courses (PLS 800, 801, 802, 803, and 809), 12 hours of major course credits, and 9 hours of minor course credits— sum to 36 credits. Since the total number of required hours is 45, this leaves a final 9 credits which a student must accumulate (for a minimum program). These final 9 credits can be earned in many different ways. For example, the 6 credits could be in additional courses in research methods, additional courses in a major, additional courses in a minor, or some combination of these, including additional courses which are in none of these categories. Elective course requirements can also be taken in appropriate areas outside the department (subject to the approval of the student's Guidance Committee).

B. Guidance Committee and Program of Study

Students are required to form a Guidance Committee by the end of their first year in the program. The Guidance Committee must consist of four faculty members: A Chair who serves as the student's main academic advisor for program planning, and at least three other faculty members. At least three of the four Guidance Committee Members must be regular members of the political science faculty, and there must be one faculty member representing the student's major field and one faculty member representing the student's minor field.

C. Evaluation for Continuation in the Ph.D. Program

Students are admitted to the doctoral program only on a probationary basis. After the Spring semester of every year, the faculty will conduct an evaluation of every first-year student's overall academic performance. Students must gain the faculty's approval to continue in the doctoral program beyond the first year.

D. Obtaining an M.A. Degree

By the end of the student's second year, the student may have met the requirements for an M.A. degree in Political Science.

E. Dual-Major Doctoral Degrees

All dual-major doctoral degrees must be approved by the Dean of the Graduate School. A request for the dual major degree must be submitted within one semester following its development and within the first two years of the student's enrollment at Michigan State University. A copy of the Guidance Committee report must be attached. See Academic Programs (<https://www.reg.msu.edu/academicprograms/Text.aspx?Section=111#s407>) for details.

F. Continuing in the Ph.D. Program

During the second and third years in the program, students will continue working toward the completion of the required coursework and degree requirements. During this time, students should maintain close contact with the members of their Guidance Committees in order to obtain informal feedback on an ongoing basis.

G. Comprehensive Field Examinations

After completing the required courses and before writing a dissertation, students must pass a Comprehensive Field Examination in both their Major and Minor Fields. Students must successfully pass the Comprehensive Field Examinations by the end of the Fall semester of the third year in which they have been enrolled as a full-time graduate student in the Ph.D. program at MSU, including the first ("probationary") year before formal admission to the Ph.D. program.

H. Third-Year Review

After successfully completing the Comprehensive Field Examinations, the faculty will conduct a comprehensive review of each third-year student's academic record. A major part of this evaluation will be a paper written by the student. The third-year paper should be a significant work of scholarship that demonstrates the student's potential to produce research suitable for presentation at professional conferences and for publication.

I. Dissertation Topic, Advisor, Committee, and Proposal

After passing the Major and Minor Comprehensive Field Examinations, students must establish a doctoral dissertation committee. In order to accomplish this, students must identify a suitable dissertation topic, identify a faculty member to supervise the project and serve as the Chair of the Dissertation Committee, establish a full dissertation committee, write a dissertation proposal, and successfully defend the proposal in an oral defense. The Chair of the Dissertation Committee must be selected by the first week of Spring semester of the third year of the program. The dissertation proposal must be defended and approved by the second week of Fall semester of the fourth year of the program.

J. Doctoral Dissertation

Once the dissertation proposal is approved, students must conduct the research for the dissertation, write up the findings, present written drafts of the proposal to their committees, and successfully defend the completed project.

K. Receiving the Ph.D. Degree

The student must submit a form in the first week of the semester during which the student expects to finish all the degree requirements.

L. Job Placement

Letters of recommendation should be on file with the Graduate Program Assistant. The Graduate Program Assistant will upload, email, or mail confidential letters to universities you are applying to for job placement. Students should consult frequently with their Dissertation Chair and the Departmental Placement Director about job opportunities and prospects.

III. DOCTORAL PROGRAM COMPONENTS

A. Starting the Ph.D. Program

The Department strongly encourages all students to begin taking courses in the Ph.D. program in the Fall semester. Only in rare cases will new students be permitted to enter in the Spring.

Prior to going through Fall semester registration, students should arrange a meeting with the Director of the Ph.D. Program. At this meeting, the Director of the Ph.D. Program will help students plan their courses and advise them in selecting major and minor fields. The first full year's program can be planned at this time, but it is recommended that students visit the Director of the Ph.D. Program during the year to discuss their progress, straighten out difficulties in scheduling conflicts, or receive assistance in any other administrative details of the first-year program. A final decision about subject matter concentration for Ph.D. work need not be made immediately, but a choice of fields of specialization will normally be made by the end of the first year of study. You may want to discuss your interests with faculty in your chosen fields, particularly the Field Chairs.

The Director of the Ph.D. Program serves as the main advisor to all first-year students in the Ph.D. program. During the first year of graduate school, the Director of the Ph.D. Program can be especially helpful in assisting students with the administrative details of the graduate program and providing advice on course offerings. Of course, the Director of the Ph.D. Program is also available to assist students with academic issues throughout their graduate career. The Graduate Program Assistant will assist students with administrative issues such as course registration, student file maintenance, and forms.

For each first-year student, the Director of the Ph.D. Program will appoint a Faculty Mentor who, along with the Director, will advise the student on the student's program of study and on any other issues the student wants to discuss. The Faculty Mentor will normally be a specialist in the departmental subfield – American Politics, International Relations, Comparative Politics, Public Policy, or Political Philosophy – in which the student has indicated he or she will likely major.

“GradPlan” is now the official website for all doctoral student program planning, guidance committee reports and changes, comprehensive and final defense reports, submission of the dissertation to the Graduate School, and the final University degree certification. It provides electronic circulation for checking/approvals and generates automatic emails when needed. To access GradPlan type the following into your web browser: <https://login.msu.edu/?App=J3205>

B. Getting Help along the Way: The Selection of a Faculty Advisor and Guidance Committee

During the second semester of the first year, the Director of the Ph.D. Program will meet with each incoming student to assist them in selecting a faculty advisor and a Guidance Committee. In order to facilitate this process, students will submit to the Director of the Ph.D. Program a brief statement of their overall program interests, focus, and objectives. On the basis of this information, the Director of the Ph.D. Program will suggest appropriate faculty members to serve as the student's main academic advisor and as members of the student's Guidance Committee.

It is a University requirement that the Guidance Committee consist of at least *four* faculty members. (With the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School and the Chair of the Department, a non-tenure-stream faculty member or academic specialist may be substituted for one of these faculty members.) At least three of the members must be regular faculty members of the Department of Political Science at Michigan State University. Both the major and minor fields must be represented: At minimum, there must be at least one political science faculty member from the major field and one political science faculty member from the minor field on the committee. One of the political science faculty must be identified as the Chair of the student's Guidance Committee.

Students must meet with their Guidance Committees by the last day of April of their first year to plan the programs for their Ph.D. coursework. It is each student's responsibility to schedule this meeting. Students should have the following items available when their Guidance Committee meets:

- a statement of their academic goals;
- a brief vita;
- a suggested course of study for their major and minor fields in preparation for the Comprehensive Field Examinations.

GradPlan is the web-interactive system for **Ph.D. students** to create and store their Ph.D. Degree Plans and subsequent graduate program activities. Link to the log-in page: <https://gradplan.msu.edu>

GradPlan replaces the Report of the Guidance Committee, Record of Comprehensive Exam, and the Dissertation Final Defense form.

After a check by the appropriate person (usually the PhD Director), committee members will approve plans (and revisions) electronically.

These plans can also be viewed in the GradInfo system. <http://gradinfo.msu.edu> GradInfo collects data for doctoral students in every graduate program.

Final acceptance of the dissertation by the Graduate School and the **final degree certification** by the department, college and Office of the Registrar are all set up for final approval and stored electronically in GradPlan.

All Ph.D. students who will complete their degree programs Spring 2017 and thereafter should use GradPlan.

These brief Guides will step you through how to use GradPlan.

For Ph.D. students: [GradPlan Student Guide - PDF version \(updated 12/12/2012\)](#)

For Ph.D. students: [GradPlan Student Guide - Word version \(updated 12/12/2012\)](#)

For Grad Program Directors, secretaries, administrators: [GradPlan User Guide \(updated 9/29/2014\)](#)

For Faculty serving on guidance committees [GradPlan Faculty Guide \(updated 9/29/2014\)](#)

The Guidance Committee evaluates the overall focus of the student's proposed program and assists in defining the student's research interests. The Guidance Committee approves the final selection of the fields that a student is proposing for their doctoral coursework. The Committee suggests coursework to aid in the preparation of major and minor fields. The Guidance Committee may require that a student take additional coursework, both within and outside the Department, to supplement the basic requirements for the doctoral program (that is, courses in addition to the core courses, the field proseminars or equivalents, and the Ph.D. major and minor field course requirements). The Guidance Committee evaluates the student's research plans and makes suggestions to facilitate the development of appropriate language and/or analytical skills.

The Director of the Ph.D. Program will review each student's degree program in GradPlan and approve electronically. Programs which are inconsistent with departmental or university policy will be returned to the student with specific information on areas of confusion, incompleteness, or incompatibility. The Director of the Ph.D. Program can ask the Graduate Studies Committee to review degree programs and provide advice in this process. It is the student's responsibility to correct any problems, obtain the approval of their Guidance Committee Members, and resubmit the appropriate changes in GradPlan.

Degree programs must be approved by the Director of the Ph.D. Program, the Chair of the Department of Political Science, and the Dean of the College of Social Sciences. Students must have approved degree programs on file in GradPlan by the end of their first year of study in order to be formally admitted into the Ph.D. program in Political Science. Students who are not formally admitted to the Ph.D. program will not have their assistantships or fellowships renewed in the following semester.

Students are required to follow the degree plans (as listed in GradPlan) approved by their Guidance Committees. Students must make revisions in GradPlan and notify members of their Guidance Committees and the Director of the Ph.D. Program of any deviations from their degree plans.

See *Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities (GSSR)* 2.4 for more information on MSU policies related to Guidance Committees.

C. First-Year Evaluation for Continuation in the Ph.D. Program

When first admitted to the Ph.D. program, students are in a probationary status; continuation in the Ph.D. program beyond the first year is not automatic. All students must gain the faculty's approval to remain in the doctoral program beyond the first year.

To assist in this process, individual faculty members are asked to prepare a written report on the performance of all first-year students at the end of the Spring semester. A copy of each written report will be placed in each student's department records. The individual faculty reports will cover the following items:

1. The student's course grade
2. An evaluation of the student's overall performance in the course
3. If there was a lengthy written assignment, a statement that the student did or did not write a paper that was of the quality expected for a Master of Arts degree in Political Science.
4. One of the following three recommendations:
 - (a) The student should be allowed to continue in the Ph.D. program.
 - (b) The student should not be allowed to continue in the Ph.D. program but should be allowed to continue work toward a terminal M.A. degree.
 - (c) The student should not be allowed to continue work toward a terminal M.A. degree.

The Graduate Studies Committee will conduct the initial analysis of each first-year student's record. The Graduate Studies Committee will consider the academic performance of students, the individual faculty reports of students, the assessments of graduate assistantship performances, and the prospects of students successfully completing the Ph.D. program. In order to be approved for continuation in the Ph.D. program, a student must have: (1) completed at least 15 credits in Political Science (including PLS 800-801-802 and either 803, 809, or 2 courses from the major/minor fields); (2) maintained an overall grade-point average of 3.25 or higher; (3) earned no grade lower than a 2.5 in any Political Science course; (4) constituted a Guidance Committee and received the approval of all committee members of the student's proposed program of study; (5) received positive assessments of graduate assistantship performance; and (6) compiled a set of faculty course evaluations which clearly suggest that the student shows sufficient promise of completing the Ph.D. in Political Science at Michigan State University. In addition, first-year students who have two Incomplete or ET grades remaining on their record shall not be approved for admission into the Ph.D. program.

Based on its analysis, the Graduate Studies Committee will make one of the following recommendations to the faculty as a whole:

1. The student should be allowed to continue in the Ph.D. program.
2. The student should not be allowed to continue in the Ph.D. program, but will be permitted to complete a terminal M.A. degree.
3. The student should be denied an M.A. degree and will not be permitted to register for further coursework.

The Department faculty shall meet before the end of the Spring semester for the purpose of acting on the recommendations of the Graduate Studies Committee. Students who receive the approval of the faculty of the Department of Political Science can continue in the doctoral program. Students who do not receive the faculty's approval of Ph.D. status are not allowed to continue in the doctoral program beyond the first year and they will not have their assistantships renewed in the following semester. Students who are denied permission to continue in the Ph.D. program but who are allowed to complete the M.A. degree, can appeal to be admitted into the Ph.D. program on the basis of subsequent academic performance. Such appeals must be made to the Graduate Studies Committee after the completion of the M.A. degree.

D. Obtaining an M.A. Degree

By the end of the second year, a student may have accumulated enough credits and met other requirements to apply for an M.A. degree. There are five sets of requirements for the Master of Arts degree in Political Science:

1. Complete 30 semester credits of work in 400-, 800- and 900-level courses. A minimum of 24 semester credits of the 30 required must be in Political Science. Less than 24 credits are allowable as long as this is approved in writing by the Director of the Ph.D. program and by the student's Guidance Committee. Thus, as many as 6 semester credits from other departments may be applied to your program. Special reading courses (PLS 993) will not normally be used to contribute to the M.A. degree requirements.
2. Complete the PLS 800-801-802-803-809 required course.
3. Among the courses constituting the 30 credits offered for the degree, no grade can be lower than 2.5.
4. Maintain an overall grade average of at least 3.25 for all coursework.
5. *On the faculty course evaluations (Appendix D), gain statements from at least two Political Science faculty members that the papers written for their respective courses were of the quality expected for an M.A. degree in Political Science. Note: If a paper was not of M.A. quality, the student shall have the opportunity to rewrite the paper and resubmit it to the faculty member for a second evaluation. (However, the course grade would not normally be changed.)*

To receive an M.A. once these requirements are met, the student must apply online for the degree by the first week of the semester in which the degree is to be granted. In order to apply for an M.A. degree, contact the Graduate Programs Assistant to request the coding for an M.A. degree from the College of Social Science. This must be done before you can apply online for your M.A. degree. Application for an M.A. degree is optional, but students may find it advantageous to receive the M.A. when they are eligible.

E. Dual-Major Doctoral Degrees

All dual major doctoral degrees must be approved by the Dean of the Graduate School. A request for the dual major degree must be submitted within one semester following its development and within the first two years of the student's enrollment at Michigan State University. A copy of the Guidance Committee report must be attached. See Academic Programs (<https://www.reg.msu.edu/academicprograms/Text.aspx?Section=111#s407>) for details.

F. Continued Progress in the Ph.D. Program

During the second and third years in the program, students will continue working toward the completion of the required coursework and degree requirements. During this time, students should maintain close contact with the members of their Guidance Committees in order to obtain informal feedback on an ongoing basis.

