

Graduate Handbook

Department of Political Science
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Introduction

Welcome to the graduate studies programs in the Department of Political Science at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. This Handbook provides students with general information about: the program's setting and facilities; its students and faculty; its curriculum and requirements; available financial support and placement assistance; and getting settled at the University and in Columbia. If any questions remain unanswered after reading this Handbook, please do not hesitate to call on the Graduate Director or the program assistant. Students in the program are able to answer your inquiries as well and are always ready to provide whatever assistance they can. Further information is available on the department's web page: <http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/poli/welcome>.

The Department of Political Science (POLI) offers four graduate degree programs: an MA and PhD in Political Science, an MA in International Studies, and an MPA in Public Administration, all of which have consistently received strong evaluations from a wide spectrum of national rankings. The doctoral program in Political Science has produced many distinguished academics, and more than a few public leaders, nationally and abroad. A recent assessment of graduate public law programs based on publications and research productivity places USC's among the top five in the country. USC offers a NASPA-accredited Master's of Public Administration Program. Overall, the department has consistently ranked in the top 10% of universities in the nation based on the research productivity of its faculty.

The University of South Carolina, founded in 1801, is one of the oldest universities in the United States. The University rests on a 239 acre hilltop located near the state capitol in the heart of Columbia. The University has experienced considerable growth since the 1960s with over 26,000 students currently enrolled at the Columbia campus, more than a third of whom are graduate students. Students from all states and over 130 foreign countries attend the University, 7,000 of who live on campus. The University offers baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degrees through seventeen colleges and schools, including Schools of Law and Medicine. The baccalaureate degree is offered in over seventy major fields; the master's degree in over 100 fields; and the doctorate in over fifty fields. Over fifteen research bureaus and institutes throughout the University provide research support and service in several disciplines. Exchange programs with over thirty foreign countries have been established at the University. All of these elements contribute to the University of South Carolina's central mission to advance knowledge and higher learning throughout the University community and its commitment to becoming one of this country's foremost centers of teaching, research, and public service.

The Community

Columbia is the state capital of South Carolina and one of the most rapidly growing metropolitan areas in the nation, with a population of just over 125,000 in the city and 750,000 in the metropolitan area of Richland and Lexington counties. Columbia hosts regional or state headquarters for a number of businesses, financial institutions, and industries. Along with the presence of Fort Jackson and a number of colleges and universities, the city offers a large variety of cultural resources and activities. These include theaters and concerts, art and history museums, lectures on a wide variety of topics, parks and recreation, athletic events, the annual State Fair, and several regular festivals such as the Mayfest and Riverfest celebrations. The city is large enough to offer a considerable amount of diversity for an urban setting, yet small enough for things to be convenient and manageable at the individual level. Favorite urban spots for cultural activities, shopping and restaurants, and entertainment include "Five Points," adjacent to the University, and the "Congaree Vista" area, between downtown and the Congaree River. A moderate climate makes sports and recre-

ational activities possible year round. Additionally, beaches and mountains are within a two-hour drive from Columbia. The city is served by several airlines, as well as bus (Southeastern Stages) along with Amtrak, and three interstate highways.

Support Facilities

The University's libraries maintain over 3 million volumes of books as well as 3.6 million units in microform and subscribe to 20,000 periodicals to support faculty and student research. A great majority of these are centrally located in the Thomas Cooper Library and are easily accessed through an advanced computerized circulation system. Graduate students may also obtain a library carrel there to carry on research and store their materials. Other campus libraries available for use are the South Caroliniana Library, which houses information on South Carolina, and specialized libraries in business, law, medicine, mathematics, music, and science disciplines.

The fourth floor of Gambrell Hall houses the Walker Institute of International and Area Studies (WIIAS website: <http://www.walkerinstitute.sc.edu/>) founded in 1961 as the University's center for social science research in international studies. The Walker Institute provides organizational support for faculty research, travel, and consultation. It also facilitates visits to the Columbia campus by internationally known scholars and practitioners. The Walker Institute normally has international scholars in residence, with its own faculty and Graduate Assistants involved in research projects abroad. The Institute also has developed an ongoing program of academic exchanges with similar organizations in the United States and abroad which allows students and faculty access to facilities and contacts elsewhere. Under the leadership of Professor Gordon Smith, the Institute has developed a regular series of publications, colloquia, public lectures, and international conferences. The Institute also maintains a library and read in groom with several unique resources to serve the needs of faculty and students as mentioned above. The WIIAS also supports selective graduate student research projects and travel.

