Wayne State University

Academic Programs

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Political Science

PhD in Political Science

PhD in Political Science - Mission Statement
Providing Department: PhD in Political Science

Mission Statement
The Ph.D. program in political science prepares students with a strong intellectual interest in political science for careers in academia, government agencies, non-profit organizations and private sector research firms. The doctoral degree in political science indicates not only the achievement of superior knowledge of the major theoretical approaches, research findings and debates in the discipline, but also the ability to initiate, design and carry out independent research. We offer preparation in seven subfields of study: American government and politics, comparative politics, political theory, public administration, public policy, urban politics, and world politics. Our Ph.D. students specialize in one major and two minor fields.

Progress: Completed

Related Items
There are no related items.

1.0: PhD Political Science LO 1.0 Statistical analysis
Start: 9/1/2015
End: 8/31/2016

Learning Outcome Description
Students will learn principles of statistical inference, estimation, hypothesis-testing and statistical reasoning. They will learn to conduct and interpret linear and multivariate regression with statistical packages (SPSS or STATA).

Progress: Completed

Related Items
There are no related items.

2.0: PhD Political Science LO 2.0 Research Methods
Start: 9/1/2015
End: 8/31/2016

Learning Outcome Description
Students will demonstrate mastery of techniques for using quantitative and qualitative methods to test competing hypotheses about problems in politics.

Progress: Completed

Related Items
There are no related items.

3.1: PhD Political Science LO 3.1 Summarize theory and research
Start: 9/1/2015
End: 8/31/2016

Learning Outcome Description
Students will accurately summarize theory and research in their major field of specialization.

Progress: Completed

Related Items
There are no related items.
3.2: PhD in Political Science LO 3.2 Summarize Theory and Research: Minor fields
Start: 9/1/2015
End: 8/31/2016

Learning Outcome Description
Students will accurately summarize core works of theory and research in two minor fields of specialization.

Progress: Completed
Related Items
There are no related items.

4.0: PhD in Political Science LO 4.0 Research Design
Start: 9/1/2015
End: 8/31/2016

Learning Outcome Description
Students will design and carry out independent research.

Progress: Completed
Related Items
There are no related items.
1.2: PhD Political Science OA 1.2 Statistical Analysis
Start: 9/1/2015
End: 8/31/2016
Progress: In Progress

Assessment Method
P5 6640 Stats II - Pass with grade of B or better

Results

Program Action Plan

Timeline for Action Plan Implementation

Reporting to Stakeholders

Related Items
There are no related items.

2.1: PhD Political Science OA 2.1 Research Methods
Start: 9/1/2015
End: 8/31/2016
Progress: Completed

Assessment Method
2.1 P5 7660 - Grade of B or better on final research design paper.

Results
Fall 2014 - 8/9 = B or better on final research design paper
Fall 2015 - 10/14 = B or better on final research design paper
78% of students pass with B or better on research design results are satisfactory.

Program Action Plan
No action needed at this time.

Timeline for Action Plan Implementation
Additional means of outcome assessment for research methods will be considered for 2016-2017.

Reporting to Stakeholders
The results are imputed into Compliance Assist and posted on the department website.

Related Items
There are no related items.

3.1: PhD Political Science OA 3.1 Summarize theory and research
Start: 9/1/2015
End: 8/31/2016
Progress: In Progress

Assessment Method
Students will pass major field comprehensive exam.

Results

Program Action Plan

Timeline for Action Plan Implementation

Reporting to Stakeholders
3.2: PhD in Political Science OA 3.2 Summarize theory and research: minor fields

Start: 9/1/2015  
End: 8/31/2016  
Progress: In Progress

Assessment Method  
Students will pass minor field comprehensive exams.

Results

Program Action Plan

Timeline for Action Plan Implementation

Reporting to Stakeholders

Related Items  
There are no related items.

4.1: PhD Political Science OA 4.1 Research Design Skill Development

Start: 9/1/2015  
End: 8/31/2016  
Progress: Completed

Assessment Method  
Review of 7000-level seminars to see which assignments teach research design.

Results  
Review of syllabi is in progress. Assessment will be updated in Winter 2017 when complete.

Program Action Plan  
Graduate committee will discuss results in Winter 2017.

Timeline for Action Plan Implementation

Reporting to Stakeholders

Related Items  
There are no related items.

4.2: PhD in Political Science OA 4.2 Research Design

Start: 9/1/2015  
End: 8/31/2016  
Progress: Completed

Assessment Method  
Review of dissertation prospectus process.

Results  
A selection of cases were reviewed.

Committee concludes that many Ph.D. students are taking too long to complete dissertation prospectus. Students should defend prospectus within one or two semesters of advancing to candidacy. Proactive guidance from faculty and the graduate director seems necessary.

Program Action Plan  
Graduate committee will review dissertation prospectus process during the 2016-2017 school year to recommend
1) guidelines for students
2) guidelines for advisors
3) possible changes to department handbook

**Timeline for Action Plan Implementation**
Progress of all PhD students in the program who have advanced to candidacy as of December 2015 will be reviewed in Spring 2016

**Reporting to Stakeholders**
Results will be posted on the program website and regularly shared with faculty at Departmental Meetings.

**Related Items**
*There are no related items.*