The Department requires that students arrange a formal meeting of their Guidance Committees at least once per academic year. The Chair of the Guidance Committee is responsible for preparing

a short report which indicates the student's progress to date, as well any potential problems in course selections or field designations, as well as recommendations to resolve these issues. A written copy of the committee's feedback must be provided to the student and to the Graduate Program Assistant.

Guidance Committees play an important role helping student's progress in the program and enabling them to attain their academic goals. So, the membership of a student's Guidance Committee should not be viewed as permanent. It is quite possible that a member of a Guidance Committee may be unavailable to serve in this capacity (e.g., because of sabbatical leave, field research outside of the country, assuming a faculty position at another institution, etc.). In other situations, students student may need to change the composition of their committee because their interests have shifted or because of personality or professional conflicts.

Students must notify the Director of the Ph.D. Program if they want to make any changes in the composition of their Guidance Committees—either their Chair or the other members of their Committee. The Director of the Ph.D. Program will work with students and faculty to make appropriate changes. All changes in the directorship or membership of Guidance Committees must be submitted in GradPlan.

Annual reports must be submitted by all students in the program each Spring semester. The Graduate Studies Committee will report at the Spring faculty meeting on any students in the Ph.D. program not making satisfactory progress.

G. Passing the Comprehensive Field Examinations

After completing the required courses and before writing a dissertation, students must pass a Comprehensive Field Examination in both their Major and Minor Fields. Students must successfully pass the Comprehensive Field Examinations by the end of the Fall semester of the third year in which they have been enrolled as a full-time graduate student in the Ph.D. program at MSU, including the first ("probationary") year before formal admission to the Ph.D. program. ("Full-time" means a semester in which you take at least six credits.) Failure to meet this deadline will result in removal from the program unless a waiver is approved by the Director of the Ph.D. Program. Students must take both their Major and Minor Comprehensive Field Examinations during the same academic semester unless an exception is granted by the Director of the Ph.D. Program.

1. Eligibility to Take the Comprehensive Field Examinations

Before taking the written Comprehensive Field Examinations, students must have registered for at least 39 credits of coursework approved by their Guidance Committees, and completed at least 33 credits. Up to 12 of these credits may be taken in other departments. PLS 999 credits for dissertation preparation do not count toward this total.

Eligibility to take a particular Comprehensive Field Examination depends on meeting the following criteria:

- (a) Completion of all the required/core courses (PLS 800, 801, 802, 803, and 809). If any of these required/core courses has not been available, the Director of the Ph.D. Program may waive this requirement as a prerequisite for taking the Comprehensive Field Examination, though the student must still complete the course or courses at a subsequent time.
- (b) Completion of the required proseminars and the required minimum number of courses in both the Major and Minor Fields (four courses in the Major Field and three courses in the Minor Field). If taking any of these courses has not been feasible (e.g., since the required courses were not available to the student), the Director of the Ph.D. Program may waive any of these courses as a prerequisite for taking the Comprehensive Field Examination, though the student must still complete the course or courses at a subsequent time. In general, though, it is not wise for a student to take a Comprehensive Field Examination in a major or a minor if he/she has not taken all the courses required for the major or the minor.
- (c) A minimum of 39 semester credits (with at least 27 of political science credits) of graduate level courses must be completed satisfactorily. Up to two courses for which the student is registered in the semester in which the comprehensive is taken will be counted toward this requirement *provided the student has no other incomplete or deferred grades among courses counted toward the required 13*. PLS 999 (Dissertation Research) credits may not be used to meet these course requirements.
- (d) An overall grade point average of 3.25 in political science courses taken at MSU.
- (e) Complete fulfillment of any other specific course requirements identified by the student's Doctoral Program Guidance Committee.
- (f) Registered for at least 3 credit hours during the semester(s) in which taking the Comprehensive Field Examinations.
- (g) Petitioning the Graduate Program Secretary at the beginning of the semester during which they wish to take their Comprehensive Field Examinations.
- (h) Certification by the Graduate Program Assistant of a student's eligibility to take the examinations.

Requests for exceptions, delays, or extensions relating to any of the Comprehensive Field Examination requirements must be made to the Director of the Ph.D. Program. The Director of the Ph.D. Program will confer with the Graduate Studies Committee and the student's Guidance Committee concerning such requests. The Director of the Ph.D. Program will review and rule on student requests for extensions or changes in the comprehensive examination process.

All Ph.D. students are required to take their comprehensive examinations in both the Major and Minor fields in the Department of Political Science at Michigan State University. Comprehensive examinations taken at other institutions cannot be used in place of those given at MSU.

2. Administration of the Comprehensive Field Examinations

The Department will offer Comprehensive Field Examinations during a four-week period of each Fall and Spring term. The Fall Comprehensive Examinations will normally be given

during the month of October; the Spring Examinations will normally be administered during the month of February.

For each semester, the specific dates of that semester's Comprehensive Field Examinations will be determined by Director of the Ph.D. Program in consultation with the chairs of the Field Committees. These dates should be established as early in the semester as possible. All faculty and graduate students will then be notified of the dates for the administration of the Comprehensive Examinations for that semester.

The Graduate Program Assistant is responsible for the actual administration of the examinations—i.e., collecting the exams from faculty, distributing exam questions, receiving examination answers from students, distributing student responses to field committee members, collecting faculty evaluations, and maintaining files of all previous examinations.

Each field examination will be supervised by a Field Committee. Selection of Field Examination Committees, including the Chair for each of Committee, will be determined by the Chair of the Department of Political Science in consultation with the Director of the Ph.D. Program.

If the Chair of the student's Guidance Committee is not a member of the Field Examination Committee in that student's Major Field, the student's Guidance Committee Chair will automatically serve as an additional member of the Major Field Examination Committee for that student.

Members of the Field Examination Committee formulate the questions for each Field Examination, and they determine the format and procedures for each Field Exam. *Students must be given some choice of the questions they will answer on both the Major and Minor exams.*

The Chairs of the Field Examination Committees will be responsible for collecting and assembling the questions for the comprehensive exams. The Chairs of the Field Examination Committees will also be responsible for communicating the format and procedures of each examination to the Director of the Ph.D. Program at least one month prior to the scheduled examination dates.

All committee members shall grade all questions regardless of which committee member wrote the question. The Committee as a whole shall determine the student's grade and submit the result of this evaluation to the Graduate Program Assistant on the appropriate departmental form. The grading options available to the Committee are "pass with distinction", "pass", "not pass", and "fail." The "not pass" option indicates that the student provided the Committee with insufficient information to warrant either a "pass" or a "fail", and requires that the student be tested further, either orally or in writing at the Committee's discretion. The "not pass" option is not a substitute for the retake afforded a student who fails the examination.

Because of the difficulties of maintaining anonymity when only a small number of students are taking a Field Examination, Field Examination Committees will be notified of the name

of the student writing each Field Examination. If a student turns in a Comprehensive Field Examination, it must be assigned a grade. If a Comprehensive Field Examination is not turned in at the designated time and place, it will be counted as a failure.

Changes in the format and procedures of written Comprehensive Field Examinations must be submitted to the Director of the Ph.D. Program and approved by the Chair of the Department.

3. Retaking a Comprehensive Field Examination

If a student fails to pass the Comprehensive Field Examination (which may include any oral examinations) in a field, the student shall be allowed one retake (including any oral examinations) of this Field Examination. This retake (including any oral examinations) shall be completed no later than the end of the student's sixth semester.

The Chair of the Field Examination Committee is responsible for making arrangements with the student and Graduate Program Secretary to administer a retake examination. A student who fails a retake may not offer that field for the Ph.D. degree.

At any time, a student may petition the Director of the Ph.D. Program to change one field for examination. But, any student who fails retakes in either a major or minor field may be required to leave the Ph.D. program. If a student petitions the Director of the Ph.D. Program to change one field for examination *after* failing a retake of a Comprehensive Field Examination, and if the Director of the Ph.D. Program approves the change in fields, the Director of the Ph.D. Program shall also specify a semester in which the Comprehensive Field Examination in the new field shall be taken.

4. Academic Dishonesty in a Comprehensive Field Examination

If a department or unit decides that in addition to failing the comprehensive exam, an act of academic dishonesty deserves additional sanctions, e.g., not permitting a re-take of the comprehensive exam, thus resulting in dismissal from the program, then the guidelines provided by **Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities (GSSR)**, section 5.5.2 must be followed. To dismiss a student for reasons other than academic dishonesty, the department or unit should follow **GSRR 2.4.9**. If a student believes that the evaluation of his/her performance in the comprehensive exam or was unfair, then the guidelines provided by **GSRR 2.2.4** must be followed.

H. Third-Year Review

In the Spring semester of the student's third year, the Graduate Studies Committee will conduct a comprehensive review of each third-year student's academic record. During the third-year review process, each student will submit a paper to the student's major field committee. The third-year paper must be submitted prior to Spring break. The field committee will evaluate the paper and submit an evaluation to the Graduate Studies Committee by the third week in April. If the Chair of the student's dissertation committee is not a member of the major field committee, then the Chair will serve on the major field committee for the purpose of evaluating the third-year paper. The third-year paper should be a significant work of scholarship that demonstrates

the student's potential to produce research suitable for presentation at professional conferences and for publication. It is appropriate to submit a seminar paper from a class, revised if necessary, or a paper prepared for presentation at a professional conference. If approved by the Chair of the student's dissertation committee, the dissertation proposal itself may be submitted.

In cases of failure to make satisfactory progress, the Graduate Studies Committee will consider appropriate measures, including suspension or withdrawal of funding, and removal from the program, and make a recommendation to the full faculty. At its Spring faculty meeting, the full faculty will vote on the recommendations of the Graduate Studies Committee.

I. Dissertation Topic, Advisor, Committee, and Proposal

After passing two Comprehensive Field Examinations, students must write and successfully defend a doctoral dissertation in order to complete their Ph.D. requirements.

1. Selection of the Dissertation Committee

By the first week of Spring semester of the third year in the doctoral program, each student should identify a faculty member to serve as the Chair of the Dissertation Committee. Students can ask the Chair of the Guidance Committee to serve as the Chair of the Dissertation Committee, or they can select other faculty members whose research interests and skills are more in line with their intended dissertation projects. Students should select a faculty member who is an active member of the Department of Political Science at Michigan State University to serve as their Dissertation Advisor. Dissertation Advisors must be able and willing to supervise a dissertation research project, as well as assist a student in other professional activities and pursuits. The Director of the Ph.D. Program will work with students to insure that they select faculty who can provide them with appropriate advising, mentoring, supervision, and guidance.

Students must also identify at least three additional faculty to serve as members of their Dissertation Committee. The Composition of the Dissertation committee must be in accordance with University rules (see the section on "Planning a Doctoral Program and Appointment of a Guidance Committee" in the University's on-line *Academic Programs* catalog). To summarize briefly:

(a) The Dissertation Committee must have at least *four* tenure stream MSU faculty members. (With the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School and the Chair of the Department, a non-tenure stream faculty member or academic specialist may be substituted for one of these faculty members.) Faculty from outside the Department may serve on a Dissertation Committee, but at least three members of the Dissertation Committee must be regular faculty members of the Department of Political Science. A faculty member from outside the Department of Political Science cannot serve as the Chair of the Dissertation Committee. The members may or may not be the members of a student's Guidance Committee. Normally, however, the Dissertation Committee will contain some of the Guidance Committee members.

- (b) Persons who are not regular faculty at Michigan State University, but who can contribute to the student's program, may serve as additional members of the Dissertation Committee and assist in the work of the committee.
- (c) With the approval of the Department Chair, an exception may be granted to allow an Emeritus faculty member to serve as one of the four required faculty members; in addition, an Emeritus faculty member may continue to serve as the Chair of a Dissertation Committee.
- (d) Faculty who have left MSU may continue to serve on a Dissertation Committee only if the student is within one semester of completing the dissertation; otherwise, the faculty member must be replaced.
- (e) Faculty on leave may be replaced if the Dissertation Committee Chair deems it advisable.

Students should work with their Dissertation Chairs/Advisors to select committee members who can facilitate their dissertation research. The Director of the Ph.D. Program can also provide advice and suggestions to students on the membership of Dissertation Committees.

Students must notify the Director of the Ph.D. Program if they want to make any changes in the composition of their Dissertation Committees—either their Dissertation Chair or the other members of their Committee. The Director of the Ph.D. Program will work with students and faculty to make appropriate changes. All changes in the directorship or membership of Dissertation Committees must be done in GradPlan and all faculty involved must be notified of these changes.

2. Dissertation Proposal

Students must prepare a written proposal of their dissertation project. They should work closely with their Dissertation Chair, as well as with other committee members, to identify the necessary components of the proposal, as well as the expected time lines for their completion. While the written proposal need not be extensive, it should indicate the following items: (a) The problem under examination; (b) the major variables which will be included; (c) the type of data and methods of data collection that will be used; (d) the setting or context of the research; (e) the major theoretical relationships which will be considered; and (f) a brief review of major relevant literature.

The Dissertation Committee is responsible for reviewing written drafts of the proposal and providing comments. After the proposal has been tentatively approved by each committee member, a meeting of the whole Dissertation Committee will be held at which the student gives an oral defense of the proposal. The Dissertation Chair will set the general parameters of this defense, and advise the students of these guidelines. If the proposal is acceptable to all members of the Dissertation Committee, final approval is granted and the student should proceed with the project. All of the members of the Dissertation Committee must find the dissertation proposal acceptable and indicate this in writing (via their signatures on the appropriate departmental form) before final approval of the proposal is given. A Dissertation Committee may schedule several oral defense meetings prior to its approval of a dissertation

project. If the Committee indicates only provisional approval, signatures from all members of the Dissertation Committee are again required when final approval is granted. A copy of this approved proposal signed by the student and by the committee members must be given to the Graduate Program Assistant to be placed in the student's file.

The dissertation proposal should be completed, defended, and approved by the Dissertation Committee by the second week of the first semester of the student's fourth year in the program. The Dissertation Committee then supervises the subsequent dissertation research. Failure to complete, defend, and receive approval from the Dissertation Committee before the specified deadline will result in the loss of fifth-year funding unless a waiver is endorsed by the student's Guidance Committee and approved by the Graduate Studies Committee.

3. Dissertation Proposals Involving Human Subjects

University and federal regulations require that *all* research directly or indirectly involving the gathering of data from human subjects—including interviews, and mail or telephone surveys—be reviewed and approved *before* initiation by the University Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects (UCRIHS).

Graduate students and the Chairs of their Dissertation Committees are jointly responsible for seeking prior review and approval by UCRIHS of dissertation research *before* it is initiated. Only in exceptional circumstances will the Graduate School accept a dissertation containing data from human subjects that does not have UCRIHS approval. Graduate students may contact the Graduate School or the UCRIHS office for application forms and detailed instructions.

