GENERAL

The Department of Political Science at the University at Albany, SUNY offers the graduate degrees of Master of Arts in Political Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science. These programs are designed to meet the needs of students interested in careers in research, teaching, the business world, and public service. Specializations within political science are offered in the following areas: American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political Theory, Public Law, and Public Policy.

MA PROGRAM

The MA program in political science requires 32 credits. All MA students must complete three requirements: RPOS 516 (Introduction to Political Inquiry), either RPOS 517 (Quantitative Methods) or RPOS 618 (Qualitative Methods), and RPOS 698 (Masters Capstone). Students must enroll in additional courses in political science to accumulate the remaining 20 credits. No more than 12 credit hours toward the MA may be taken on an S/U basis without permission of the Graduate Program Director or department chair.

In order to structure the MA experience, the political science faculty have designed six optional tracks. The tracks constitute recommendations by our faculty for how students may get the most out of their degrees. Completing a track is not required in order to receive a degree, but students who opt to finish a track will have a better and more integrated experience in our program and will gain more focused and concentrated sets of skills that will facilitate career planning during and after completion of the degree. The department has constructed tracks in several different areas. The portfolio and essay options for RPOS 698 apply to all tracks, but the specific format of the portfolio may differ.

TRACKS

American Politics
This track is designed to provide students with a practical education on the functioning of American governmental systems. It is particularly recommended for students interested in careers in any facet of public employment or with non-governmental organizations that interface with government. It is also good preparation for students who anticipate seeking doctoral training in the American politics field.

Track Courses
- Twelve credits (three courses) in Institutions, Political Processes and Lobbying, and State and Local Politics
  - Institutions courses
    - Legislative Process (RPOS 531)
    - Chief Executive (RPOS 532)
    - Political Parties (RPOS 534)
    - American Political Development (RPOS 544)
o Political Processes and Lobbying
  - Women and Politics (RPOS 533)
  - Political Parties (RPOS 534)
  - Political Behavior (RPOS 538)
  - Campaigns and Elections (RPOS 539)
  - Politics of Organized Interests (RPOS 542)
  - Government, Politics, and the Mass Media (RPOS 718)

o State and Local Politics
  - Federalism (RPOS 520)
  - State Government (RPOS 522)
  - Community Politics (RPOS 524)

- Two additional courses from Political Science or cross-listed through Public Administration and Policy (PADP)
  - Either RPOS 517 or 618 (the one not taken to fulfill general requirements)
  - American Political Theory (RPOS 515)
  - Constitutional Law I and II (RPOS 526, RPOS 527)
  - Founding the American National Government (RPOS 530)
  - Latino/as and Inequality in America (RPOS 547)
  - Participation (RPOS 590)
  - Minorities in the Politico-Legal System (RPOS 510)
  - Field Seminar in Public Policy (RPOS 513)
  - Urban Community Development (RPOS 523)
  - US Housing Policy (RPOS 528)
  - Urban Policy (RPOS 540)
  - Inequality and Public Policy (RPOS 604)
  - The Politics of Environmental Regulation (RPOS 667)
  - Politics and Administration (RPOS 702)

- If desired and with an advisor’s approval, one academically supervised internship may fulfill one of the courses in this track

**Applied American Politics (Elections, Lobbying, and Advocacy)**
This track also focuses on US politics and government, but is particularly designed to serve students interested in pursuing careers in elections, lobbying, and/or other forms of government advocacy.

**Track Courses**
Same as Applied American Politics but at least three courses should be chosen from among the following: RPOS 531, RPOS 534, RPOS 538, RPOS 539, RPOS 542, RPOS 631 (Legislative Internship), or RPOS 734 (Campaign Internship)

**Government Analytics**
This track provides students with focused and advanced training in research methods. This track is recommended for 1) current practitioners, especially in the public sector seeking research skills to improve their professional credentials for promotion or specialization, 2) recent undergraduates motivated to apply to doctoral programs who want to improve their resumes prior to applying to graduate school, 3) individuals considering graduate or doctoral educations
but unsure about methodological requirements or what substantive areas may interest them, or 4) current undergraduates at UAlbany interested in the combined BA/MA or testing curiosity about graduate school.