The College of Arts and Sciences sponsors a number of area studies programs incorporated within the WIIAS. Examples are the Center for Asian Studies and the Latin American Studies Program. These programs often sponsor activities of interest to the entire University community, including colloquia, conferences, guest speakers, and film series. The College's Confucius Institute is in the Humanities Building.

Conveniently located in the basement of Gambrell Hall, the College of Arts and Sciences Computer Lab provides a complete set of computer services to the faculty and students. It has equipment to support word processing and printing, graphics, mapping, and statistical research. The Computer Lab is also a storehouse for the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) data bases. The Computer Lab is very responsive to the needs of students who make regular use of this facility in support of their graduate studies. A supplementary computer lab is also located on the fifth level of Thomas Cooper Library. In addition, room 305 of Gambrell is a graduate lounge and computer lab for graduate students in the Department of Political Science.

Applications and Admissions

Applications to the PhD program in Political Science and MA program in International Studies (MAIS) are accepted only for fall admission. Applications to the Masters of Public Administration (MPA) program are accepted for fall or spring admission. Students with either an MA or just a BA degree who are interested in pursuing a more academically oriented program and who hope to eventually obtain the PhD degree should apply directly to the PhD program in Political Science. Students who have earned at least a BA degree who are interested in a more professionally oriented

program with an international focus should apply to the MAIS program. Students with at least a BA degree who are interested in a more professionally oriented program leading to employment in government should apply for the MPA program. Students who are interested only in a terminal MA degree in Political Science are generally not considered for admission.

Admission to each graduate program is based on an evaluation of the applicants' potential for successful graduate work. It is expected that applicants to the political science doctoral program will demonstrate a strong potential to succeed in rigorous social science research. Admission will be based on a holistic evaluation of the candidate's complete academic background including grades, test scores, past research accomplishments and the evaluations contained in letters of reference. The admission decision depends in part on the qualifications of the total pool of applicants. The admissions committee uses the following indicators as rough benchmarks of the probability of success in our graduate program: combined verbal/quantitative/analytical scores on the GRE of at least 308 (verbal + math) and 4.5 (analytical), an undergraduate grade point average of 3.50 or above, and a TOEFL score of 105 for international students for whom English is not their native language. Students may be admitted to the program with moderately lower grades and test scores.

Students applying for the MA or PhD degrees should be aware of the following deadlines for applications for the coming academic year:

- December 15th, for students applying for fall admission, departmental assistantship and fellowships (funding applies to the PhD program only).
- April 1st, for students applying for fall admission only.

We encourage students to apply well before these final deadlines. Students who wish to be considered for the highly competitive university wide fellowships are advised to apply by December 1st if possible. Applications to the PhD program received after December 15th will be considered for financial aid if there is still aid available, but those applying after December 15th run the risk that all the money may be allocated before their application is considered.

In order to be considered for admission, a *completed* application package must be received by the appropriate deadline. A formal application consists of materials submitted via the Graduate School's website:

<http://gradschool.sc.edu/prospective/apply.asp?page=apply>. The complete application requires:

1. An official application form.
2. Official transcripts of your undergraduate (and graduate) schooling.
3. GRE scores (verbal, quantitative, and analytical).
4. Three letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with your academic record and potential.
5. A statement of purpose—two to three pages, typed, double-spaced. This is your opportunity to explain who you are, your educational and career goals, your qualifications and academic record, background, experiences, and interests.
6. A resume or curriculum vitae that includes education, academic publications, work experience, extracurricular activities in college, foreign travel, language ability, government and community service, and other relevant experiences and activities.

7. TOEFL score for international students when English is not your native language. International students who have been educated in and received a degree from an English-language instruction institution in a country in which English is the main language may be exempted from the requirement of submitting the TOEFL score.
8. *Optional*: a writing sample.