J. The Doctoral Dissertation

1. Writing the Dissertation

After a student has obtained approval of the dissertation proposal, work should begin in earnest on the dissertation project. This work is coordinated by the Chair of the Dissertation Committee, but each member of the Dissertation Committee should participate in the process since each must approve the finished draft of each chapter. In fairness to the committee members, students should provide each faculty member with a copy at the time it is written and receives the approval of your Chair: the dissertation is a cooperative effort involving *all* members of the committee as writing proceeds.

2. Dissertation Defense

There must be an Oral Defense of the Dissertation. The Oral Defense should be held after all chapters of the dissertation have been approved by each member of the Dissertation Committee.

The University requires that students must be formally enrolled at MSU, for at least 1 credit hour, during the semester in which they defend your dissertation. University regulations also specify that students cannot change the members of their dissertation committees within 60

days before the date of the oral defense. Before that time, the membership of dissertation committees can be changed by submitting a change in GradPlan.

a. Oral Defense Procedures

The dissertation must be defended at an Oral Colloquium open to all members of the Department including other graduate students and announced at least three days in advance by a Department email. The email message announcing your oral defense will be typed and distributed by the Graduate Program Assistant. Contact the Graduate Program Assistant two weeks prior to your defense to provide her with the date of your defense and the title of your dissertation. The defense must be held during daytime hours, during weekdays, and while classes are in session (including finals week). Students should be aware that any defense during the summer is at the discretion of the faculty members involved. There must be written approval of this presentation from an extraordinary majority of the committee; that is, a student will pass the final dissertation defense if no more than one member of the committee has a dissenting opinion during the oral dissertation defense. If more than one member of the Dissertation Committee fails to approve the dissertation, the defense must be repeated.

The dissertation should *not* be bound before this oral defense is successfully passed, since the Dissertation Committee may still require changes on the basis of this presentation. Members of the Dissertation Committee on campus for that academic year must be present at the dissertation defense. No substitution is permitted at this stage without approval of the Graduate Studies Committee. No more than one member of the committee may be a faculty member who has left the University or retired or a faculty member on leave. S/he may continue on the committee for one academic year but need not attend the final oral defense if this is inconvenient. This is the only exception to the rule that all *four* members of the committee must be present at the oral defense. Faculty members on leave for more than a year must be replaced as members of the Dissertation Committee.

3. Final Approval of the Dissertation

Students must receive final written approval of the complete dissertation from an extraordinary majority of the Dissertation Committee; that is, the dissertation receives final approval if no more than one member of the Dissertation Committee dissents. The Committee has up to five weeks to complete the reading of a dissertation. Final approval occurs only after the extraordinary majority of the committee has approved the written dissertation and the dissertation defense.

Note: It is a University rule that all requirements for the doctoral degree must be completed within eight years from the time of a student's first enrollment as a doctoral student. Should the degree requirements not be completed within this eight year period, all of the doctoral comprehensive examinations must be passed again. If absolutely necessary, the student may request a waiver of this eight-year requirement from the Dean of the College of Social Science; see the Dissertation Committee chair and the Director of the Ph.D. Program to

initiate this process. If this request for a waiver is approved, it will normally be approved only if Ph.D. completion is likely within the next 12 months.

4. Dissertation Completion

Upon final written approval of the dissertation, the dissertation must be prepared and submitted, according to University regulations, to the Graduate School Office. Information on electronic submission of your dissertation is located on the Graduate School website: <http://grad.msu.edu/etd>.

5. Required PLS 999 Dissertation Credits

The University requires that students register for at least 24 credits but no more than 36 credits of PLS 999, Dissertation Research. After passing the Comprehensive Examinations, the student is considered to be enrolled if he/she takes just 1 credit of PLS 999 each semester. If a student completes the dissertation before this registration is completed, he/she must pay for the remaining hours. These credits are to cover the student's use of University facilities and the cost of faculty consultation while conducting dissertation research and writing.

Requests for overrides to exceed the maximum of 36 (24 in the College of Education) credits of 999 must be directed to the Office of the Registrar. To do so, access the ***"Request for RNR Override" at the Registrar's Online Forms Menu at <https://www.reg.msu.edu/Forms/FormsMenu.aspx>. Select the RN override and fill in the requested information.*** Should the total number of credits go above 45 the RO will confer with the Graduate School before considering the request for an override.

K. Receiving the Ph.D. Degree

Submit the on-line graduation application form the first week of the semester you expect to complete your degree requirements. If you expect to complete your degree requirements during Summer semester, submit this application on or before the end of the first week of Spring semester. The on-line- graduation application form is located here: <https://www.reg.msu.edu/StuForms/GradApp/GradApp.aspx>

Students are not required to enroll for classes during the semester in which their degree is actually granted, if this is later than the oral dissertation defense.

L. Placement Services for Doctoral Candidates

Students should make an appointment with the Placement Director *before* entering the job market so that they may be advised about placement procedures and become informed about job openings. They should ask faculty members to provide letters of recommendation for them and give them to the Graduate Program Assistant. With these letters on file, recommendations can (with the faculty member's permission) be mailed, uploaded, or emailed quickly. Faculty members may wish to make changes and additions to their letters of recommendation to fit each separate job opening. No extensive Department placement efforts for Ph.D. candidates will be made until all requirements (with the exception of the dissertation) have been met.

IV. ACADEMIC POLICIES

A. Assessments of Academic Performance

All graduate students in the Department of Political Science have a right to periodic evaluation of their academic progress, performance, and professional potential (*GSRR* 2.4.8). Therefore, the Department of Political Science has established procedures, designed to facilitate the review of graduate student performance on a regular, ongoing basis.

First, students are required to meet with their Guidance Committees at least once each year until they pass their Comprehensive Field Examinations or leave the Ph.D. Program. It is each student's responsibility to initiate, schedule, and arrange the annual meetings of Guidance Committees. It is the responsibility of the Guidance Committee to review the student's progress in research activities, as well as plan for work in the coming year (*GSRR* 2.4.8). A report on the results of this review should be prepared and signed by all members of the Guidance Committee and by the graduate student. This report, along with any response that the graduate student may attach to it, will be filed with the Director of the Ph.D. Program. The Graduate Program Assistant will place a copy of this report in the graduate student's file.

Second, graduate students are encouraged to meet with the Director of the Ph.D. Program at least once a year to review all aspects of their academic performance and potential. At this occasion, the graduate student has the opportunity to discuss with the Director of the Ph.D. Program issues that are relevant for the successful completion of the graduate program. Any recommendations based upon this review will be communicated back to the graduate student and to the student's Guidance Committee.

Third, the Graduate Studies Committee will conduct a comprehensive review of each third year student's academic record.

B. Academic Credits and Grades

Graduate courses in political science are three semester credit hours except for variable credit reading courses (PLS 993) and dissertation research (PLS 999). Students holding graduate assistantships may take three graduate courses per semester, but they must complete at least two courses (6 hours of credit) each semester in order to retain their assistantship. Students holding fellowships should take three courses per semester, prior to writing their proposal and dissertation.

MSU is a member of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC). Through this committee's "Traveling Scholar" program a doctoral student can take a limited number of courses at any Big Ten University or the University of Chicago. See the description of the Traveling Scholar Program requirements at: <http://www.cic.net/projects/shared-courses/traveling-scholar-program/introduction>.

In addition, political science doctoral students regularly take summer school political methodology courses at the Inter-university Consortium on Political and Social Research (ICPSR) and the Institute for Social Research (ISR) at the University of Michigan. A doctoral

student interested in this program should contact the Graduate School office for instructions and formal processing.

University grades are issued in numerical form, ranging from “0” to “4.0” in steps of .5. (There is, however, no grade of 0.5.) In Political Science, the shared understanding of what these grades mean is as follows:

- 4.0 indicates superior performance
- 3.5 indicates satisfactory performance
- 3.0 is the minimum acceptable grade, but a predominance of such grades suggests inability to complete the graduate program
- 2.5 or less indicates unsatisfactory performance.

Courses may also be taken on a Credit/No-Credit basis. If two or three graduate courses per semester are taken for credit and grades, it is possible to take other *non-PLS* courses of interest on the Credit/No-Credit system. The Credit/No-Credit system is intended to allow students to study in areas outside the major field of study without jeopardizing their grade point averages. An instructor will expect graduate students to perform at or above the 3.0 level in order to earn credit for the course. Students must register for the course in advance on this basis if you choose this option.

The University provisions for incomplete coursework are described in the following passage from the Academic Programs catalog:

When special or unusual circumstances occur, the instructor may postpone assignment of the student's final grade in a course by use of an I-Incomplete, a DF-Deferred, or an ET-Extension marker.

I-Incomplete

The I-Incomplete may be given only when: the student (a) has completed at least 6/7 of the term of instruction, but is unable to complete the class work and/or take the final examination because of illness or other compelling reason; and (b) has done satisfactory work in the course; and (c) in the instructor's judgment can complete the required work without repeating the course.

Provided these conditions are met, the instructor electing to give an I-Incomplete files an Agreement for Completion of (I) Incomplete at the time course grades are due. This agreement specifies what the student must do, and when, to remove the I-Incomplete. The department or school office gives a copy to the student, and retains a copy for at least one year.

The required work must be completed, and a grade must be reported to the Office of the Registrar, no later than the middle of the student's next semester in attendance (summer session excluded) if that semester is within one calendar year following receipt of the I-Incomplete. Exception to this deadline: An instructor may submit an Administrative Action stating that course structure necessitates delay of make-up grading until the end of the student's next semester in attendance.

Failure to complete the required work by the due date will result in a grade of I/0.0, I/NC or I/N, depending on the grading system under which the student was enrolled. (A student who does not register for Michigan State University courses subsequent to receipt of an I-Incomplete has one calendar year to complete the required work; after that, the I-Incomplete will become U-Unfinished and will be changed to I/U on the student's academic record, and the course may be completed only by re-enrollment).

An extension of time for completion of the required work may be approved by the college offering the course only by means of an Administrative Action documenting physician-certified illness or other extraordinary circumstances.

An Extension of Time is a formal agreement between the instructor and the student. After an Extension of Time has been filed, the work must be done by the deadline determined by the instructor or the I-Incomplete will be changed to I/0.0, I/NC, or I/N depending on the grading system under which the student was enrolled.

DF-Deferred

The DF-Deferred applies to the numerical, the CR-NC, and P-N grading systems.

Given only to graduate students who are doing satisfactory work but cannot complete the course work because of reasons acceptable to the instructor.

The required work must be completed and a grade reported within six months (190 calendar days from the last class day of the term of instruction), with the option of a single six-month extension (190 calendar days). If the required work is not completed within the time limit, the DF-Deferred will become U-Unfinished and will be changed to DF/U. This rule does not apply to graduate thesis or dissertation work.

ET-Extension

The ET-Extension applies to the numerical, the CR-NC, and P-N systems.

Given to undergraduate, graduate, and graduate-professional students only in courses specifically approved by the University Committee on Curriculum. Approval requires specification of the time period within which work must be completed. Courses that involve field experience or thesis work and courses in which work normally extends beyond one semester are the types of courses normally considered.

A final grade must be reported upon completion of the final course in the sequence or in the time approved for the completion of the work. If a final grade is not reported in these periods, the ET will be changed to ET/0.0, ET/NC or ET/N, depending on the grading system under which the student was enrolled. Ph.D. students who have more than one incomplete or deferred grade at the end of any given semester will be reviewed by the Graduate Studies Committee which will recommend appropriate action up to and including dismissal from the program.

For students in the Ph.D. program, only those admitted to the Ph.D. program in political science shall be eligible for Departmental readings courses (PLS 993). All such courses shall include either one major research paper or several shorter papers. These papers shall be graded on the same criteria as those written for regularly scheduled seminars. Reading courses must be

individually arranged with the instructor, and must not parallel regularly offered courses. There is a form that must be completed before enrollment in PLS 993. The form is available online from the Department of Political Science website.

The Schedule of Courses is located here: www.schedule.msu.edu In most terms, the Department will offer courses in each subject field. You should note especially courses offered under Political Science 990 (Seminars) or presented by visiting professors, since these are courses on specialized topics not regularly offered.

C. Academic Standing

The minimum acceptable cumulative grade-point average for a doctoral student in the Department of Political Science is 3.25. A student who receives two 2.5 grades or one 2.0 grade or less will be reviewed by the Graduate Studies Committee and may be dismissed from the program. A student receiving three 2.5 or two 2.0 grades in Political Science courses or who earns more than 8 credits below the grade of 3.0 will be dismissed from the program.

D. Time Limits

University rules state that the Comprehensive Field Examinations, including any necessary repeats, must be passed within *five years* and that all remaining requirements for the degree, including the dissertation, must be completed within *eight years* from the time when a student begins the first class at MSU that appears on his or her doctoral program of study. Should the degree requirements not be completed within this eight-year period, all of the Comprehensive Field Examinations must be passed again.

E. Dismissal from the Ph.D. Program

All graduate students pursuing doctoral degrees in the Department of Political Science must meet the requirements and standards identified in this Handbook. Dismissal from the Ph.D. program can occur:

1. If a student does not receive formal approval from the faculty to continue in the Ph.D. program after the first year of study.
2. If a student is not making satisfactory academic progress in the program as identified by the student's Guidance Committee and confirmed by the Graduate Studies Committee.
3. If a student has more than one incomplete or deferred grade at the end of any given academic semester.
4. If a student has not maintained the minimum acceptable grade point average for doctoral students in the Department (3.25), or has received grades that place their academic standing in jeopardy (as defined in Section IV. C. above).
5. If a student has not completed various phases of graduate work in accordance with the time limits specified by the department and the University.

6. If a student fails to meet the specific requirements or stated deadlines of the Guidance Committee or the Dissertation Committee.
7. If the student fails to adhere to responsible and ethical conduct in research, scholarship, or teaching activities (as specified in the University's *Guidelines for Integrity in Research and Creative Activities* and in Section V of this Handbook).

F. Waiver and Transfer Credits

Graduate credits may be transferred from other accredited institutions or international institutions of similar quality if they meet all of the following university and departmental provisions:

- (1) Only graduate-level courses in which at least a 3.0 (B) grade was received will be considered.
- (2) Only graduate-level courses from other accredited institutions or international institutions will be accepted.
- (3) Only graduate-level courses completed within the eight-year time limit approved for earning a doctoral degree at Michigan State University.
- (4) Only graduate-level courses which are appropriate to a student's program of study will be approved by the Department.

In order to obtain departmental approval for transfer credits, students must submit syllabi for all of the courses that they would like to have transferred to the members of their Guidance Committees and the Director of the Ph.D. Program. It is the responsibility of a student's Guidance Committee to evaluate the desirability of transferring course requirements in terms of the student's particular program of study and career goals. If a student's guidance committee approves a student's request to transfer a course, then it is forwarded to the Director of the Ph.D. Program for review. The approval for transferring or waiving courses must be given by both the student's Guidance Committee and the Director of the Ph.D. Program. Departmental action on transfer course request will not be taken until a student has been formally admitted into the Ph.D. program (which occurs at the end of the first year of study).