Track Courses
- Both RPOS 517 and RPOS 618
- Two advanced methods courses
  - Spatial Analysis (RPOS 619)
  - Social Network Analysis (RPAD 637)
  - Evaluation of Public Sector Programs (RPAD 626)
  - Cultural Analysis of Organizations (RPAD 636)
  - Applied Quantitative Methods (RPAD 725)
- Two substantive courses in any area

**Justice, Democracy, and Law**
This track serves students with interest in questions of justice, equality, inclusion, citizenship and basic rights as well as the role of the state in affecting these fundamental principles. It will best serve students with aspirations to attend theoretically oriented law schools like Yale, Stanford, Berkeley, NYU, or Duke; students aspiring to legal careers with an activist or political orientation; or students who are interested in the legal aspects of political theory or the political theory questions raised by public law and who hope to do crossover work at the doctoral level.

Track Courses
- Field Seminar in Political Theory
- Field Seminar in Public Law
- One or two courses in political theory
  - Political Philosophy
  - Contemporary Political Theory
  - American Political Theory
  - Alternative course recommended by advisor
- One or two courses in public law
  - Constitutional Law (RPOS 526)
  - Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (RPOS 527)
  - Law and Policy (RPOS 529)
  - Law and Society (RPOS 537)
  - Alternative course recommended by advisor

**Law and Politics**
This track provides students with advanced coursework and training in the study of law from multiple perspectives. It serves three different groups of students. First are students who aspire to attend a highly competitive law school have the opportunity to engage in advanced study of law before applying, and to encounter a broader set of perspectives than might typically be included in a JD degree. Second, students hoping to pursue Ph.D.s can gain relevant course work and skills development to ease that transition. Finally, the track provides other students interested in an M.A. degree with strong writing and analytical skill development.
Track Courses
- Field Seminar in Public Law (RPOS 541)
- Judicial Power
- Law & Society (RPOS 537)
- Two additional courses selected from public law offerings
  - Constitutional Law (RPOS 526)
  - Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (RPOS 527)
  - Law and Policy (RPOS 529)
  - Election Law (RPOS 549)
  - Justice Reform in Latin America (RPOS 525)

Public Policy
The policy track is designed to give students interested in politics and public policy the skills and substantive knowledge to understand and analyze the politics of public policy. Unlike a traditional MPP degree, which focuses on policy analysis, or an MPA degree, which focuses on administration and management, the MA in political science obtained through the policy track is designed for students who want to take a broader approach to policy in their work in government, non-profits, or for companies on policy-related issues.

Track Courses
- Third methods course: students will take both Quantitative Methods (RPOS 517) and Qualitative (and Mixed) Methods (RPOS 618)
- Public Policy Core
  - Field Seminar in Public Policy (RPOS 513)
  - Comparative Public Policy (RPOS 546)
  - State and Local Policy
- At least one additional course in an aspect or area of public policy, e.g., Inequality and Public Policy (RPOS 604), Migration (RPOS 605), Foreign Policy (RPOS 584), or Health Policy and Politics (RPAD 516)

MA CAPSTONE
The MA capstone experience may be fulfilled in one of two ways, either through the development and completion of an MA essay, or through the submission of a portfolio. Note that the portfolio option assumes immersion in a concentrated set of courses and thus will work best if combined with one of the recommended tracks.

Essay Option
The master’s essay is a substantial research paper of a length and quality appropriate for formal presentation at a New York State or regional political science annual meeting. The Master’s essay must be written under the direction of the student’s advisor or another appropriate faculty member in the political science department. It must incorporate original investigation of a significant research question and must go beyond a summary or evaluation of extant literature.
Portfolio Option
The portfolio consists of no fewer than three discrete writing projects that, taken together, demonstrate mastery of a specific area within political science (i.e., one of the recommended tracks). Writing projects completed in classes form the basis for the portfolio, but these projects should go at least one round of revisions prior to acceptance as part of the portfolio. Each item in the completed portfolio should not be substantially different than an A paper, report, or replication exercise in a class. The portfolio is to be compiled under the supervision of the student's advisor or another appropriate faculty member in the political science department.