Checking Application Status Online

Once all the materials listed above are received, members of the Graduate Committee closely examine each application before arriving at a decision. Applicants for admission to Graduate School at USC can check the status of their application at the Graduate School website. For more information, contact:

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Cost

The following costs are for the 2014-2015 school year for students taking our normal full time load of 9 hours per semester.

- In-state graduate tuition (full-time): \$6,192 per semester, (part-time): \$516 per credit hour
- Out-of-state graduate tuition (full-time): \$12,885 per semester, (part-time): \$1,073.75 per credit hour

Tuition increases are sometimes announced in the summer for the next fall term.

Financial Support

The major source of university-related financial support in the department's graduate program is Graduate Assistantships. In addition, there are also a limited number of Graduate Fellowships available. With roughly one half of the graduate students on funding, Graduate Assistantships and Fellowships are awarded on a competitive basis. Students in the PhD program only are automatically considered for department funding on an annual basis by members of the Graduate Committee.

Other sources of financial support are normally available as well: graduate teaching in the Department of Political Science (reserved for ABDs); assistantships and fellowships through the

Graduate School or College of Arts and Science; educational loans and work-study through the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships; and grants and awards for education, travel, and research. Please note that the cost of living in Columbia is quite reasonable.

Graduate Assistantships

Graduate Assistantships allow the student to pursue course work while gaining valuable professional experience. Assistantships entail a stipend, a reduction in tuition costs (a savings of approximately \$8,712 per year for a full-time GA or \$4,356 per year for a half-time GA), and part-time work for a professor or the department. Graduate Assistants are expected to report to the Graduate Director for work beginning one full week before the first day of classes until the last day of finals each semester. The graduate studies program normally offers two levels of assistantship funding: full-time (\$6,625 per semester for 20 hours/week) and half-time (\$3,312.50 per semester for 10 hours/week). Two types of Graduate Assistantships are available: Teaching Assistantships, and Research Assistantships. Out-of-state students awarded a Graduate Assistantship are entitled to receive the in-state-tuition rate.

Due to the number and quality of the applicants to the program and the limited availability of funds, only about one-third of the PhD students are awarded funding. Students usually receive award letters in April. Assistantships and fellowships are awarded on an annual basis, although some assistantships are renewable, conditional on performance and the continued availability of funds. Students in the PhD program normally receive a *maximum* of five years funding. Students entering the program with only a BA degree who are awarded funding as a condition of their admission will normally continue to receive funding for these five years as long as they maintain at least a 3.5 GP A and make normal progress towards completion of their degree.

Graduate Teaching

PhD students also have the possibility of teaching their own course at the University of South Carolina, which not only helps to defray the cost of education but provides valuable professional teaching experience. To qualify as a prospective Instructor, the doctoral student typically should have completed and excelled in coursework (and successfully passed the comprehensive examinations), and completed the Teaching Assistant Development Course (GRAD 701). See the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) website for details: <http://sc.edu/cte/Grad701.php>. The Center for Teaching Excellence at the University of South Carolina also provides a series of teaching workshops for graduate students and a Preparing Future Faculty program for graduate students.

Financial Aid and Local Employment

The University of South Carolina provides financial support for graduate studies for American citizens and permanent residents through its Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships: <http://sc.edu/financialaid/>. Educational loans and part-time work-study are available. It is also possible for graduate students to find employment on campus. Work-study and University employment not only are a particularly good way to get financial support and gain good practical experience (depending on the University office in which one works); it may also allow the student to pay tuition at an in-state residency or assistantship rate. Local off-campus employment also is possible throughout metropolitan Columbia.

Orientation

To introduce new incoming graduate students to the department and the program, we have a number of activities planned in August (departmental activities generally take place on the third or fourth floor of Gambrell Hall).

Graduate Studies Orientation

The entering class will meet before the semester begins to discuss the department, the nature of graduate school, and the graduate programs and curriculum. At this time, a variety of questions that might arise-about financial aid, housing, and the like-can be addressed. This will be the first opportunity for new students to meet each other. All new students are expected to attend.

Introduction to POLI Graduate Students and Faculty

The POLI Graduate Student Organization normally hosts a party providing new and old students an opportunity to meet and interact. For academic year 2016-2017, the President of the POLI Graduate Student Organization is Ms. Leyla Oliver. She can be reached at lroliver@email.sc.edu. The Department of Political Science officially welcomes new and old students, faculty and staff with a party. These events will allow students to become acquainted with the department, staff, and faculty, as well as their graduate student colleagues.