Each student must complete all Ph.D. core courses and the proseminar in the major field of study at MSU. Exceptions to this policy will be made only in rare circumstances and must be approved by the Director of the Ph.D. Program and the student's guidance committee. In no case shall a student transfer more than eighteen hours of course credit into the Ph.D. program at MSU.

G. Residence Requirements

Students must spend at least a year registered in residence at Michigan State University beyond the awarding of the M.A. degree to be eligible for a Ph.D. A year of residence will be made up of two consecutive semesters, involving the completion of credits at the level of full-time status

of graduate work each semester. The Department does not have the authority to waive these requirements. However, a waiver may be sought from the College of Social Science.

H. Departmental Records

The Graduate Program Assistant maintains an academic file on each student in the Ph.D. program. Academic files contain the records of each student's progress in the program, including application materials, assistantship letters, Guidance Committee plans, annual review materials, teaching assistant evaluations, grades, results of comprehensive exams, formation of Dissertation Committees, and all documentation pertaining to the preparation and defense of the dissertation. It will be helpful to students later if their files also contain information (i.e., vitas, research agendas, etc.) that faculty may use when asked to write letters of recommendation for them.

At minimum, students have the responsibility to see that the following are in their academic files:

- (1) Recommended Action Form For Admission to Graduate Studies
- (2) Any correspondence related to assistantship or fellowship support
- (3) PhD. Degree Plans in GradPlan
- (4) Any changes in the fields or courses initially agreed upon by a Guidance Committee, and subsequently approved by Guidance Committee members (if applicable)
- (5) Any Change in Guidance Committee Membership (if applicable)
- (6) Petition to Take Comprehensive Examinations
- (7) Report of Comprehensive Examinations and Final Evaluation
- (8) Record of Oral Defense of Dissertation Proposal
- (9) Record of Oral Defense of the Dissertation
- (10) Approval of Dissertation

Students have a right to access the materials in their own academic files. In order to do this, they should submit a request to the Graduate Program Assistant.

The Department also maintains a second set of Personnel files for graduate students who are employed by the Department. Graduate student personnel files contain appointment forms and evaluations of student performance as teaching or research assistants. Students also have a right to access the materials in their own personnel files. According to the Graduate Employment Union contract these requests must be in writing and each student is limited to three reviews of personnel files a year. In order to access one's personnel file, a student should submit a request to the Assistant to the Chair of the Department of Political Science.

V. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

A. Professional Development

The Ph.D. Program in Political Science is designed to prepare students to become active members of the political science community. In order to facilitate this, it is important that students become broadly educated and versed in academic science research. Therefore, students should attend talks, presentations, and colloquia held on the MSU campus, particularly those which are sponsored by the Department. Students should also attend any job presentations given by candidates who are interviewing for faculty or postdoctoral positions in the Department of Political Science. These presentations provide excellent opportunities for students to see firsthand how others present research.

Students should also gain experience in presenting their own research. Such experience can be developed through active participation in course seminars, departmental colloquia, practice job talks, and dissertation defenses. It is also important for students to become involved in the intellectual activities of the discipline of political science by attending professional conferences and meetings. Students should first become familiar with the norms and expectations of research presentations at professional meetings. Then, they should work closely with the faculty members of their Guidance Committees to assume a more active role in this process—i.e., presenting papers, preparing poster sessions, etc. The Department of Political Science strongly encourages student participation in professional conferences, and it will work with students to facilitate their involvement.

A. Ethical Standards

Political scientists share problems in common with practitioners of other scholarly disciplines. They also frequently encounter ethical problems unique to their professional careers. Accordingly, the American Political Science Association has compiled “A Guide to Professional Ethics in Political Sciences.” The Guide contains a statement on professional ethics, and a list of ethical principles which are relevant for any and all aspects of political science scholarship. The Guide is available on-line on the APSA Web Page, and it should be reviewed by every political science graduate student (apsanet.org/pubs/ethics).

The Department of Political Science is committed to creating an environment that promotes ethical conduct and intellectual integrity within our graduate student population. All graduate students should practice intellectual honesty in their scholarship and teaching. In accordance with the University’s Task Force Report on Research Mentoring (*Guidelines for Integrity in Research and Creative Activities*), the Department believes that intellectual integrity entails a range of practices. These include: Honesty in proposing and reporting research; recognition and credit to prior research; confidentiality of the peer review process; disclosure of potential conflicts of interest; collegiality in scholarly interactions and sharing of resources; and adherence to fair and open relationships between coworkers. Students can find a complete account of these guidelines on the Graduate School Web site (grad.msu.edu/staff/mentorreport.pdf).

C. Student Responsibilities

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures on ethical misconduct in research and creative activities (see the University's *Guidelines for Integrity in Research and Creative Activities*), to report known acts of misconduct of which they have direct knowledge to university officials, and to protect the rights and privacy of individuals making such reports in good faith. In order to reinforce and facilitate these responsibilities, the Department will conduct professionalization sessions which will cover the application of professional norms across a range of research and teaching activities.

Students who fail to satisfy the University's and the Department's standards of ethics and intellectual integrity will be dismissed as students from the Ph.D. program.

D. Use of Human Subjects in Political Science Research

All Ph.D. students in the Department of Political Science must comply with the guidelines and regulations of the University Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects (UCRIHS) in the conduct of their research or in the process of conducting research for other students or faculty. Students must obtain UCRIHS approval for all research which directly or indirectly involves the use of human subjects. This includes data gathered from human subjects through interviews, mail surveys, or telephone surveys. Graduate students must obtain UCRIHS approval *before* they begin their research projects. Graduate students should contact the UCRIHS office directly to obtain application forms and to receive more detailed information about this process.

VI. STUDENT CONDUCT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

A. Asking Questions, Eliminating Confusion

Students are required to arrange meetings with their Guidance Committees at least once year in order to inform them of their progress and activities. These meetings can also serve as valuable forums to discuss any problems students might be encountering and to raise issues that need to be addressed. Students should also feel free to consult with the Director of the Ph.D. Program and the Department Chair in order to obtain additional clarification and advice about course scheduling, degree requirements, program deadlines, etc.

B. Resolving Problems and Conflicts

Most of the problems that occur within a graduate program are due to miscommunications or conflicts between graduate students and faculty, particularly students and their Guidance/Dissertation Committee Chairs. Such conflicts can arise over a variety of issues, and they can be difficult to resolve. Hence, it is important to find ways of avoiding such conflicts before they develop into intractable situations.

Students should try to resolve the problem within the Department. Student should consult with the Director of the Ph.D. Program regarding those issues that they might find difficult to discuss with their Guidance/Dissertation Committee members. They should also seek the advice of the Chair of the Department who has ultimate responsibility for the successful functioning of the graduate program and the entire department.

Matters that cannot be handled informally by the Director of the Ph.D. Program or the Department Chair shall be handled via the procedures in Appendix B.

Students can also obtain advice and information about conflict resolution from the following university sources, all of which are available on the Graduate School Web site (www.grad.msu.edu):

Adjudication of Cases Involving Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities (located in
*Guidelines for Graduate Student Advising and Mentoring Relationships on the Graduate
School*
The Graduate Student Resource Guide
Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities

C. Program Changes

If the department changes program requirements after a student is initially admitted to the Ph.D. program at the beginning of the Fall Semester of his/her first year, the student retains the right to complete the Ph.D. program under the rules in force when the student is initially admitted to the Ph.D. program. However, the student may choose to adhere to the new standards that the department has adopted after the student initially enrolled in the Ph.D. program.

VII. WORK-RELATED POLICIES

A. Graduate Assistants and Teaching Assignments

All students admitted to the Department's Ph.D. program are eligible for funding regardless of whether or not they were granted such funding when they were admitted to the program. Where possible, the Department attempts to fund students for five years, theoretically the normal length of a doctoral program.

Once a year the Department will collect information from students about their progress in the Ph.D. program, their financial needs, and their desire for funding for the following year.

Students who arrived without financial support will receive priority for funding if they develop exceptionally good records in the department, but such funding generally can occur only when temporary or unexpected funds become available to the Department. This can occur, for example, if other graduate students who are funded receive an external award, a faculty member goes on leave, etc.

Graduate students are encouraged to seek extra-departmental funding, either inside or outside the University. Fellowship and grant information is made available for this purpose on a continuing basis. Students are encouraged to review this information and to discuss potential applications with the Director of the Ph.D. Program or other faculty members. When graduate students who already have departmental funding commitments receive external funding, their departmental funding commitment is extended for a like amount of time, and the departmental funding that had been reserved for them may become available for other graduate students during the period of external funding. Thus, graduate students who receive external funding help both themselves and their fellow graduate students.

1. Departmental Assignments and Assistantship Appointments

a. Terms of Commitment for Graduate Assistantships

Students who enter the program with an assistantship will be informed of the length of their funding commitment. For students with no prior graduate work, this is generally for five years. The Department considers five years as an appropriate period for funding of students in the Ph.D. program, assuming the candidate is formally admitted to the Ph.D. program at the end of the first year of study, maintains satisfactory progress through the remaining stages of the graduate program, satisfactorily completes the minimum number of credit hours each semester, and receives positive evaluations of assistantship performance.

When the department makes a commitment to a student for "five years" of assistantship support, that generally refers to five years of support from any funds that are part of the Department's normal budgets or are arranged for or secured by the Department rather than the student. This includes all budget accounts administered by the Department or by one of its faculty members through the Department. This includes the general graduate student budget, temporary funding that may be available from other Department accounts

(e.g., from the faculty salary budget if a faculty member is on leave), research grant funds secured from external sources by members of the Department, other non-Departmental funds secured and generally managed through the Department, or other University funds arranged by the Department (e.g., some TA funding from the Center for Integrative Studies that is arranged for entirely by the department, and does *not* involve separate application by the student). Funding from any of these sources will be counted as part of the “five year” funding period, even though students may have made separate application, either in writing or informally, for such funding.

Students on departmentally funded graduate assistantships who receive funds from *external* sources will have the period of the Department’s commitment extended by the length of time they are funded from these external sources. For this purpose, external funding is defined as funding that is completely *external* to the University, e.g., NSF fellowships or research grants, grants from other private or public foundations, or national fellowships from other countries). For example, a funded student with a five-year departmental commitment who applies for and receives an NSF dissertation support grant in his or her fourth year of study will have a one year extension of the Departmental commitment. This can be used in the student’s sixth year and provides a measure of security if the dissertation is not completed during the fifth year.

The Department recognizes that many students take longer than five years to finish the Ph.D. program. While we may attempt to continue funding of students beyond their fifth years who are working on their dissertations, such funding is given a lower priority than funding for students at earlier stages of the program, and generally is granted only when the Department has teaching needs that cannot be fulfilled by available faculty or graduate students in earlier stages of their programs.

Students who enter the program without financial aid but who receive assistantships after they are here will also be informed of the length of commitment included in the new funding. Most often, this will be only for the particular assignment specified and will not include additional commitments for future years. Since it is always the case that the Department seeks to fund as many of its graduate students as possible, we always attempt to continue financial assistance. Nevertheless, unless it is specified, funding is not guaranteed beyond the particular assignment discussed in the funding letter.

Occasionally, a multiple-year commitment may be made to a student who entered the program unfunded. In these cases, the length of the commitment will be specified in the first funding letter. When made, a future year commitment will generally be for four years *less* the number of years the student has already been in the program, i.e., a student first being funded at the beginning of his or her third year might receive a two year commitment. The commitment made in the initial funding letter takes precedence over any other informal expectations.

b. English Proficiency Requirement for International Students

International students must fulfill the English language proficiency requirement in order to be assigned as teaching assistants in the Department of Political Science. International

Students can satisfy this requirement by attaining the minimum score of 50 or higher on the Test of Spoken English (given by the Educational Testing Service), the SPEAK test (given by the English Language Center at MSU), or the ITA Oral interview (also given by the English Language Center at MSU). The Department can terminate the financial assistance of any student who does not meet the English language proficiency requirements.

c. Work Assignments for Graduate Assistants

Wherever possible, students will be assigned as teaching or research assistants in their areas of interest and competence. Most assignments are made by the Director of the Ph.D. Program and students with any special goals for their assistantships are encouraged to consult with the Director of the Ph.D. Program about potential assignments. Other assignments may be made by faculty members with research grants or with program initiative funds. Students who have definite arrangements for assignments with anyone other than the Director of the Ph.D. Program should inform the latter of these commitments, so that duplicate assignments are not made.

A “half-time” appointment is considered to entail twenty hours weekly of departmental work responsibilities. A “quarter-time” appointment is considered to entail ten hours weekly of work responsibilities. According to university rules, graduate students may not work more than “three-quarters” (3/4) time. An overload assignment therefore cannot be for more than 3/4 time even when the assignments involved, considered separately, might be the same as two 1/2 time assignments. In general, 3/4 time assignments are made only when the department has extraordinary teaching obligations that cannot be met by the normal complement of faculty and teaching assistants, and a particular individual is extraordinarily well qualified to take on the additional responsibility.

2. Expectations and Responsibilities of Graduate Assistants

a. Course Registration

Graduate assistants must be registered for courses each semester in which they hold assistantships. The University has identified the following set of minimum enrollments for doctoral students holding graduate assistants based upon their appointment status:

Quarter-time assistants (10 hours per week)

Minimum enrollment is 3 credit hours for Ph.D. students (including credits in courses number 899 or 999);

Half-time assistants (20 hours per week)

Minimum enrollment is 3 credit hours for Ph.D. students (including credits in courses numbered 899 or 999);

Three-quarter time assistants (30 hours per week)

Minimum enrollment is 3 credit hours (including credits in courses numbered 899 or 999).

Minimum enrollment for doctoral students who have successfully completed all comprehensive exams is 1 credit hour per semester. Doctoral students must be enrolled in one credit hour during the semester of their oral defense for their doctoral dissertation.

Any deviations from the maximum enrollment requirements listed above must be approved *in advance* (i.e., prior to enrollment) by the Dean of the College of Social Sciences. Graduate assistants should be enrolled in graduate-level courses that have been identified as relevant for their degree programs. Any exceptions must be approved in advance by the student's Guidance Committee and the Director of the Ph.D. Program. Visitor credits may count as part of a graduate assistant's credit load, if approved in advance by the students Guidance Committee and the Director of the Ph.D. Program.

b. Maintaining Norms of Professional Behavior and Ethical Conduct

Graduate Assistants are expected to observe the following norms of professional behavior proposed by an ad hoc committee of faculty and graduate students and adopted by the faculty:

- (1) The faculty member(s) with whom a graduate assistant is working should clearly specify the assistant's duties and responsibilities at the start of the semester, or at a time sufficiently in advance of the date of expected completion.
- (2) Assistants should be available for work for the number of hours specified from the start (defined as the first day of classes for the semester) to the end of the semester (being defined as the last day of the final exam week).
- (3) Assistants should report to the person(s) to whom they are assigned during the week prior to the beginning of the semester.
- (4) Assistants have the responsibility of reporting to the person(s) to whom they are assigned at least once per week.
- (5) Inability to perform assigned duties should be communicated immediately to the Director of the Ph.D. Program.
- (6) Compliance with the provisions of the University Code of Teaching Responsibilities is necessary.
- (7) The department strongly encourages graduate assistants to consult informally and frequently with their faculty mentors on an ongoing basis through the course of their assignment.

