



Summary of PhD Requirements

I. Coursework

- 42 GPA Credits (60 total); 60 total credits (includes P/F classes)
- Three course tracks
 - **Standard Track**
 - 4 courses each in two of the department's five major fields
 - *8 courses total*
 - 3 methodology courses
 - Must include Proseminar & Introduction to Quantitative Methods
 - 3 elective courses
 - **Theory Track** (*Must have Political Theory as the first field*)
 - 4 courses in Political Theory
 - 4 courses in one of the department's other major fields
 - Proseminar
 - 5 elective courses
 - **Methods Track**
 - 4 courses in one of the department's five major fields
 - 2 courses in one of the department's other major fields
 - 6 methodology courses
 - Must include Proseminar & Introduction to Quantitative Methods
 - 2 elective courses

II. Comprehensive Exams

- Offered in January, May, & September
- Dates, guidelines & sample questions on department website
- Deadlines:
 - First exam by Jan. of 2nd year (Sept. of 2nd year is better)
 - Second exam by Sept. of 3rd year (Jan. of 2nd year is better)

III. Article Submissions

- Submit *two* articles to peer-reviewed journals
 - First article before the proposal defense
 - Second article before the dissertation defense
- **Article must be submitted, not accepted**
 - Faculty member has to sign off that it is publishable
 - Substitute a major grant application for one
 - If you submit 2 articles, 1 must be single-authored

IV. Foreign Language Exam

- Pass a foreign language exam or summer language courses at ND
- Two additional methods courses beyond beyond Proseminar and Introduction to Quantitative Methods, and third required methods course
- Waiver of the foreign language exam requirement is automatic for ESL students
- ***Must be completed before Dissertation Proposal Defense***

V. Dissertation Proposal

- Written document which outlines a plan for dissertation
- Oral defense with your dissertation committee
 - Committee Chair (advisor) & at least two other faculty
 - Defend by beginning of 4th year (Jan. of 3rd year is better)

VI. Dissertation

- Dissertation: piece of original research representing a significant contribution to the literature in political science
- Oral defense with dissertation committee
- Goal: Finish within 5 years
 - Funding - ends after 5 years
 - Must finish within 8 years