Transfer of Credit

With the approval of the Graduate Director and Graduate Dean, students who have taken graduate courses in another program or university may transfer credit into POLI graduate programs. For MA students, a maximum of twelve semester hour credits may be considered (nine, if applied to a previous degree). For PhD students, a maximum of eighteen hours of relevant coursework can transfer from another graduate program. This requires the submission of adequate documentation (including official transcripts, course catalogue descriptions, and course syllabi) to determine the relevance of the courses to the student's graduate program of study. According to the Graduate School, transfer work applicable to a graduate degree must have received a grade of B or higher and completed within six years prior to the date of the USC degree completion (eight years if part of a former doctoral degree program). USC provides no revalidation mechanism for courses completed at another institution.

Advising and Progress Towards Degree

All graduate students are required to choose an advisor by March 1 of their second semester in the program. Students will consult with advisors regularly for advice on coursework, research, teaching, and professionalization.

Course Advising

Each semester, the Director of Graduate Studies will require official course advising for the following semester. Each student should fill out the course advising form with the courses they intend to take, have their advisor sign, and then submit it to the Director of Graduate Studies.

Feedback on Conference Presentations

Before submitting a proposal to a conference, students must first get permission from their advisor. Students are recommended to secure an email confirmation that the submission is approved. This requirement is pro forma if the proposal is for students whose papers are coauthored with their advisor or another faculty member in the department. For solo papers or those coauthored with grad students, students should send their advisor the proposal abstract, as well as any additional information requested, when requesting permission.

For papers not coauthored with a faculty member, students must submit a copy of the finished paper to their advisor for feedback no later than 1 month before the conference start date.

All presentations that students give personally must be practiced in front of a group of faculty no later than 2 weeks before the conference start date. The DGS will organize a group of faculty to observe the presentation.

Students can request a waiver from the DGS for any of the above rules if there is good cause. For example, if conference dates fall during break or soon after the start of the semester, the presentation rule might be waived (or the deadline might be altered). For advanced students who have proven themselves as capable presenters, the DGS might grant a blanket waiver. However, do not assume any rules are waived; ask the DGS.

For students without an advisor, the DGS will serve in this role.

PhD Student Annual Review

Each year, the Graduate Committee will solicit feedback from faculty on PhD student performance in coursework, teaching, and professional activities. Students will also submit materials on their progress, specifically (1) a CV, and (2) a completed evaluation form (covering research, teaching, coursework, and professionalization). Students will be provided with a summary of the Grad Committee's evaluation, with concrete recommendations for future progress. Continued graduate assistantship funding is tied to performance on annual reviews. Poor performance will likely result in a period of probation; continued poor performance could lead to removal of funding.

Minimum Grades Standards

Students who earn three grades below B or one grade of F may be removed from the program. As long as a student maintains a grade point average of 3.0, courses with grades of C or above will count toward fulfilling degree requirements.

Degree Programs

The PhD in Political Science

The PhD program is designed to train students to contribute to the scientific study of politics. In addition to reading both classic and cutting-edge research, students will learn sophisticated methods for research design and analysis, providing them with the tools they need to conduct an independent research agenda. Our program goal is to place students in academic jobs that best suit their career interests (either research institutions or liberal arts/teaching-oriented institutions), although the training is valuable for government or private employment that emphasizes research skill. A strong grounding in research methods enables students to be critical consumers of existing research, an important skill even for those whose primary goal is to teach.

The MA in Political Science

Students are generally not admitted directly into this program. It is available only for students originally enrolled in the PhD program in Political Science who opt not to complete the PhD. The Master of Arts in Political Science is specifically designed to provide a knowledge of political science and the professional skills necessary to pursue successful careers in governmental, quasi public, private and political organizations. Normally, the master's candidate will follow the non-thesis track, which involves completing 30 hours of substantive course work. Alternatively, master's candidates may also pursue a thesis track, which involves completing 24 hours of substantive course work plus six hours of thesis credit for a total of 30 hours. The program may require more hours in the event of deficiencies. An oral comprehensive exam is required of master's candidates not completing a thesis. Competency in research methodology (signified by grades of at least a B in POLI 502, 701, and 706) is required for the MA degree.

