



Methodology Requirements

Coursework Requirements

- Six methodology courses must include Proseminar, Quantitative Methods I and Regression I.
- The remaining three courses could come from the department, another department on campus, or another organization (e.g., ICPSR) with prior approval of the methodology field chair. These extra classes could focus in qualitative, quantitative methods, or a mix.
 - *Outside courses need to be approved in writing by the field chair and DGS and sent to the Graduate Studies Coordinator.*

Paper Requirement

Students must write and defend a paper that contributes to an area of methodology of their choosing. The paper can officially include one non-faculty co-author.

The central focus of this paper is on the tools that researchers use rather than answering a substantive question. See examples in methods journals such as *Political Analysis*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, and *Sociological Research and Methods*.

- **Process**
 - Consult with the two faculty members intended to serve on the committee to confirm the chosen paper topic is viable.
 - *Committee members can be changed prior to the defense.*
 - Your paper topic must be **approved in advance by the field chair**.
 - Write the paper
 - Have the paper **accepted for presentation** at a conference focusing on social science methods or on a methodology panel of another professional conference.
 - *Needs to be completed before your proposal defense*
 - Defend the paper to a committee of two faculty, one of whom must be in the methods field.
 - *Can happen after your proposal defense*

Resources

Methods Paper Checklist

[Methods Paper: Topic Approval Form](#)

[Methods Paper: Conference Acceptance Form](#)

[Methods Paper: Defense Form](#)