Students enrolling in the doctoral program
Students pursuing a master’s degree who have been admitted to the Ph.D. program at the University at Albany may substitute successful completion of the Ph.D. comprehensive examination (in both a major and minor field) and dissertation prospectus defense for the master's capstone requirement.
DOCTORAL PROGRAM

The Political Science Department’s program leading to the Doctor of Philosophy requires a minimum of three years of full-time study beyond the baccalaureate (or the equivalent over a longer period of part-time study) and satisfactory completion of the University at Albany’s residence requirement. Students are required to have two semesters of full-time residence. To qualify for full-time residence, the pre-candidate student must be registered for a minimum of 12 credits taken in each of two semesters (9 credits per semester if the student is a full-time graduate assistant). In addition to required course work, set out below, a doctoral candidate must demonstrate competence in a major field and a minor field, and in one of the two research tool options. A dissertation accepted by the student’s committee and conforming to University guidelines is required to complete the program. In general, the dissertation must demonstrate that the candidate is capable of doing independent scholarly work and can formulate conclusions, which in some respects modify or enlarge what has previously been known in the discipline of political science.

ASSISTANTSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

The department is allocated a limited number of graduate assistantships to support doctoral students. While a primary purpose of the assistantship is to support students in the doctoral program, assignment of assistantship duties is also based on departmental needs. Over the course of a graduate student’s career, they can expect to have a mix of teaching and research assignments. Each semester, graduate assistants and faculty are polled to ask their preferences in assignments. While every effort is made to accommodate student preferences, departmental needs are the most important criterion.

To remain eligible for departmental funding, students must maintain a satisfactory academic record, be enrolled as a full-time student, and satisfactorily complete their assistantship duties. Satisfactory academic performance for funding purposes is defined in the following terms:

- A grade point average of at least 3.5
- No incomplete grades carried beyond the end of the following semester
- Progress toward degree completion (including successful completion of comprehensive examinations) consistent with departmental guidelines set out below.

Students whose performance falls below these standards may have their funding revoked.

NOTE: All funded students, with the exception of international students, must apply for New York State residency at the earliest opportunity: http://www.albany.edu/studentaccounts/residency.php. Funded students who fail to apply for New York State residency as soon as they are eligible will be required by the University to pay the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition.

Outside Employment and Non-Departmental Assistantships:
Graduate students who hold fellowships or assistantships may not ordinarily be employed in other capacities in or outside the University while holding an assistantship. They may not hold any kind of fellowship, traineeship, or second assistantship concurrently. Under limited circumstances, extra service hours may be approved through the filing of an extra service request with the department, but in no circumstances may any extra work exceed five hours per week at any time.
Some non-funded Political Science students may qualify for funding outside of the department through such organizations as the Rockefeller Institute of Government, the Center for Policy Research, the Center for International Development, or the Center for Women in Government and Civil Society. In addition, assistantship opportunities are available in administrative offices of the University. The Rockefeller College Office of Career Development also assists graduate students in securing part-time internships and summer employment. Consult with the Director of Internships and Career Services for further information at rockefeller.careers@albany.edu.

**Adjunct Faculty Appointments for Students:**
Advanced graduate students who have been admitted to candidacy may be invited to teach as adjunct instructors, both in the summer session and during the regular school year. All appointments are contingent on availability of departmental funds, and are at the final discretion of the Department Chair. For more information on preparing to teach a course, please see the appendix.

**GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, ETC.**
Listed below are a series of internal and external funding sources. This list is not comprehensive. Students interested in exploring funding options within the University and external to it for dissertation research funds should use the Grant Resource Room in the basement of Dewey Library and/or contact the Center for Policy Research at 581-442-3510. Students may also pursue opportunities listed through the American Political Science Association and H-Net.

**Graduate Student Association Grants Program:**
The University at Albany Graduate Student Association (GSA) offers grants of up to $300.00 for funding academic research and travel. GSA Research Grants may be used for travel to research facilities, purchase of equipment and supplies, remuneration for human subjects, costs associated with specialized training, and other research-related expenses. GSA Travel Grants may be used to cover travel expenses and room and board for conference participation. Travel grants are only available to those individuals (1) presenting papers, posters, literary work, or artwork, or (2) serving as panelists, etc. for symposia. GSA funds a limited number of graduate students per funding period. For more information contact the Graduate Student Association at gsa@albany.edu, or 442-4178, or Campus Center, Room 165B.