The MA in International Studies

The MAIS program is designed to provide students with skills and knowledge demanded by the 21st century workplace. The MAIS curriculum combines coursework in relevant Political Science sub-fields (primarily IR/CP) with skills courses in data analysis, and with the option to take further classes in data analysis and research design, or to select from a variety of public administration courses that provide practical, marketable skills to help students qualify for jobs in the government and non-profit sectors. Students can also take several classes outside POLI (technically up to 18 credits, though these need approval by the Director of the MAIS program). There is no language requirement, though students can take up to 6 credit hours of language courses as electives.

The Masters of Public Administration

Please see the MPA Handbook for details on the MPA program.

Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science - Curriculum (Post-May 2015)

Overview of Requirements in the Political Science PhD Program

Core	7 courses/21 hours
1 st field	5 courses/15 hours
2 nd field	3 courses/9 hours
Electives	2 courses/6 hours
Coursework Minimum	17 courses/51 hours
Dissertation Preparation	12 hours
Minimum Total	63 hours

Core Curriculum - 7 courses/21 hours

1

¹Note: the *approach* requirement is a new change that has been authorized by the graduate committee but has not yet been finalized. If and when it is cleared by the curriculum committee, additional approach courses will be added to the list of approved approach courses. Until official changes are made, students can consult with the DGS to request exceptions to the current requirement.

All three of the following:

POLI 502 Methods of Political Analysis

POLI 701 Theories of Political Inquiry

POLI 706 Advanced Methods of Political Analysis

One additional research methodology course from the following two:

POLI 709 Qualitative Methods of Political Analysis

POLI 803 Research Methods in Political Science (Maximum likelihood)

One additional approach/theory course

POLI 703 Democratic Theory

POLI 707 Classics of Political Theory

*One course in each of **two** fields outside first or second fields, typically “gateway proseminars”*

First Field - 5 courses/15 hours

Chosen from any fields of Political Science except Research Methods. [See course list by fields](#)

Second Field - 3 courses/9 hours

Chosen from any fields of Political Science

Electives - 2 courses/6 hours

Approved by the students advisor and the graduate director, designed to provide the skills necessary to achieve the research and teaching interests of the student. May be taken either inside or outside of the Political Science Department.

Notes on Substitutions and Credit Totals

Substitution of a core requirement is allowed with permission from the Graduate Committee (in consultation with relevant faculty. For the Research Methods second field, students are required to take 9 hours of course work beyond the core POLI 502, 701, 706, and (one of) 709/803 courses. While some classes could be double-counted in the core and in the first or second field, doing so does not reduce total credit requirements students need to meet the PhD requirements. For example, students with Political Theory as a major (or minor) field who take POLI 703 or 707 as a core requirement must make up those three credit hours via an additional elective.

Additional Notes

- A. Student must take the *Gateway Proseminar* in their first field (for the PA/Policy field, both gateway proseminars must be taken). Normally, this should be the first course taken in that field. The gateway proseminars or requirements in each field are:

POLI 760	American Politics
POLI 780	Comparative Politics
POLI 715	International Relations
POLI 703 or 707	Political Theory
POLI 770 and 774	Public Administration/Public Policy
POLI 726 or 760 or 780	Public Law

- B. A *Research Seminar* is generally understood to be a course which will have as a central focus the production of a major paper of original, independent research (e.g., such as a paper suitable for presentation at a professional convention or publication in a scholarly, peer reviewed journal in the field). Proseminars will not typically include a major paper requirement, but instead will provide a broad survey of the professional literature relevant to the topic of the course. Proseminars will often involve one or more examinations and/or short analytical papers.
- C. A topics course in each field (i.e., 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 800) will generally be offered as a research seminar at least once each year.
- D. Other 700 and 800 courses will be assumed to be proseminars unless otherwise indicated. However, a faculty member may request that a course in their area of specialization be offered as a research seminar for a given semester even if the course has been offered previously as a proseminar. The course would then be offered as a research seminar, with suitable publicity of its status, if approved for inclusion in the terms offerings by the scheduling committee.
- E. *Independent Studies* credit may be taken as a research seminar if the study includes the production of a major original research paper and the independent study is approved by the graduate director for research seminar status.