Graduate assistants must also maintain the ethical standards and practices outlined by the Department, the University, and the American Political Science Association (and referenced in Section V of this Handbook).

Violations of the above expectations, norms, and standards will be heard by the Department's Graduate Studies Committee. Cases that cannot be resolved by the Graduate Studies Committee shall be heard by a Departmental Judiciary Committee.

c. Training of Teaching Assistants

The University runs a training program for new teaching assistants. It is normally held in the week prior to the beginning of Fall semester classes. Students holding assistantships through the Department of Political Science are required to attend this program. The Graduate Program Assistant is responsible for notifying students about the times and dates of these training sessions.

Even for students not on assistantships at the beginning of an academic year, it is advisable for new doctoral students to enroll in this Fall training program. The reason is that, on occasion, unanticipated needs arise for an additional teaching assistant during the school year (or for teaching the next summer's courses). In hiring a new teaching assistant the Director of the Ph.D. Program will give priority to students who have already had the teaching-assistant training.

In addition, the University runs an ongoing Teaching Assistant Program housed in Room 9 in the International Center (msu.edu/user/gradschol/teaching; 517-353-3062). It offers advice and assistance to help teaching assistants upgrade their teaching skills, classroom management, and other aspects of teaching. Free videotaping of a teaching assistant's classroom session can also be arranged, along with an expert evaluation aimed at further improving classroom skills.

d. Mandatory Training on Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct

All Teaching Assistants and Research Assistants must complete the on-line training about the Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct Policy. To access the training, login to the ORA training website at: <http://goo.gl/pLh01o>. *Click "Register," "Complete Registration" and then "Launch" to begin the Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct (RVSM) Policy - Faculty, Staff Training. (If it indicates that you have already registered, use "In Progress Training", then "Launch"). You will want to reserve approximately 30 minutes to complete all assignments. If you need assistance, contact the Helpdesk at 517-884-4600 or train@ora.msu.edu.*

e. Faculty Supervision and Evaluation of Graduate Assistant Performance

The Department wants its teaching assistants and graduate instructors to become effective teachers—and effective representatives of the Department—as quickly as possible. The teaching assistant training program mentioned above will accomplish part of the necessary training.

Another part of the training will be the responsibility of the faculty members who work with, and supervise, the teaching assistants and instructors. New students who are assigned as graders for a particular course will naturally be supervised by the faculty member teaching the course. Similarly, students who are assigned to a course to run a discussion section (or sections) will be supervised by the faculty member teaching the course.

Students who are given the full responsibility to teach their own courses will be supervised by faculty who teach courses within that field. For example, a student teaching PLS 100 “Introduction to American National Government” will be supervised by a faculty member who teaches PLS 100 or another faculty member in the field of American Politics.

(1) The Supervisory Relationship

When a graduate instructor and faculty mentor work together, the supervision should involve the following activities:

- (a) When a student is assigned responsibility for teaching a course, he/she should meet with the faculty mentor (or designated representative) to discuss matters such as text selection, course structure, syllabus design, examination design, grading practices, and pedagogical approach (e.g., lectures vs. discussions, etc.). This should be done *before* books are ordered and a syllabus is prepared for the course in question. The intent is to utilize the faculty member’s teaching experience so that the graduate instructor can avoid various pitfalls in teaching and course design.
- (b) At some point in the semester, the faculty mentor should attend at least one class session taught by the graduate instructor. For a new instructor this should be done early in the semester, and it may be helpful to visit again later in the semester. For an experienced instructor a single visit late in the semester may be sufficient.
- (c) Following the class visit, the faculty mentor should meet with the graduate instructor to discuss any issues involving presentational style and technique that may be appropriate.
- (d) The graduate instructor should feel free to consult the faculty mentor for advice or assistance regarding any course-related issues which may arise.

For new graduate instructors, faculty mentors should exercise relatively close supervision. For experienced graduate instructors, relatively infrequent contact may be acceptable.

(2) The End-of-Semester Evaluation

Whether the graduate instructor is new or experienced, the faculty mentor has some evaluation responsibilities:

- (a) At the end of the semester, the graduate instructor shall have the students in his/her class fill out the SIRS forms and have them returned to the Department office. (It is advisable for the graduate instructor to have a student from the class return the completed SIRS forms to the Department office, in order to avoid suspicions on the part of the students who have just filled out the

forms.) The faculty mentor shall then review these forms. If it would serve a useful educational purpose, the faculty mentor may wish to meet with the instructor to consider issues raised by students in the SIRS forms.

- (b) After visiting the class and reviewing the SIRS forms at the end of the semester, the faculty mentor should fill out the evaluation form in Appendix G, give a copy to the graduate instructor, and place a copy in the graduate instructor's file.
- (c) The graduate instructor should either sign the form (signifying that he/she has read the evaluation and has no complaint) or (within 20 days) respond to the evaluation in writing.
- (d) If the graduate instructor wishes to appeal an evaluation, the appeal shall be considered by the Graduate Studies Committee.
- (e) The Chair and the Director of the Ph.D. Program may use the results from this evaluation process in awarding future graduate instructorships.

It should be emphasized that the primary intent of both the supervision and the evaluation is to ensure that the education provided by graduates students to our undergraduates is as good as possible.

3. The Criteria and Process for Determining Departmental Financial Support

a. Termination of Support During the Academic Year

An assistantship may be terminated in less than one academic year if a student fails to meet the grade standards of the department, because of unsatisfactory performance during a previous assistantship assignment, due to violations of professional and/or ethical standards, or because the student has not satisfactorily completed the minimum credit hour semester enrollment requirements.

b. Reappointment of Graduate Assistants from One Year to the Next

By March 31 of each calendar year, the Department Chair will advise each graduate assistant in writing of one or more of the following:

- (1) that her/his assistantship will be renewed for the following academic year;
- (2) that the assistantship will be renewed provided the assistant is able to meet certain specific conditions;
- (3) that the assistantship will be renewed providing the Department is able to meet certain specified conditions;
- (4) that the assistantship will not be renewed.

If the assistantship is not renewed, the reasons shall be indicated. One condition of renewal is that the student indicate in writing (by April 15) her/his intention to return to accept the assistantship for the next fall.

Unfortunately, due to normal University budget procedures it is sometimes impossible for the Department to make a firm commitment to some students for the next academic year

until substantially after the March 31 deadline. However, all students interested in financial aid should feel free to personally ask the Director of the Ph.D. Program what their prospects are for an assistantship for the upcoming academic year.

c. Termination of Financial Support from One Academic Year to the Next

The reappointment of graduate assistants shall be determined by the following criteria: The student must be formally admitted into the Ph.D. program to be reappointed as a graduate assistant in the second year and beyond; the student must be making satisfactory academic progress in the program; the student must maintain the minimum acceptable grade point average for Ph.D. students in the Department of Political Science; the student must complete the minimum number of course enrollments per semester for graduate assistants; the student must receive positive performance assessments of graduate assistant assignments (as determined by the End-of-the Year Evaluations mentioned earlier); and the student must adhere to the professional and ethical standards of the Department, the University, and the Political Science Profession. Reappointment of graduate assistants also depends upon the availability of funds.

4. Graduate Assistant Benefits

a. Stipends, Stipend Advancement, and Promotion

The Department has three levels—Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3—of graduate assistant appointments as determined by the policy and designations of the current MSU/Graduate Employees Union (GEU) Contract. In any one academic semester, the stipend per assistantship unit is the same for all assistantships in a particular level. Actual stipend rates are set in the summer and become effective on August 15.

For a Level 1 assistantship the graduate student has a bachelor's degree and less than one year's experience as a graduate assistant. They conduct research, perform administrative tasks or other supervised duties such as reading and grading papers.

For a Level 2 assistantship appointment the graduate student must possess a master's degree or the equivalent in a field deemed relevant to political science and/or have completed at least one year as a graduate assistantship. After completing two assistantship semesters, the student is automatically transferred to Level 2 for the duration of the appointment.

For a Level 3 assistantship appointment, successful completion of doctoral comprehensive exams, as defined by the department in which the student is enrolled, and six semesters of experience as a graduate RA/TE at Michigan State University. This designation will hold for the remainder of the time that the student is on an assistantship.

The pay period for Fall semester begins on August 16 and the assistant receives a paycheck on the 15th of each month, beginning in September. If the 15th falls on a Saturday or Sunday, checks arrive the Friday before. To have your paycheck directly

deposited to the bank of your choice you may contact the Payroll office at 350 Administration Building.

Graduate Assistantship stipends may not be subject to Social Security (FICA) taxes as long as they meet federal guidelines and federal requirements for enrollment. Stipends are subject to income taxes with few exceptions. The taxability of stipends is subject to review by the Internal Revenue Service. For more information, call the Payroll Office at 517-355-5010, ext. 204.

Graduate student assistants are covered by the MSU/Graduate Employees Union (GEU) Contract. The link to the GEU contract:

www.hr.msu.edu/documents/contracts/GEU2011-2015.pdf

General university policies covering graduate student assistantships are listed in the *Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities* pamphlet. This can also be found on the Graduate School website, under the following link:

(www.vps.msu.edu/SpLife/gradrights).

b. Tuition Waivers

A waiver of out-of-state tuition is granted to out-of-state students during the semester of their appointments. A waiver of out-of-state tuition is granted for the full academic year to out-of-state students with full academic year appointments, as well as for the summer session that precedes or follows appointments for an entire academic year.

A nine credit-hour tuition waiver is granted in fall and spring semesters while holding an appointment. For summer session appointments, the waiver is five credits.

c. Graduate Assistant Offices

Each graduate assistant is assigned an office to share on the 2nd floor of South Kedzie Hall.

d. Health Insurance for Graduate Assistants

Michigan State University and the Council of Graduate Students worked together to offer graduate assistants health insurance coverage beginning Fall Semester 1994. Graduate assistants (domestic and international) are automatically enrolled in a GA health insurance plan, the premium of which is paid by the University. Fall and Spring appointments—coverage from August 15 to August 14 of the following year. Enrolled students may also insure their eligible spouse and/or dependent children (residing with the insured). For questions concerning waiver processing or general information, contact the MSU Benefits office at 517-353-4434 or 800-353-4434, or via email at studentinsurance@hr.msu.edu. The Benefits Office is located at 1407 S. Harrison Road, Suite 140 (Nisbet Building), East Lansing, MI 48824 and on the web at <http://www.hr.msu.edu>.

e. Graduate Assistant Illness/Injury/Pregnancy Leave Policy

A graduate assistant unable to fulfill the duties of his/her appointment because of illness or injury shall notify the Director of the Ph.D. Program or Department chair as soon as circumstances permit. Similarly, a graduate assistant unable to fulfill the duties of her appointment because of pregnancy shall notify the administrator of her major unit as soon as circumstances permit.

During the illness, injury, or pregnancy the major unit shall adjust (reduce, waive, or reschedule) the graduate assistant's duties as those duties and the assistant's physical circumstances reasonably dictate. If total absence from duties becomes necessary, the major unit shall maintain the stipend of the appointment, provided the graduate assistant is still enrolled, for a period of two months, or to the end of the appointment period or of the semester, whichever should occur first.

The graduate assistant shall have the right to return to the assistantship, within the original terms of the appointment, at such time as he/she is able to reassume the duties of the position.

f. Grief Absence Policy

It is the responsibility of the student to: a) notify their advisor/major professor and faculty of the courses in which they are enrolled of the need for a grief absence in a timely manner, but no later than one week from the student's initial knowledge of the situation, b) provide appropriate verification of the grief absence as specified by the advisor/major professor and faculty, and c) complete all missed work as determined in consultation with the advisor/major professor and faculty. It is the responsibility of the advisor/major professor to: a) determine with the student the expected period of absence – it is expected that some bereavement processes may be more extensive than others depending on individual circumstances, b) receive verification of the authenticity of a grief absence request upon the student's return, and c) make reasonable accommodations so that the student is not penalized due to a verified grief absence. If employed as a RA or TE, the graduate student must also notify their employer. Both employer and student will swiftly communicate to determine how the student's responsibilities will be covered during their absence. Graduate teaching assistants (TAs) should refer to the bereavement policy in the MSU GEU CBU Article 18. Students who believe their rights under this policy have been violated should contact the University Ombudsperson.

g. Parking Benefits

Students who own motor vehicles or bicycles and want to use them on campus must register them with the University Vehicle Office. Information on getting a parking permit can be found here: <http://police.msu.edu/management-services-bureau/parking-office/> The Vehicle Office is located in the Public Safety Building, 87 S. Red Cedar Road.

B. Work Related Policies for All Doctoral Students Pursuing Degrees

1. Microcomputer Laboratory

Room 219 of South Kedzie Hall contains a number of microcomputers which are available for use by all Political Science students. The computers are all connected to the University network.

2. Activating your MSU NetID and E-mail Account

MSU uses e-mail for a variety of official communications. It is important to activate your NetID because your MSU account is the only e-mail account to which official notices are sent. Students use their aPID and PAN for activation. Every student enrolled at the University is assigned an e-mail address on the MSU computer system. All graduate students in the department are expected to use e-mail as way of communicating on an ongoing basis with faculty, staff, and other students during the course of their studies at MSU. The link for activating your account: <http://techbase.msu.edu/article.asp?id=139>

3. Political Science Graduate Student Association (GSA)

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) is represented at faculty meetings by its own elected President and Vice President. Active members of the GSA elect representatives to various departmental committees, and the GSA sponsors a number of social activities for graduate students and faculty each year. The GSA also makes recommendations to the Departmental Chairperson or Department committees on matters of professional importance to graduate students.

