SEMESTER BY SEMESTER BREAKDOWN OF EXPECTED PROGRESS IN THE PH.D. PROGRAM

This document is intended to provide a guide for Ph.D. students as a means of marking successful progress through the graduate program in Political Science at the University of North Texas. During each semester in the first three years of graduate study, students are expected to be enrolled in at least three courses. Students entering with a Bachelor’s Degree need to accumulate 72 credit hours prior to graduation. Students entering with a Master’s Degree need to accumulate 60 credit hours prior to graduation. The required hours beyond the Master’s degree can be reduced to as little as 42 hours with consent of the student’s Advisory Committee and Graduate Advisor. Students entering with a Bachelor’s Degree should take three to six hours of courses during each of their first three summers (as needed) and three to six additional hours of independent study during the fall of their fourth year (as needed).

ACADEMIC YEAR 1

Fall
Required Courses:
- PSCI 5340       Political Science Scope and Methods
- PSCI 6320       Quantitative Research Methods

Plus one of the following:
- PSCI 5020       Proseminar in American Politics
- PSCI 5810       Proseminar in International Relations

- October 31: deadline for annual meeting with Faculty Academic Advisor

Spring
One of the following two courses:
- PSCI 5310       Proseminar in Political Theory
- PSCI 5610       Proseminar in Comparative Politics

Highly Recommended Course for Students in Empirical Fields:
- PSCI 6000       Regression Analysis

PSCI XXXX       Advanced Courses in Major and Minor Fields

- Form advisory committee with at least one member from each field
- File degree plan with Department of Political Science and Toulouse Graduate School

Summer
PSCI XXXX       Advanced Courses in Major and Minor Fields (if necessary)
PSCI 6900 or 6930 Special Problems (independent study courses) (if necessary)
**ACADEMIC YEAR 2**

**Fall**  
PSCI XXXX  Advanced Courses in Major and Minor Fields

Highly Recommended Course for Students in Empirical Fields:  
PSCI 6000 Maximum Likelihood Estimation

Plus one of the following (if the course is not already completed and is needed for degree plan):  
PSCI 5020 Proseminar in American Politics  
PSCI 5810 Proseminar in International Relations  
XXXX XXXX Language/ Research Tool Requirement

- October 31: deadline for annual meeting with advisory committees

**Spring**  
PSCI XXXX Advanced Courses in Major and Minor Fields  
PSCI XXXX Advanced Courses in Political Methodology

Plus one of the following (if the course is not already completed and is needed for degree plan):  
PSCI 5310 Proseminar in Political Theory  
PSCI 5610 Proseminar in Comparative Politics  
XXXX XXXX Language/ Research Tool Requirement

- Begin presenting papers at academic conferences

**Summer**  
PSCI XXXX Advanced Courses in Major and Minor Fields (if necessary)  
PSCI 6900 Special Problems (independent study courses) (if necessary)

- Continue presenting papers at academic conferences  
- Work on writing or revising seminar papers for journal submission
ACADEMIC YEAR 3

Fall
PSCI XXXX Advanced Courses in Major and Minor Fields
PSCI XXXX Advanced Courses in Political Methodology
XXXX XXXX Language/Research Tool Requirement (if necessary)

Optional (but advisable):
PSCI 6940 Practicum (three of required six hours)

- October 31: deadline for annual meeting with advisory committees
- Notify Graduate Advisor of intention to take field examinations
- Continue presenting papers at academic conferences
- Begin writing dissertation prospectus
- Begin submitting manuscripts for publication

Spring
PSCI XXXX Advanced Courses in Major and Minor Fields
PSCI XXXX Advanced Courses in Political Methodology
PSCI 6940 Practicum (to be completed in the semester of field exams; may complete all six hours this term or complete three in Fall and three in Spring of the third year. The three hours taken during the spring semester will be taken jointly with other students under the supervision of one faculty member for the purpose of developing a dissertation proposal.)

- Take field examinations
- Defend dissertation prospectus
- Continue presenting papers at academic conferences
- Continue submitting manuscripts for publication

Summer
PSCI XXXX Advanced Courses in Major and Minor Fields (if necessary)
PSCI 6900 Special Problems (independent study courses) (if necessary)

- Defend dissertation prospectus (if not already defended)
- Begin writing dissertation
- Continue presenting papers at academic conferences
- Continue submitting manuscripts for publication
ACADEMIC YEAR 4

Fall
PSCI 6950    Dissertation
PSCI 6900    Special Problems (independent study courses) (if necessary)

- October 31: deadline for annual meeting with advisory committees
- Defend dissertation prospectus (if not already defended)
- Write dissertation
- Continue presenting papers at academic conferences
- Continue submitting manuscripts for publication
- Prepare proposal for dissertation improvement grant (if applicable)

Spring
PSCI 6950    Dissertation

- Write dissertation
- Begin preparing for the job market
- Continue presenting papers at academic conferences
- Continue submitting manuscripts for publication

Summer
- Write dissertation
- Prepare and begin mailing job applications
- Continue presenting papers at academic conferences
- Continue submitting manuscripts for publication
**ACADEMIC YEAR 5**

**Fall**

PSCI 6950    Dissertation

- October 31: deadline for annual meeting with advisory committees
- Write dissertation
- Continue to mail job applications
- Go on job interviews
- Continue presenting papers at academic conferences
- Continue submitting manuscripts for publication

**Spring**

PSCI 6950    Dissertation

- Continue to mail job applications
- Go on job interviews
- Defend dissertation
- Graduate
- Continue presenting papers at academic conference
- Continue submitting manuscripts for publication