

POLITICAL STUDIES, M.A.

Degree Requirements

The M.A. program consists of two independent streams of study: the major research paper stream, and the thesis stream. In consultation with the Graduate Chair/their advisor, students are expected to select either the major research paper or thesis stream by December of their first year of study. The main purpose of the major research paper stream is to enhance the student's understanding of the discipline of Political Science and their chosen sub-fields. The thesis-based stream is to provide students with a deep understanding of Political Science and to develop their research skills to a level that allows them to explore a chosen topic in depth.

The thesis stream of the M.A in Political Studies consists of course work, a thesis, and an oral examination. Students in the thesis stream must complete a minimum of 15 credit hours, 12 credit hours must be at the 7000 level in Political Studies. In some cases, and with written permission from the Department's Graduate Committee, students may substitute three (3) credit hours of coursework at the 4000/7000 level in a related discipline. Three (3) credit hours includes Research Methods, and three (3) credit hours includes The Study of Politics. Thesis is normally between 20,000 and 25,000 (80,100 pages) but no more than 30,000 words (120 pages). A waiver of the length requirement may be granted by the Graduate Committee, up request and with support from the Advisor.

The major research paper stream of the M.A in Political Studies consists of course work and a research paper. Students in the major research paper stream must complete a minimum of 18 credit hours at the 7000 level in Political Studies. In some cases, and with written permission from the Department's Graduate Committee, students may substitute six (6) credit hours of course work at the 7000 level in a related discipline or may be permitted to take six (6) credit hours at the 4000 level in Political Studies. Includes 3 credits of Research Methods, and 3 credits in The Study of Politics. The Major Research Paper (MRP) normally is 6,000-8,000 words in length (25-30 pages; max 40). Final paper is assessed by the MRP advisor and a second reader. Must achieve a minimum grade of B to pass.

Expected Time to Graduate: 2 years (Thesis-based) 1 year (Course-based).

Progression Chart

Thesis STREAM

Course	Title	Hours
Year 1		
GRAD 7300	Research Integrity Tutorial	0
GRAD 7500	Academic Integrity Tutorial	0
POLS 7100	The Study of Politics	3
POLS 7300	Directed Readings in Public Administration	3
POLS 7XXX	Courses designated POLS 7000 or above	9
Hours		15
Year 2		
GRAD 7000	Master's Thesis	0
Hours		0
Total Hours		15

Notes:

- Students must demonstrate their mastery of the field and that they are fully conversant with the relevant literature through their thesis/practicum.
- The M.A. thesis proposal must include a literature review, description of the proposed work, and a schedule for completion. The proposal should normally be completed within 10 months following the start of the program and must be approved by the student's advisor.

Major Research Paper STREAM

Course	Title	Hours
Year 1		
GRAD 7300	Research Integrity Tutorial	0
GRAD 7500	Academic Integrity Tutorial	0
POLS 7100	The Study of Politics	3
POLS 7300	Directed Readings in Public Administration	3
POLS 7XXX	Courses designated POLS 7000 or above	12
Hours		18
Year 2		
POLS 7110	Major Research Paper	0
Hours		0
Total Hours		18