4. Health Services

All regularly enrolled doctoral students carrying six or more credits are eligible for health services during the semester in which they are enrolled. Other students who have fewer than six credits as well as spouses of students may purchase a Health Service card at Olin Health Center entitling them to Health Center services during the semester in which they or their spouse are enrolled. Unenrolled students and their spouses may purchase a Health Service card for one semester following their eligibility. For complete details see: www.hr.msu.edu/HRsite/Benefits/Students/HealthCov

5. International Travel

Graduate students traveling internationally for MSU-related work (research data collection, international professional conferences, courses, or other academic business, are strongly encouraged to sign up using the International Travelers Database (even if they are not being reimbursed for travel). This is the best way for MSU to stay in touch with our students if there is an emergency. See http://www.isp.msu.edu/travel/travelers_database.htm

6. Special Services

Auxiliary aids and services are available to students with special needs and disabilities. Please contact the Department of Political Science office at 355-6590 and the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-7273 for more information. The website for the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities:

<http://techbase.msu.edu/article.asp?id=139>

VIII. UNIVERSITY RESOURCES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

A. Frequently Contacted Offices

Dean's Office, College of Social Science— http://www.socialscience.msu.edu/ 203 Berkey Hall	355-6676
Enrollment and Degree Certification— https://www.reg.msu.edu/ 160 Hannah Administration Building	355-3300
Financial Aid— www.finaid.msu.edu (finaid@msu.edu) 252 Student Services Bldg	353-5940
Graduate School— http://grad.msu.edu/ Chittenden Hall, 466 W. Circle Drive	353-3220
Parking, Department of Police and Public Safety— http://www.dpps.msu.edu Public Safety Building, 87 S. Red Cedar Road.....	355-2221
Payroll Office— http://www.ctrl.msu.edu/copayroll/ 350 Hannah Administration Building	355-5010
Registrar's Office— www.reg.msu.edu (reg@msu.edu) 150 Administration Building	355-3300
Student Accounts and Cashier Services— www.ctrlf.msu.edu/studrec (student.receivables@ctrl.msu.edu) 1 st Floor Hannah Administration Building	
Billing and Receivables	355-3343
Cashier Services	355-5023
Fees Sponsored Aid and Fellowships	355-5050
Transcripts— https://www.reg.msu.edu/Transcripts/Transcript.aspx 50 Administration Building	355-5150

B. Campus-Wide Services and Support for Graduate Students

Student Services— www.vps.msu.edu/vpsas/index.htm	
ASMSU/COGS Legal Services, 329 Student Services.....	353-3716
Career Services & Placement Center— www.csp.msu.edu/	
113 Student Services Bldg.....	355-9510
Copy Center— www.msu.edu/~cogs	
315 Student Services Building.....	353-2898
Counseling Center, 207 Student Services Bldg.....	355-8270
Department of Married Student Housing, 1205 S. Harrison Rd.....	355-9550
Employee Assistance Program, 205 Olds Hall.....	355-4506
Graduate Record Examination, 207 Student Services Bldg.....	355-8385
Computer Center— cstore.msu.edu/	
Computing Information Center.....	353-1800
Computing Resource Center.....	353-1800
MSU Computer Store, 110 Computer Center.....	432-0700
Scoring Office.....	355-1819
Council of Graduate Students (COGS)— www.cogs.msu.edu/services	
120 Chittenden Hall (cogs@msu.edu).....	353-9189
English Language Center— www.elc.msu.edu	
B-230 Wells Hall (elc@msu.edu).....	353-0800
Graduate Employees Union (GEU)— www.geuatmsu.org	
geu@msu.edu	332-2824
Graduate School Contacts	
CIC Traveling Scholar Program— www.grad.msu.edu/cic.htm Office of the Graduate	
School, 230 Chittenden Hall.....	355-0302
Conflict Resolution— www.grad.msu.edu/conflict.htm	
Intramural Sports Facilities— www.imsports.edu	
IM_West, IM_East, and IM_Circle (irc@msu.edu).....	355-525
Learning Resources Center— www.lrc.msu.edu	
202 Bessey Hall.....	355-2363
MSU Spartan Bookstore— www.spartanbook.com	
Basement, International Center (spartan@nebook.com).....	355-3450

MSU Libraries— www.lib.msu.edu	
Main Office	353-8700
24/7 Support.....	800-500-1554
Library Hours	355-6123
MSU Student Food Bank— www.olin.msu.edu	
1 st floor Olin Health Center (foodbank@msu.edu).....	432-5136
Office for International Students and Scholars— www.oiss.msu.edu	
105 International Center (oiss@msu.edu).....	353-1720
Office of International Studies & Programs— www.isp.msu.edu	
207 International Center (info@isp.msu.edu).....	355-2350
Office of Study Abroad— www.studyabroad.isp.msu.edu	
109 International Center (studyabroad@osa.msu.edu)	353-8920
Office of the Ombudsperson— www.msu.edu/unit/ombud	
129 North Kedzie Hall	353-8830
Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities— www.rcpd.msu.edu	
120 Bessey Hall (rcpd@msu.edu).....	884-7273
Student Health Insurance, MSU Human Resources—	
www.hr.msu.edu/HRsite/Benefits/Students/HealthCov/	
140 Nisbet Bldg (studentinsurance@hr.msu.edu)	353-4434
Student Health Services— www.olin.msu.edu/	
Main Phone Number	884-6546
Olin Health Center Appointments	353-4660
Olin Pharmacy.....	353-9165
Teaching Assistants Program— www.tap.msu.edu	
9 International Center (taprog@msu.edu).....	353-3062
Women’s Resources Center— www.wrc.msu.edu	
332 Union Building (wrc@msu.edu).....	353-1635

E. Useful Publications and Information Sources

Graduate School:

By Degrees — www.grad.msu.edu/bydegrees.htm

Commencement and Graduate Requirements—www.grad.msu.edu/graduation.htm

Current Graduate Student Reference Manual—www.grad.msu.edu/forms/gradrefman.pdf

Formatting Guide for Theses/Dissertations—www.grad.msu.edu/format.htm

Funding Guide for Graduates Students, Graduate Professional Students and Postdoctoral Fellows—www.msu.edu/user/gradschl/fundguide.htm

Graduate Employees Union-Collective Bargaining Agreement—
www.grad.msu.edu/geu/agree.pdf

Graduate School Forms On-Line—www.grad.msu.edu/forms.htm

Graduate School Handbook for New Teaching Assistants— www.tap.msu.edu/handbook

Graduate School Workshops for Students—www.grad.msu.edu/stuwork.htm

Graduate Student Funding Opportunities—www.grad.msu.edu/funding.htm

Graduate Student Progress Reports—www.grad.msu.edu/progress.htm

Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities—www.vps.msu.edu/SpLife/default.pdf

Graduate Student Resource Guide: The Graduate School Guide to the Preparation of Master's Theses And Doctoral Dissertations—
www.msu.edu/user/gradschl/format.htm

Guidelines for Graduate Student Advising and Mentoring Relationships—
www.grad.msu.edu/staff/mentoreport.pdf

Important Dates, The Graduate School—www.grad.msu.edu/current/final.htm

The Graduate Post—www.grad.msu.edu/gradpost.htm

Thesis/dissertation Submission Packet—www.grad.msu.edu/format.htm

Office of the Registrar:

Academic Programs Catalog—www.reg.msu.edu/ucc/ucc.asp

Application for Graduation—www.reg.msu.edu/stuforms/gradapp/gradapp.asp

Course Description and Catalog Search—

www.ntweb1.ais.msu.edu/j4100/scripts/CatalogSearch.asp

The Schedule of Courses—www.ntweb8.ais.msu.edu/ScheduleBook/schedule.asp

University Calendar—www.reg.msu.edu/ROInfo/Calendar/Academic.asp

University Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects (UCRIHS)—

Guidelines for Integrity in Research and Creative Activities—
www.humanresearch.msu.edu

APPENDIX A

CHECKLIST OF NORMAL PROGRESS IN THE PH.D. PROGRAM

FIRST YEAR

- ____ 1. Meeting with the Director of the Ph.D. Program to prepare your first year program.
- ____ 2. Successful completion of the following sequence:
 - PLS 800: Proseminar in Research Methods
(Fall Semester).
 - PLS 801: Quantitative Techniques in Political Science I
(Fall Semester).
 - PLS 802: Quantitative Techniques in Political Science II
(Spring Semester).
- ____ 3. Completion of at least three other required courses (either the core courses of PLS 803 and PLS 809 or courses for major/minor fields of concentration).
- ____ 4. Selection of Guidance Committee (no later than April of the second semester, first year).
- ____ 5. Approval of coursework in GradPlan by Guidance Committee and PhD Director by last day of April.
- ____ 6. Admission to the Ph.D. program by the Department (end of finals week).

SECOND YEAR

- ____ 1. Master's Degree (optional) awarded at completion of 30 semester credits and certification by Department that graduate work has been of Master's Degree quality.
- ____ 2. Meeting with Guidance Committee to review progress.
- ____ 3. Completion of required core coursework in political thought and formal theory:
 - PLS 803: Proseminar in Political Thought
 - PLS 809: Proseminar in Formal Theory
- ____ 4. Completion of required coursework in major and minor fields by end of the Spring Semester of the 2nd year.
- ____ 5. Certification by the Graduate Program Assistant that all requirements have been completed to be eligible to take Comprehensive Field Examinations during the 3rd year.

THIRD YEAR

- ____ 1. Successful completion of Comprehensive Field Examinations in both major and minor fields (no later than the end of Fall semester of the 3rd year).
- ____ 2. Completion of all coursework identified in degree program by the end of the 3rd year.

- _____ 3. Submission of materials for third-year annual review, including the third-year paper, prior to Spring break.
- _____ 4. Selection of Dissertation Chair by the first week of Spring semester of the 3rd year. Selection of Dissertation Committee by the end of Spring semester.

FOURTH & FIFTH YEARS

- _____ 1. Written Dissertation Proposal and Oral Defense of Proposal. The defense is open to all faculty members. The Dissertation Proposal must be approved by the end of the Fall Semester of the 4th year by each member of the Dissertation Committee. Submission of completed form with signatures of all committee members submitted to Graduate Program Assistant.
- _____ 2. Writing of dissertation.
- _____ 3. Prepare your dossier for job placement.
- _____ 4. Tentative dissertation approval by committee.
- _____ 5. Submit a dissertation draft, in final form for the oral defense to members of Dissertation Committee.
- _____ 6. Oral dissertation defense (full committee, open to all departmental members). Must receive written approval of this oral presentation from an extraordinary majority of the committee; i.e., no more than one committee member dissents. Submission of completed form with committee members' signatures to Graduate Program Assistant.
- _____ 7. Enrollment in at least one credit hour during the semester of the oral defense. Must register for and complete a total of 24 credits of PLS 999 (Dissertation Credits) before eligible to graduate.
- _____ 8. Obtain a dissertation submission packet from the Graduate School.
- _____ 9. **Final dissertation approval by committee members.** Again final approval occurs only after an extraordinary majority of the committee approves the final written dissertation. Submission of completed forms with signatures of all committee members to Graduate Program Assistant.
- _____ 10. Complete and submit online *Application for Graduation*.
- _____ 11. Electronic submission of the final copy of the dissertation and payment to the Graduate School in accordance with its procedures and deadline dates.
- _____ 12. Request confidential letters of recommendation for placement file.

Appendix B

Graduate Student Academic Grievance Hearing Procedures

For the Political Science Program

Each right of an individual places a reciprocal duty upon others: the duty to permit the individual to exercise the right. The student, as a member of the academic community, has both rights and duties. Within that community, the student's most essential right is the right to learn. The University has a duty to provide for the student those privileges, opportunities, and protections which best promote the learning process in all its aspects. The student also has duties to other members of the academic community, the most important of which is to refrain from interference with those rights of others which are equally essential to the purposes and processes of the University. (GSRR Article 1.2)

The *Michigan State University Student Rights and Responsibilities (SRR)* and the *Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities (GSRR)* documents establish the rights and responsibilities of MSU students and prescribe procedures to resolve allegations of violations of those rights through formal grievance hearings.

In accordance with the SRR and the GSRR, the Political Science Program has established the following Hearing Board procedures for adjudicating graduate student academic grievances and complaints. (See GSRR 5.4.)

I. JURISDICTION OF THE POLITICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM HEARING BOARD:

- A. The Hearing Board serves as the initial Hearing Board for academic grievance hearings involving graduate students who allege violations of academic rights or seek to contest an allegation of academic misconduct (academic dishonesty, violations of professional standards or falsifying admission and academic records). (See GSRR 2.3 and 5.1.1.)
- B. Students may not request an academic grievance hearing based on an allegation of incompetent instruction. (See GSRR 2.2.2)

II. COMPOSITION OF THE HEARING BOARD:

- A. The Program shall constitute a Hearing Board pool no later than the end of the tenth week of the spring semester according to established Program procedures. Hearing Board members serve one year terms with reappointment possible. The Hearing Board pool should include both faculty and graduate students. (See GSRR 5.1.2 and 5.1.6.)
- B. The Chair of the Hearing Board shall be the faculty member with rank who shall vote only in the event of a tie. In addition to the Chair, the Hearing Board shall include an equal number of voting graduate students and faculty. (See GSRR 5.1.2, and 5.1.5.)
- C. The Program will train hearing board members about these procedures and the applicable sections of the GSRR. (See GSRR 5.1.3.)

III. REFERRAL TO THE HEARING BOARD:

- A. After consulting with the instructor and appropriate unit administrator, graduate students who remain dissatisfied with their attempt to resolve an allegation of a violation of student academic rights or an allegation of academic misconduct (academic dishonesty, violations of professional standards or falsifying admission and academic records) may request an academic grievance hearing. When appropriate, the Department Chair, in consultation with the Dean, may waive jurisdiction and refer the request for an initial hearing to the College Hearing Board. (See GSRR 5.3.6.2.)
- B. At any time in the grievance process, either party may consult with the University Ombudsperson. (See GSRR 5.3.2.)
- C. In cases of ambiguous jurisdiction, the Dean of The Graduate School will select the appropriate Hearing Board for cases involving graduate students. (See GSRR 5.3.5.)
- D. Generally, the deadline for submitting the written request for a hearing is the middle of the next semester in which the student is enrolled (including Summer). In cases in which a student seeks to contest an allegation of academic misconduct and the student's dean has called for an academic disciplinary hearing, the student has **10** class days to request an academic grievance to contest the allegation. (See GSRR 5.3.6.1 and 5.5.2.2.)
- E. If either the student (the complainant) or the respondent (usually, the instructor or an administrator) is absent from the university during that semester, or if other appropriate reasons emerge, the Hearing Board may grant an extension of this deadline. If the university no longer employs the respondent before the grievance hearing commences, the hearing may proceed. (See GSRR 5.4.9.)
- F. A written request for an academic grievance hearing must (1) specify the specific bases for the grievance, including the alleged violation(s), (2) identify the individual against whom the grievance is filed (the respondent) and (3) state the desired redress. Anonymous grievances will not be accepted. (See GSRR 5.1 and 5.3.6.)