**Initiatives for Women Awards:**
UAlbany’s Initiatives for Women awards enables women, students, staff, and faculty to realize their academic and career potential. The program builds on the University at Albany's 150-year-old tradition of providing equal educational opportunity to women by supporting the following categories of awards:

- Scholarships, fellowships, and financial support: for women in financial need or women returning to school at a non-traditional age.
- Awards to women of promise: for students who demonstrate outstanding academic accomplishments.
- Internships and training programs that will enable women to advance in their careers
- Visiting Scholars Program: for visiting lectureships
- Research on women and women's issues
• Enhancement of educational and career opportunities for women of color
• Educational and career opportunities for women with disabilities

The awards generally range from $250 to $1000 depending on need. The Initiatives for Women Committee reviews all requests and may interview finalists. Consult the Initiatives for Women website for more information, deadlines, and application at http://www.albany.edu/ifw.

**Benevolent Association Grants:**
The University at Albany Benevolent Association offers grants of up to $500 to assist advanced degree candidates pursuing research projects integral to their dissertations or master’s theses, or projects related to preliminary stages of advanced graduate research.

The Benevolent Association Research Grant can be used for all phases of research, including travel to libraries, archives, laboratories, and other research facilities and resources; costs of information access; remuneration for human subjects; purchase of supplies or rental equipment; costs associated with specialized training; and other research related expenses.

**Application Deadline:** The Benevolent Association grant program has two cycles. The fall competition is intended to support research activities during the following spring semester. The spring competition is intended to support research activity during the following summer or fall semester. Deadline dates are subject to change each year.

*For application materials and more information contact:* The Office for the Vice President of Research, University Hall, Room 307, 518-956-8170.
DEPARTMENTAL SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING OF STUDENT TRAVEL
TO PRESENT PAPERS AT SCHOLARLY MEETINGS

The department has limited funds available for graduate students who are presenting papers at scholarly meetings. These funds are designed to supplement other sources of funding, such as the GSA grants program and funding available from APSA and other sources. Departmental funds will not be available to students who have not applied for funding elsewhere.

The following guidelines when making travel funding decisions:

- Funding will not be provided unless a student’s paper or poster has been accepted at the meeting. In no event will funds be allocated for a student simply to attend a meeting, or participate as a discussant or panel chair, without presenting a paper.
- The amount of funding allocated depends on the location and nature of the meeting: Students presenting at Northeast regional meetings (NY Political Science Association or Northeast Political Science Association) will be eligible for up to $250; those attending conferences outside the Northeast will be eligible for up to $500. While there may be exceptions, travel funds will generally be restricted to attendance at “main line” conferences – the regional political science conferences and the APSA annual meeting, meetings of the International Studies Organization, the Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management, the Law and Society Association, etc.
- ABD and advanced students will receive priority in allocation of travel funds.
- Generally, students will be eligible for a maximum of $500 support in an academic year.

Student Travel Procedures

- The Director of Student Affairs must receive a “Department Supplemental Funding of Student Travel Form” at least four weeks prior to travel.
- Air travel cannot be reimbursed under current travel rules.
- Train travel: Use of the University designated travel agency is not necessary for train travel. To be reimbursed for this expense, the traveler must provide an original receipt or email confirmation indicating that payment has been made.
- Mileage – Mileage is reimbursable at a per mile rate. Please submit a MapQuest or googlemap printout showing beginning and end of travel and total number of miles.
- Meals: Receipts are not required for reimbursement for meals. Meals are paid on a per diem basis according to location.
- Hotel, taxis, shuttles, conference registration and other miscellaneous expenses require original receipts for reimbursement.

