

Comparative Politics Field Expectations in Graduate Studies

First Year

Successful performance in courses.

Students should make a list of the major tasks to accomplish between the current date and the presentation and defense of the dissertation. This list should include topics, such as completing coursework, passing comps, submitting articles, presenting at conferences, defending a proposal, applying for grants, doing field research, teaching a course, applying for jobs. It should set a timetable for accomplishing these goals.

Students should routinely update this timetable and discuss it with a mentor or advisor at least once each semester.

Second Year

Successful performance in courses

Passed first comprehensive exam (preferably by September of second year).

Successful performance as a Teaching Assistant.

Students should demonstrate a high level of commitment to and engagement with political science research. This goal would include participating in seminars, workshops, and conferences, both at Notre Dame and externally; discussing research and research opportunities with faculty; taking the first steps toward publishing articles; and beginning to give serious thought to the dissertation.

Third Year

Passed second comprehensive exam (preferably by May of second year)

Students should continue all of the above pursuits and seek to provide tangible evidence of their success. This would involve giving papers at academic conferences or, minimally, submitting proposals to do so; and submitting a first article for publication in a refereed journal.

Successful performance as a Teaching Assistant.

Students should also develop their dissertation topics and defend their dissertation proposals.

Fourth Year

Progress on dissertation

Submit second article (preferably)

Successful performance as a TA

Fifth Year

Defend dissertation