IV. PRE-HEARING PROCEDURES

- A. After receiving a graduate student's written request for a hearing, the Chair of the Department will promptly refer the grievance to the Chair of the Hearing Board. (See GSRR 5.3.2, 5.4.3.)
- B. Within **5** class days, the Chair of the Hearing Board will:
 - 1. forward the request for a hearing to the respondent and ask for a written response;
 - 2. send the names of the Hearing Board members to both parties and, to avoid conflicts of interest between the two parties and the Hearing Board members, request written challenges, if any, within **3** class days of this notification. In addition to conflict of interest challenges, either party can challenge two hearing board members without cause (GSRR 5.1.7.c);
 - 3. rule promptly on any challenges, impanel a Hearing Board and send each party the names of the Hearing Board members. If the Chair of the Hearing Board is

the subject of a challenge, the challenge shall be filed with the Dean of the College, or designee (See GSRR 5.1.7.). Decisions by the Hearing Board chair or the College Dean (or designee) on conflict of interest challenges are final;

4. send the Hearing Board members a copy of the request for a hearing and the respondent's written response, and send all parties a copy of these procedures.
- C. Within **5** class days of being established, the Hearing Board shall review the request, and, after considering all requested and submitted information:
1. accept the request, in full or in part, and promptly schedule a hearing.
 2. reject the request and provide a written explanation to appropriate parties; e.g., lack of jurisdiction. (The student may appeal this decision.)
 3. the GSRR allows the hearing board to invite the two parties to meet with the Hearing Board in an informal session to try to resolve the matter. Such a meeting does not preclude a later hearing. However, by the time a grievance is requested all informal methods of conflict resolution should have been exhausted so this option is rarely used. (See GSRR 5.4.6.)
- D. If the Hearing Board calls for a hearing, the Chair of the Hearing Board shall promptly negotiate a hearing date, schedule an additional meeting only for the Hearing Board should additional deliberations on the findings become necessary, and request a written response to the grievance from the respondent.
- E. At least **5** class days before the scheduled hearing, the Chair of the Hearing Board shall notify the respondent and the complainant in writing of the (1) time, date, and place of the hearing; (2) the names of the parties to the grievance; (3) a copy of the hearing request and the respondent's reply; and (4) the names of the Hearing Board members after any challenges. (See GSRR 5.4.7.)
- F. At least **3** class days before the scheduled hearing, the parties must notify the Chair of the Hearing Board the names of their witnesses and advisor, if any, and request permission for the advisor to have voice at the hearing. The chair may grant or deny this request. The Chair will promptly forward the names given by the complainant to the respondent and visa versa. (See GSRR 5.4.7.1.)
- G. The Chair of the Hearing Board may accept written statements from either party's witnesses at least **3** class days before the hearing. (See GSRR 5.4.9.)
- H. In unusual circumstances and in lieu of a personal appearance, either party may request permission to submit a written statement to the Hearing Board or request permission to participate in the hearing through an electronic communication channel. Written statements must be submitted to the Hearing Board at least **3** class days before the scheduled hearing. (See GSRR 5.4.9c.)
- I. Either party to the grievance hearing may request a postponement of the hearing. The Hearing Board may either grant or deny the request. (See GSRR 5.4.8.)

- J. At its discretion, the Hearing Board may set a reasonable time limit for each party to present its case, and the Chair of the Hearing Board must inform the parties of such a time limit in the written notification of the hearing.
- K. Hearings are closed unless the student requests an open hearing, which would be open to all members of the MSU community. The Hearing Board may close an open hearing to protect the confidentiality of information or to maintain order. (See GSRR 5.4.10.4.)
- L. Members of the Hearing Board are expected to respect the confidentiality of the hearing process. (See GSRR 5.4.10.4. and 5.4.11.)

V. HEARING PROCEDURES:

A. The Hearing will proceed as follows:

1. Introductory remarks by the Chair of the Hearing Board: The Chair of the Hearing Board introduces hearing panel members, the complainant, the respondent and advisors, if any. The Chair reviews the hearing procedures, including announced time restraints for presentations by each party and the witnesses, and informs the parties if their advisors may have a voice in the hearings and if the proceedings are being recorded. Witnesses shall be excluded from the proceedings except when testifying. The Chair also explains:
 - In academic grievance hearings in which a graduate student alleges a violation of academic rights, the student bears the burden of proof.
 - In hearings in which a graduate student seeks to contest allegations of academic misconduct, the instructor bears the burden of proof.
 - All Hearing Board decisions must be reached by a majority of the Hearing Board, based on a "clear and convincing evidence." (See GSRR 8.1.18.)

(See GSRR 5.4.10.1 and 8.1.18.) For various other definitions, see GSRR Article 8.)
2. If the complainant fails to appear in person or via an electronic channel at a scheduled hearing, the Hearing Board may either postpone the hearing or dismiss the case for demonstrated cause. (See GSRR 5.4.9a.)
3. If the respondent fails to appear in person or via an electronic channel at a scheduled hearing, the Hearing Board may postpone the hearing or, only in unusual circumstances, hear the case in his or her absence. (See GSRR 5.4.9-b.)
4. If the respondent is absent from the University during the semester of the grievance hearing or no longer employed by the University before the grievance procedure concludes, the hearing process may still proceed. (See GSRR 5.3.6.1.)
5. To assure orderly questioning, the Chair of the Hearing Board will recognize individuals before they speak. All parties have a right to speak without interruption. Each party has a right to question the other party and to rebut any oral or written statements submitted to the Hearing Board. (See GSRR 5.4.10.2.)

6. Presentation by the Complainant: The Chair recognizes the complainant to present without interruption any statements relevant to the complainant's case, including the redress sought. The Chair then recognizes questions directed at the complainant by the Hearing Board, the respondent and the respondent's advisor, if any.
7. Presentation by the Complainant's Witnesses: The Chair recognizes the complainant's witnesses, if any, to present, without interruption, any statement directly relevant to the complainant's case. The Chair then recognizes questions directed at the witnesses by the Hearing Board, the respondent, and the respondent's advisor, if any.
8. Presentation by the Respondent: The Chair recognizes the respondent to present without interruption any statements relevant to the respondent's case. The Chair then recognizes questions directed at the respondent by the Hearing Board, the complainant, and the complainant's advisor, if any.
9. Presentation by the Respondent's Witnesses: The Chair recognizes the respondent's witnesses, if any, to present, without interruption, and statement directly relevant to the respondent's case. The Chair then recognizes questions directed at the witnesses by the Hearing Board, the complainant, and the complainant's advisor, if any.
10. Rebuttal and Closing Statement by Complainant: The complainant refutes statements by the respondent, the respondent's witnesses and advisor, if any, and presents a final summary statement.
11. Rebuttal and Closing Statement by Respondent: The respondent refutes statements by the complainant, the complainant's witnesses and advisor, if any, and presents a final summary statement.
12. Final questions by the Hearing Board: The Hearing Board asks questions of any of the participants in the hearing.

VI. POST-HEARING PROCEDURES

A. Deliberation:

After all evidence has been presented, with full opportunity for explanations, questions and rebuttal, the Chair of the Hearing Board shall excuse all parties to the grievance and convene the Hearing Board to determine its findings in executive session. When possible, deliberations should take place directly following the hearing and/or at the previously scheduled follow-up meeting. (See Section IV.D above.)

B. Decision:

1. In grievance (non-disciplinary) hearings involving graduate students in which a majority of the Hearing Board finds, based on "clear and convincing evidence," that a violation of the student's academic rights has occurred and that redress is possible, it shall recommend an appropriate remedy to the Department Chair or

School Director. Upon receiving the Hearing Board's recommendation, the Department Chair or School Director shall implement an appropriate remedy, in consultation with the Hearing Board, within **3** class days. If the Hearing Board finds that no violation of academic rights has occurred, it shall so inform the Chair or Director. The Chair of the Hearing Board shall promptly forward copies of the final decision to parties and the University Ombudsperson. (See GSRR 5.4.11.)

2. In grievance (non-disciplinary) hearings involving graduate students in which the Hearing Board serves as the initial hearing body to adjudicate an allegation of academic dishonesty and, based on "clear and convincing evidence," the Hearing Board finds for the student, the Hearing Board shall recommend to the Department Chair or School Director that the penalty grade be removed, the Academic Dishonesty Report be removed from the student's records and a "good faith judgment" of the student's academic performance in the course take place. If the Hearing Board finds for the instructor, the penalty grade shall stand and the Academic Dishonesty Report regarding the allegation will remain on file, pending an appeal, if any to the College Hearing Board within **5** class days of the Hearing Board's decision. If an academic disciplinary hearing is pending, and the Hearing Board decides for the instructor, the graduate student's disciplinary hearing before either the College Hearing Board or the Dean of The Graduate School would promptly follow, pending an appeal, if any, within **5** class days. (See GSRR 5.5.2.2 and 5.4.12.3)

C. Written Report:

The Chair of the Hearing Board shall prepare a written report of the Hearing Board's findings, including recommended redress or sanctions for the complainant, if applicable, and forward a copy of the decision to the appropriate unit administrator within **3** class days of the hearing. The report shall indicate the rationale for the decision and the major elements of evidence, or lack thereof, that support the Hearing Board's decision. The administrator, in consultation with the Hearing Board, shall then implement an appropriate remedy. The report also should inform the parties of the right to appeal within **5** class days following notice of the decision, or **5** class days if an academic disciplinary hearing is pending. The Chair shall forward copies of the Hearing Board's report and the administrator's redress, if applicable, to the parties involved, the responsible administrators, the University Ombudsperson and the Dean of The Graduate School. All recipients must respect the confidentiality of the report and of the hearing board's deliberations resulting in a decision. (See GSRR 5.4.12 and 5.5.2.2)

VII. APPEAL OF THE HEARING BOARD DECISION:

- A. Either party may appeal a decision by the Hearing Board to the College Hearing Board for cases involving (1) academic grievances alleging violations of student rights and (2) alleged violations of regulations involving academic misconduct (academic dishonesty, professional standards or falsification of admission and academic records.) (See GSRR 5.4.12.)
- B. All appeals must be in writing, signed and submitted to the Chair of the College Hearing Board within **5** class days following notification of the Hearing Board's decision. While under appeal, the original decision of the Hearing Board will be held in abeyance. (See

GSRR 5.4.12, 5.4.12.2 and 5.4.12.3.)

- C. A request for an appeal of a Hearing Board decision to the College Hearing Board must allege, in sufficient particularity to justify a hearing, that the initial Hearing Board failed to follow applicable procedures for adjudicating the hearing or that findings of the Hearing Board were not supported by "clear and convincing evidence." The request also must include the redress sought. Presentation of new evidence normally will be inappropriate. (See GSRR 5.4.12.1, 5.4.12.2 and 5.4.12.4.)

VIII. RECONSIDERATION:

If new evidence should arise, either party to a hearing may request the appropriate Hearing Board to reconsider the case within **30** days upon receipt of the hearing outcome. The written request for reconsideration is to be sent to the Chair of the Hearing Board, who shall promptly convene the Hearing Board to review the new material and render a decision on a new hearing. (See GSRR 5.4.13.)

IX. FILE COPY:

The Chair of the Department shall file a copy of these procedures with the Office of the Ombudsperson and with the Dean of The Graduate School. (See GSRR 5.4.1.)

APPENDIX C

MAJOR AND MINOR COMPREHENSIVE FIELD EXAMINATIONS BY FIELD

AMERICAN POLITICS COMPREHENSIVE FIELD EXAM

MAJOR and MINOR FIELDS

The American Politics Comprehensive Examination is a two-day test divided into three sections covering five subfields of American politics. These three sections are American political institutions, American political behavior, and each student's subfield specialization in American politics. For each section, two questions will be asked and students will select which question to answer. The institutions and behavior sections each will require students to discuss two different subfields unrelated to their subfield specializations.

Students for whom American politics is a minor field are not required to identify a specialization or answer a question about a subfield specialization. Instead, the American Politics Comprehensive Examination for students with a minor in American politics will consist of the American political institutions and American political behavior sections. For each section, two questions will be asked and students will select which to answer. Each section will require students to discuss two different subfields of American politics.

Subfields in American political institutions are Congress, the Presidency, federal courts, state and local politics, bureaucracy, and public policy. Subfields in American political behavior are voting behavior, public opinion, identity politics, campaigns and elections, the news media, political parties, and interest groups.

Students are expected to answer all components of each question. Students should focus primarily on using scholarly works as evidence to support an argument. The answers should provide a clear point of view supported with findings from existing political science research.

Students should analyze the strengths and weaknesses of research rather than listing as many studies as possible or providing detailed descriptions of how each piece of research was conducted.

Although some summarization of the content of a study might be appropriate, students should avoid including minor or irrelevant details about a study's design or analysis. The evaluation of research should focus on theories, methods, and empirical evidence rather than students' views on the intuitiveness of authors' conclusions.

The test will be sent to each student as a PDF attachment by the Graduate Programs Assistant at 8:00 a.m. on a Thursday and will be due the next day at 4:30 p.m. by email or by 5:00 p.m. if delivered in person. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Students may use books, notes, and references as source material while answering the questions. However, each answer cannot exceed fifteen double-spaced pages (one inch margins, 12 point

font), excluding references. While students are encouraged to prepare outlines of their responses in anticipation of potential questions, students are expected to generate the specific content of their answers only within the testing window. As such, students are prohibited from copying and pasting previously generated text (e.g., entire paragraphs) into their answers.

COMPARATIVE POLITICS COMPREHENSIVE FIELD EXAM

MAJOR AND MINOR FIELDS

The exam period is for six hours over the course of one working day. There will be two sessions: from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. with a one hour midday break.

The exam will use a closed book format, i.e. without reference materials. The only allowable reference material is a bibliography (without annotations).

Students must answer three questions, one from each of three sections on theory, methods and substance. There will be a choice of questions within each section. The theory section will cover the major intellectual approaches and frameworks used by the leading theorists of comparative politics. The methods section will address issues of research design and implementation for comparative analysis. If possible, the substantive section will be geared to topics that accord with students' stated research interests.

Answers should demonstrate knowledge of major arguments in the literature and reflect critical thinking. Grades will be assigned solely on how well students answer the exam questions.

Other than the bibliography, students are expressly forbidden from cutting and pasting prepared materials from existing computer files. No answer may be longer than 10 pages, double spaced.

No formal distinction is made in the standards required from students who take this exam as a major or minor field.

Adherence to this format is on the honor system. Any violations will invalidate the exam.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMPREHENSIVE FIELD EXAM

MAJOR AND MINOR FIELDS

The comprehensive exam in International Relations will be a 72 hour take-home exam. Typically, students will pick up the exam questions at 9am on a Friday and the answers will be due back on Monday at 9am. Students will be asked to answer three questions in essay form. These essays should vary in length between 9 and 12 typed double-spaced pages (with 1 inch margins on letter paper). The first section of the exam will feature a question or questions asking the student to summarize, criticize, compare, contrast and expand upon the major paradigms in international relations. The second section will include questions on research design and methodology within the subfield. The third and final section will contain questions on specific topical areas within international relations. Students will generally have a choice of which question to answer in the last two sections, but not necessarily in the first. Only the final section of the exam will be tailored to the classes that have recently been on offer in the department.