PhD Candidacy Exam

In order for students to be admitted to PhD Candidacy in Political Science, they must pass a qualifying examination. After completion of Comprehensive Examination, the student is required to pass a qualifying examination that consists of a written proposal and oral defense of a dissertation prospectus. The qualifying examination ideally should be completed in the same semester as the completion of the Comprehensive Examination. However, the student may successfully complete the qualifying examination in the semester immediately following the semester in which the student completed the comprehensive examination. The written dissertation proposal must be defended publicly before the student's Dissertation Committee and the results submitted to the Graduate Director and the Graduate School. After successful completion of the qualifying examination, the student is awarded the designation of PhD candidate.

PhD Comprehensive Examination

Students will take comprehensive examinations in their both their major and minor fields after the completion of course work, typically within the first six weeks of their seventh semester. These will be comprehensive exams in that they will cover the entire field and not be limited in either case to the student's course work. The exam procedure is as follows.

1. In both the major and minor field, students will write answers for two questions out of three questions that will be offered. It is permissible to have one of the three questions be required for students taking the field exam.
2. Each semester that an exam is being offered in a given field, the Graduate Director will appoint a three person committee within the field to grade all of the exams in that field. This committee, in consultation with other faculty members in the field, will determine the questions for the field exam.

3. If the faculty in a field is unable to reach a consensus on the three questions to be offered on the field exam, the Graduate Director will appoint a subcommittee of the faculty in the field to determine the content of the field exam.
4. Only regular faculty are eligible to provide input into the questions on field exams and to be members of the three member examination committee. Neither retired nor adjunct faculty members can serve in these positions.
5. Comprehensive examinations will be take-home exams. First field exams will normally be given out on a Friday early in the semester. Students will return their first field answers 72 hours after receiving the questions. Second field exams will normally be given out on Friday one or two weeks later. Students will return their second field answers 72 hours after receiving the questions.
6. Faculty members on the examination committee will grade each major field question separately and will also give an overall grade for each student's major field exam. These grades will be Pass with Distinction, Pass, and Fail. The dimensions on which faculty members will evaluate exams will be the level of theoretical sophistication, the quality of the student's original analysis (students will not be allowed to merely recite the literature but instead will be required to provide an analytical evaluation), and the knowledge of the literature as demonstrated by works cited and the exam itself. The same process will be used for minor field exams.

The Dissertation

The final phase of the doctoral program is the development, writing, and defense of the Dissertation. The PhD Dissertation is expected to represent a substantial contribution to knowledge within the broad area of Political Science. The Graduate Director, in consultation with each student, will appoint a Dissertation Committee and a chair of that committee. The committee consists of four or five faculty members, one of which must be a member of the USC faculty from a different department or a faculty member at another university. The dissertation committee must be approved by the Dean of the Graduate School. The student should consult closely with the Dissertation Committee, and especially with the chair of that committee, along all stages of the dissertation process. As discussed above, a completed Dissertation Proposal must be formally defended publicly before the Dissertation Committee and submitted to the Graduate Director. Upon successful completion of the Dissertation, the student must defend it publicly before the Dissertation Committee.

MA in International Studies - Curriculum (Post-May 2016)

Note: the revised MAIS curriculum has been approved by POLI faculty, but is pending review; admissions temporarily suspended.

Additional Resources

Political Science graduate students have opportunities to present their research and receive feedback from faculty members and fellow graduate students in a variety of venues including the Walker Institute speaker series and the Department's Political Science Research Workshop series. The graduate

program also schedules informal workshops for graduate students with faculty on professionalism teaching, research, and publishing, to name a few. Graduate students may also take related course offerings in other departments across the campus, and in College of Arts and Sciences' Centers and Programs such as the Women's and Gender Studies Program. They may also participate in the Classics in Contemporary Perspectives Initiative which brings together faculty and graduate students from diverse disciplines across the College of Arts and Sciences to engage the works of Greek and Roman poets, politicians, historians, and philosophers with questions of contemporary democratic politics.

POLI Courses by Field in Political Science

The courses listed below are categorized by field. Field designations other than those listed below may be made with the approval of the student's Program Advisory Committee, in consultation with the Graduate Director. POLI courses other than those listed below, may be used within a field depending on the content of the course. An asterisk (*) denotes a course that may count in either of two fields, although a course may not be double-counted. Further classifications may be sought from the Graduate Director.

American Politics

POLI 554	Law & Society
POLI 567	American Local Government
POLI 708	Women & American Politics (=WGST 708)
POLI 720*	Political Communication
POLI 721*	Race & Public Policy
POLI 736	Public Opinion & Political Attitudes
POLI 760	American Government & Politics (gateway proseminar)
POLI 761	American National Government for Professionals
POLI 762*	Politics of the Budgetary Process
POLI 763	Legislative Process & Behavior
POLI 764	Problems of the Presidency
POLI 765	Political Parties & Interest Groups
POLI 766	Electoral Behavior
POLI 767	State Government
POLI 768*	Local Government Administration
POLI 791	Selected Topics in American Politics
POLI 798*	Selected Topics in Public Law
POLI 850	Seminar in Public Law
POLI 865	Seminar in Urban Politics

Comparative Politics

POLI 703*	Democratic Theory
POLI 718	Revolution and Politics
POLI 719	Political and Social Change
POLI 720*	Political Communication
POLI 724*	Religion & Politics (=RELG 724)
POLI 737	Nationalism & Politics
POLI 758	The State and Economic Life (=ECON 745)
POLI 780	Theories of Comparative Politics (gateway proseminar)
POLI 781	Government and Politics of Japan
POLI 782	Problems in Chinese Government & Politics
POLI 783	Dynamics of Middle East Politics
POLI 784	Government & Politics of Europe
POLI 785	Contemporary Russian Politics
POLI 792	Selected Topics in Comparative Politics
POLI 798*	Selected Topics in Public Law
POLI 802*	Seminar in Comparative Administration
POLI 831	Seminar on Europe
POLI 880	Seminar in Democratization and Comparative Politics

International Relations

POLI 715	International Relations Theory (gateway proseminar)
POLI 717	Comparative Foreign Policy
POLI 724*	Religion & Politics (=RELG 724)
POLI 725	International Conflict
POLI 732	International Law
POLI 733	International Organization
POLI 734	Economics of International Politics
POLI 735	International Cooperation
POLI 740	Formulation and Conduct of U.S. Foreign Policy
POLI 741	Contemporary U.S. Foreign Policy
POLI 742	Problems in National Security
POLI 745	Russian Foreign Policy
POLI 746	Chinese Foreign Policy
POLI 747	Japanese Foreign Policy
POLI 749	IR of the Middle East
POLI 794	Selected Topics in International Relations
POLI 795	Selected Topics in International Law & Organizations
POLI 815	Seminar in Advanced IR Theory
POLI 816	Seminar in Comparative Study of Foreign Policy
POLI 817	Seminar on International Organization and Cooperation

Political Theory

POLI 504	Politics & Ethics
POLI 505	Utopian Political Thought
POLI 703*	Democratic Theory
POLI 704	Political Theory & Feminism (=WGST 704)
POLI 705	Theory of Marxism
POLI 707	Classics of Political Theory
POLI 800	Selected Topics in Political Theory
POLI 801	Selected Thinkers in Political Theory

Public Administration/Public Policy

POLI 721*	Race & Public Policy
POLI 754	Public Accountability & Ethics
POLI 755	Grants Administration (=EDRM 800)
POLI 757	Health Politics (=NURS 779 and HSPM 711)
POLI 759	Information Systems & Public Administration
POLI 762*	Politics of the Budgetary Process
POLI 768*	Local Government Administration
POLI 770	Perspectives on Public Administration (gateway proseminar)
POLI 771*	Public Data Analysis
POLI 772	Contemporary Administrative Organization
POLI 773	Human Resources Administration in Government
POLI 774	Public Policy Process (gateway proseminar)
POLI 775	Financial Administration
POLI 776	Policy Formation & Program Planning
POLI 777*	Policy Evaluation
POLI 778	Practicum in Public Administration
POLI 779	Public Administration Internship
POLI 797	Selected Topics in Public Administration
POLI 802*	Seminar in Comparative Administration