A successful exam will need to include two components. First, the student must extensively and accurately depict the international relations literature. To do this, answers must not only compare, contrast and criticize distinct theories and approaches, but additionally explore the heterogeneity of work within a given paradigm or theoretical perspective. Second, the student must show that they are able to expand upon—with their own ideas—what is already extant in the literature. This expansion should include some mix of building new theoretical bridges between previously disparate works, novel criticism of existing work, creative research designs to test competing theories, and new theoretical approaches that might be germane to the questions at hand. Students are of course not expected to write a dissertation in the comprehensive exam, but they need to produce some strong evidence that they will be able to do so in the very near future. No distinction will be made when grading the exams based on whether the student is taking International Relations as a major or a minor field.

The purpose of comprehensive exams is to present students with questions that will probe their understanding of the subfield as well as test their ability to integrate their own creative ideas within the literature in a constrained amount of time. This type of testing cannot be effective if students use pre-prepared answers (or research papers) for the exam. Even pre-written partial answers must be avoided.

Finally, and this should go without saying, comprehensive exams are not presidential debates: do not answer the questions you wish you were asked. Simply answer the question asked to the best of your abilities. A failure to answer a question, even in 12 pages, is just that, a failure.

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY COMPREHENSIVE FIELD EXAM

MAJOR FIELD

The Political Philosophy major field comprehensive examination is a four-day take-home exam. The timing is flexible, but typically the student will be emailed the exam by the Graduate Programs Assistant at around 3:00 pm on a Friday and asked to return the answers by email the following Tuesday at the same time.

The student will be asked to write three essays, each no less than ten and no more than twelve pages in length when typed and double-spaced with one-inch margins and 12 point font. The length limits will be strictly enforced. There will be an oral exam approximately two weeks after the written exam is submitted.

The exam will be divided into three parts. Part A is confined to the student's "short list," a list of five thinkers that the student has selected to study with special attention. There will be three questions, of which the student must answer one. Part B will contain three questions concerning thinkers not on the short list, of which the student must answer one. Part C, which also poses three questions of which the student must answer one, will carry the following instructions. "In this section, we ask you to present your own view on a major question of continuing importance for students of political philosophy. You should feel free to discuss thinkers both on your short list and not on your short list. But your primary aim should be to state and defend your own view in responding to one of these questions."

At least one month prior to the exam date, the student should inform the Political Philosophy Field Chair of his or her short list (which must include at least two ancient thinkers and two modern). The student is also encouraged to provide at that time a list of themes or topics of special interest to him or her—which will be kept in mind when the questions are formulated.

All of the exam questions will be quite broad in scope and involve a fair amount of choice. Our purpose is not to ask specific questions in an effort to discover what students do not know, but rather general questions that invite students to focus on what they do know—in order to test how well they know it. Typically, students will be asked to compare and contrast several thinkers—on or off their short list depending on the section of the exam—on broad issues regarding freedom, equality, democracy, justice, virtue, fortune and so forth. Students are encouraged to consult past exams, which are on file, for specific examples.

A good exam is one that, in the first place, focuses precisely on the question being asked and addresses all of its parts. Too often, students waste time and effort—or, worse, appear evasive—by elaborating issues that, however interesting, are off point. (The page limit is designed to encourage students to focus on the question that is asked.) We are looking to see if the student can see all that is involved in the question and then respond to it in a direct, precise, and concrete way. Beyond this, the answer should demonstrate a number of qualities, beginning with theoretical thoughtfulness—a grasp of the big questions of political philosophy, of the major alternative answers to those questions, and of the various phenomena and arguments that support and challenge those answers. The exam should also show an understanding of history—of the

evolution and revolutions in political thinking over the last 25 centuries in the West. Finally, the exam should show mastery of particular thinkers (especially those on the short list), including the ability to reproduce their views and arguments backed by textual references and key quotations.

While the student is welcome to consult outside materials, including books and their own notes, the exam answer must be an original composition. Cutting and pasting from previously prepared materials is prohibited.

MINOR FIELD

The minor field comprehensive examination in political philosophy is a two-day (or, more precisely, 32-hour) take-home exam. The timing is flexible, but typically the student will be emailed the exam by the Graduate Programs Assistant at around 8:30 am on the first day of the exam and asked to return the answers by email by 4:30 pm on the next day.

The student will be asked to write two essays, each no longer than ten pages in length when typed and double-spaced with one-inch margins and 12 point font. The length limits will be strictly enforced. There will be an oral exam approximately two weeks after the written exam is submitted.

The questions will be based on the student's political philosophy coursework. Students will be asked to answer two questions from a list of at least five questions. The questions will concern the major issues of political philosophy (freedom, equality, democracy, justice, virtue, fortune and so forth), but with an emphasis on the thought of the political philosophers that the student has studied in his or her political philosophy courses. At least three of the questions will require the student to compare and contrast the thought of two or more philosophers, and the student must answer at least one of those comparative questions. As with the major field exam, the exam questions will be quite broad in scope. Our purpose is not to ask specific questions in an effort to discover what students do not know, but rather general questions that invite students to focus on what they do know—in order to test how well they know it.

A good exam is one that, in the first place, focuses very precisely on the question being asked and addresses all of its parts. Too often, students waste time and effort—or, worse, appear evasive—by elaborating issues that, however interesting, are off point. (The page limit is designed to encourage students to focus on the question that is asked.) We are looking to see if the student can see all that is involved in the question and then respond to it in a direct, precise, and concrete way. Beyond this, the answer should demonstrate a number of qualities, beginning with theoretical thoughtfulness—a grasp of the big questions of political philosophy, of the major alternative answers to those questions, and of the various phenomena and arguments that support and challenge those answers. Finally, the exam should show mastery of particular thinkers, including the ability to reproduce their views and arguments backed by textual references and key quotations.

While the student is welcome to consult outside materials, including books and their own notes, the exam answer must be an original composition. Cutting and pasting from previously prepared materials is prohibited.

PUBLIC POLICY COMPREHENSIVE FIELD EXAM

MAJOR and MINOR FIELDS

Students who wish to complete a major field in Public Policy must complete the requirements listed under Option 1 below. Students who wish to complete a minor field in Public Policy have two options: Option 1 as described below for the major field OR Option 2 described below.

Option 1: Required for Public Policy as a Major Field

Take the necessary coursework in Public Policy (PLS 811 “Proseminar in Policy Analysis,” and at least 3 additional courses in the field) and take a comprehensive field exam to demonstrate competency in the field.

The comprehensive exam will be a two-day take-home exam. The exact timing during the week for the administration of the exam is flexible. However, the exam will be distributed by the Graduate Programs Secretary around 8:00 a.m. on one day and then it must be returned by 4:30 p.m. the following day.

The exam is divided into two sections. The first section will focus on major theories, models, or concepts in the field; the second section will cover specific policy topics and substantive issues. In their exam answers, students are expected to demonstrate their knowledge of the major arguments in the field, an ability to draw upon scholarly work to support their ideas, and the capacity to relate general theories and concepts to particular policy problems. Students are required to answer three questions on the exam: One question in section one and two questions from section two. Students will have a choice of which questions to answer in the second section, but they will be required to answer the question presented in section one. Each essay answer should be between 10 and 12 pages in length, double-spaced with one-inch margins, and 12 point font.

Students may use books, articles, and notes as source materials while answering the exam questions. But all reference materials should be carefully and completely cited in the answers. Students should not use pre-written text or pre-prepared answers. A complete list of all references used in answering the questions must be attached to the exam when it is submitted. The bibliography is not counted as part of the page limitations.

At least two months prior to the administration of the exam, students are encouraged to submit a list of works that they are using to prepare for the exam.

Option 2: For Students Seeking a Public Policy Minor Field Only

Take the necessary coursework in the field of Public Policy (PLS 811 “Proseminar in Policy Analysis,” and at least 2 additional courses in the field), and also complete all of the requirements for a minor field in Political Methodology. Students who pursue this option do not have to take a comprehensive field exam in Public Policy. But they must maintain at least a 3.5 GPA in all the courses taken in the Policy field. And they will be asked to submit a paper

(probably written during one of their Policy seminars) to the Public Policy Field Committee that demonstrates their competency in the field of public policy and their ability to employ appropriate methodological approaches and techniques to the analysis of public policy issues. The Public Policy field Committee will evaluate the paper and notify the student if it fulfills this requirement.

If a student who pursues this option does not successfully complete a Minor field in Political Methodology, the student can still attain a Minor field in Public Policy by taking and successfully passing the Public Policy comprehensive field exam.

METHODOLOGY COMPREHENSIVE FIELD EXAM

MINOR FIELD

I. Field Objectives: What We Intend to Convey When a Student Declares a Minor Field in Methodology

- A. We do not mean to imply that a Methods minor is an applied statistician or that his/her research necessarily involves the development of new analytical tools, data collection strategies, and the like (although we do not mean to exclude anyone who does have such interests!).
- B. Instead, we believe for most students, that a concentration in methodology should impart the skills sufficient to accomplish two major objectives:
 - 1. The ability to teach undergraduate and graduate courses in quantitative methods, covering subjects ranging from introductory material (e.g., general research design, univariate descriptive statistics, basic concepts of statistical inference, etc.) at least through intermediate-level subject matter (regression analysis, models for categorical dependent variables, etc.) and hopefully beyond that to more advanced topics
 - 2. The knowledge and communications abilities necessary to serve as a resource and source of advice on methodological topics at the institution where the student is eventually employed

II. Format of Comprehensive Examination

A. The comprehensive examination in methodology consists of three components

- 1. The Theoretical Component asks students about concepts, estimation strategies, models, assumptions, definitions, and applications.
- 2. The Applied Component asks students to analyze data and perform mathematical and/or statistical operations in order to provide quantitative evidence that addresses specific substantive issues posed in the questions.
- 3. The Oral Component provides the field committee with an opportunity to address issues that were not covered in the written answers, and have students clarify, and expand upon, their written answers.

B. Content of comprehensive examination components

- 1. The Theoretical Component usually consists of about six questions, from which the student must answer four. Usually, there is one broad question that students are required to answer, but they have a choice of any three from the remaining

questions. Sometimes, additional limitations are placed on the questions (i.e., if question A is answered, then question B cannot be answered, and vice versa).

2. The Applied Component usually consists of about six questions, from which the student must answer four. Some of these will be data analysis problems, in which the student must fit a statistical model to data and interpret the results in substantive terms; on most examinations, the student is required to answer at least one of these data analysis questions. The remaining questions are typically word problems that require pencil-and-paper calculations or work with a hand calculator in order to generate the answer. Again, additional limitations are sometimes placed on the questions (i.e., if question A is answered, then question B cannot be answered, and vice versa).
3. In principle, the oral component could deal with any subjects from the methodology field, especially the subject matter covered by the questions on the written components. In practice, the oral component usually focuses directly on the written answers that the student provided to the Theoretical and Applied Components.

C. Timing of the comprehensive examination components

1. The Theoretical and Applied Components are administered on consecutive days, usually Thursday and Friday of the week designated for the examination.
2. For each written component (Theoretical and Applied), the student is given eight hours. The component of the examination is distributed (usually by the Administrative Assistant for Graduate Studies) at about 8:00 a.m. on the appropriate day, and the student is required to turn in the completed component of the examination eight hours later.
3. For convenience, the written components can be distributed and turned in via e-mail. But, it is entirely the student's responsibility to receive the examination components and to make sure that all relevant materials are turned in. In case of e-mail problems, it is the student's responsibility to pick up a hard copy of the exam, and turn in a hard copy of the answers, while adhering to the time limit requirements of the examination.
4. The Oral Component is scheduled sometime after the written components are completed— often about two weeks later (depending upon the schedules of the student and the committee members). The oral examination usually lasts from one to two hours.

D. Feedback to the student

1. After the committee has evaluated the written components, but before the Oral Component, the student is given a brief summary of the committee's overall reaction to the answers on the written components (i.e., pass or unsatisfactory)

2. At the conclusion of the Oral Component, the field committee informs the student of the overall grade for the comprehensive examination.

III. What Is Expected of a Student Taking the Comprehensive Examination in Methodology?

A. The ability to demonstrate knowledge in four broad areas

1. General principles of scientific research, research design and measurement
2. Basic probability theory and statistical inference
3. The general linear model and the most common forms of generalized linear models (e.g., logistic regression, probit, Poisson models, etc.)
4. Familiarity with, and experience in, at least one more advanced area of quantitative methodology to the point of being able to use advanced methods effectively in substantive research

B. Proficiency with prerequisite skills for quantitative methodology

1. Matrix algebra
2. Basic calculus
3. Expertise in statistical software packages and computing environments

C. For purposes of the comprehensive examination, the advanced areas of quantitative methodology may include (and are not limited to):

1. Bayesian statistics
2. Time series analysis
3. Mixed models for longitudinal and/or clustered data
4. Measurement theory and scaling methods
5. Structural equation models, including latent variables and simultaneous equations
6. Modern methods of causal inference

IV. Student Preparation for the Comprehensive Examination

A. Methodology can be taken only as a minor field, not a major field

1. Field coverage for the comprehensive examination (especially the more advanced topics) is based primarily upon the coursework completed by the student

2. As a result, the exact material included on the comprehensive examination (especially the more advanced topics) will vary from one semester to the next and depend, in part, on the courses taken by the students taking the examination.

B. Student interaction with the field committee

1. Students planning to take the comprehensive examination in Methodology are strongly encouraged to meet with all of the field committee members to familiarize them with the student's background and methodological interests
2. When preparing questions for the comprehensive examination, committee members are encouraged to submit both general methodology questions and questions tailored more specifically to the interests and background of the students currently taking the examination. Generally, there will be more of the former than the latter.
3. Students planning to take the comprehensive examination in Methodology can submit a reading list for the committee's consideration, but they are not required to do so.

APPENDIX D

1st YEAR EVALUATION FORM

Provisional/Regular

Student Name:

Semester and Year:

Course Number:

Instructor:

Course Grade:

Overall Evaluation:

This evaluation does not aim just to reflect the above named student's performance in your course. That should be evident from the grade you have assigned. Rather, you are to project from class performance your best assessment of the student's ability to complete all the elements of the Ph.D. program. It is important that you comment on the following: (1) intellectual strengths and weaknesses; (2) ability to write well enough to produce a readable dissertation; (3) any language problems that are remediable or that pose an insuperable problem; (4) any specific difficulties that might be anticipated (i.e., difficulty with oral presentations, etc.); (5) overall promise for successful completion of the Ph.D. program. You may attach additional sheets if the space provided is not adequate.

If a lengthy written assignment was required in the course, was the student's performance of sufficient quality to merit the Master of Arts degree in Political Science?

Yes _____ No _____

Check **one** of the following recommendations:

(1) This student should be allowed to continue in the Ph.D. program: _____

(2) This student should be allowed only to work toward the terminal MA degree: _____

(3) This student should not be allowed to work toward the terminal MA degree: _____