Public Administration/Public Law

POLI 726	Seminar in Judicial Politics
POLI 727	Models for Understanding Political Institutions
POLI 728	Judicial Politics in Europe & the Common Law World
POLI 729	Courts in Developing Countries
POLI 732	International Law
POLI 760*	American Government & Politics
POLI 780*	Seminar in Comparative Politics
POLI 798	Selected Topics in Public Law
POLI 850	Seminar in Public Law
LAWS 525	Constitutional Law I
LAWS 526	Constitutional Law II
LAWS 718	Women & Human Rights
LAWS 812	International Human Rights
LAWS 648	Contemporary Constitutional Issues
LAWS 660	Individual Liberties
LAWS 768	Jurisprudence
LAWS 803	Women & the Law

Research Methodology

POLI 701	Theories of Political Inquiry
POLI 706	Advanced Methods of Political Analysis
POLI 709	Qualitative Methods of Political Analysis
POLI 771*	Public Data Analysis
POLI 777*	Policy Evaluation
POLI 803	Research Methods in Political Science
POLI 806	Seminar in Advanced Methods of Political Analysis

Getting Settled

Upon admission to a graduate program at USC, students must complete a number of steps in order to enroll in courses. These steps include obtaining health insurance and providing records of immunization; verifying citizenship and residency; setting up my.sc.edu accounts and obtaining ID cards; etc. The Graduate School lists each required item on their website:

<http://gradschool.sc.edu/students/getstarted.asp?page=todo>.

International Students

More than one thousand students from over 130 countries are enrolled at the University of South Carolina. International students face additional prerequisites when getting started. For example, all new international students must obtain a student visa; and all international students who will serve as teaching assistants must take and pass a mandatory English For Foreign Students (ENFS) proficiency exam. To help with these added requirements, International Student Services assists international students getting settled at USC, providing services such as assistance with visas and employment opportunities, information on life in Columbia, and answers to many common questions. For more information, visit the website of International Student Services: <http://www.iss.sc.edu/>.

New international students each fall are met with the hospitality and assistance of a community organization dedicated to serving them: the Columbia Council For Internationals (CCFI). CCFI works closely with the University to provide assistance and friendship to international students, and their services do much to ease the personal and cultural adjustments that they must make. Anyone interested in becoming involved with CCFI can find information on their website: <http://www.columbiacfi.org/>. Examples of some of the many CCFI programs are:

- *Arrival Hospitality Program*: provided by the volunteers meet new international students at the airport and, when necessary, arrange for temporary housing for them in the homes of community members.
- *Community Host Program*: this program brings students and Columbia residents together as guests and hosts. Occasional visits in the homes of community hosts provide opportunities for mutual exchange of culture and ideas, while providing students with links to the community.
- *Furnishings Program*: CCFI accepts tax-deductible donations of any household items which are then lent to international students who live in unfurnished rooms or apartments.
- *International Hour*: this is an informal lunch program held every Friday on campus, under the sponsorship of a different community group each week, and provides Americans and international students the opportunity to enjoy refreshments and conversation.
- *Speakers' Bureau*: international students often are asked to speak at private functions, public schools and other events.

Orientation and English for Foreign Students

The University of South Carolina has established a special orientation program for international students that begins the same as the reporting date indicated on the I-20 form. The orientation program includes time for the mandatory English For Foreign Students (ENFS) proficiency exam, academic advisement from your faculty adviser, and registration for classes. The ENFS also offers courses for international students so that they can improve their written and oral English communication skills. Information on this orientation session can be found here: <http://iss.sc.edu/index.php>.

Faculty

The graduate programs at the University of South Carolina are supervised by a distinguished and experienced faculty who provide students a diversity of major disciplinary interests and methodological orientations. The faculty represents a wellspring of scholarly activity, publishing in leading academic journals and presses. Many members of the faculty also bring to their academic pursuits practical expertise gained from prior experience in policy positions with government, the foreign service, international organizations, private industry, and research organizations. A list of the faculty, along with information about their current status and position, doctoral degree, and teaching and research interests is on the Department of Political Science website: <http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/poli/faculty>.