Travel reimbursement paperwork: Students will need to complete a State Travel Voucher upon their return. Students will also need a copy of the conference program or agenda, receipts for all travel expenses (showing proof of payment), and a copy of the signed travel approval form. Completed reimbursement paperwork should be submitted directly to Dyana Warnock in Milne 108 within two weeks of returning from the conference.
DEPARTMENTAL SUPPORT FOR GRADUATE STUDENT ATTENDANCE AT ICPSR AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Departmental support may be available for a limited number of Ph.D. students to attend methodology courses offered by Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR), or similar courses. Limited funds are also available for language courses that support students’ dissertation research and are not offered by the University. If funds are available, the Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Chair will use the following guidelines to allocate them:

- Priority will be given to Ph.D. students with strong academic records, strong faculty support for attendance at the program, and advanced standing.
- Support will be restricted to programs that offer instruction in methodologies or languages that are not available at the University at Albany, and which are of direct relevance to a student’s dissertation research.
- To apply for departmental support, a student should submit an application to the graduate director that includes
  1. a letter of application, setting out a justification for why the program is essential to the student’s dissertation research, what preparatory work has been taken at the University at Albany, and why existing Albany courses will not be acceptable substitutes,
  2. two letters from faculty members supporting the application,
  3. a transcript, and
  4. a proposed budget, indicating any other sources of funds for which the student has applied.

Note: For those interested in applying to the ICPSR program, hard copies of the application materials must be submitted to the Director of Student Affairs by April 15th. The Department will only be able to provide partial funding, and the amount will depend on the number of students applying for the program. Students interested in the IQMR should submit materials by October 1st.
PROGRAM PLANNING AND ADVISEMENT

The Director of Graduate Studies has administrative responsibility for the graduate programs; however, advisement is chiefly the function of individual faculty members. Students are expected to choose a faculty member to serve as their advisor in the first semester of graduate study, prior to pre-registration for classes for the following semester. Through attendance at orientation, faculty-student functions, field seminars and other seminar courses, students will be able to select a faculty member appropriate to their interests. A change of advisor is quite normal as students become more acquainted with faculty and discover who is most suitable in relation to interests and specializations. Graduate students are responsible for informing the department of their advisor via email at rockgradservices@albany.edu.

Graduate students should meet with their advisor at least once each semester to discuss their progress. Only a student’s advisor may authorize the release of an AVN, allowing a student to register for classes. The student and advisor should also discuss and record annual progress reports and future plans in preparation for the annual departmental review of graduate students which takes place at the end of each spring semester.

Note: The availability of advice does not relieve the student of sole responsibility for completing necessary forms, initiating the formation of committees, honoring deadline dates at various points in one’s studies, and meeting all departmental and graduate school regulations. Students should therefore read carefully the Graduate Student Handbook, the University Graduate Student Bulletin, and the Fall/Spring Course Description Lists.

Academic Requirements:
A minimum of 60 credit hours is required beyond the bachelor’s degree to be taken in courses and seminars and through independent study. To receive the Ph.D., a student must satisfactorily complete all degree requirements detailed below. University policy requires that graduate students who are candidates for a graduate degree must earn an average of B (3.0) in all resident graduate courses and credits applicable to their degree completed with grades other than S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory) and receive grades of S in all resident graduate courses applicable to their degree which may be graded S/U.

1. Scope and Methods of Political Science:
The Department of Political Science requires that all Ph.D. students pass the following courses:
- POS 516 Introduction to Political Inquiry
- POS 517 Quantitative Research Methods
- POS 695 Research and Writing Seminar Part I
- POS 696 Research and Writing Seminar Part II

POS 695 and POS 696 are two-credit classes. Most Ph.D. students will take POS 516 in the fall of their first year, POS 517 in the spring of their first year, POS 695 in the fall of their third year, and POS 696 in the spring of their third year. This course work is designed to provide our graduate students with a broad foundation for research writing, and publishing in the field of political science.
2. Field Seminars:
Field seminars provide a broad introduction to the literature of the following subfields of the discipline: American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political Theory, Public Policy, and Public Law. Doctoral students are required to take two field seminars, one offered in their major field and one in their minor field. Normally, the field seminars should be taken before registration for an advanced seminar in the same field. However, because not all field seminars are offered in fall, first-year students may have to enroll in an advanced course before taking a field seminar. A petition for a waiver of any part of these requirements based upon a claim of equivalency in graduate work done elsewhere should be directed to the Director of Graduate Studies and the appropriate field chair for consideration. A syllabus must be presented to the Director of Graduate Studies to facilitate a comparison with the department’s version of the course.

3. Advanced Research Tool or Foreign Language Requirement:
Prior to the admission to candidacy (ABD status) for the Ph.D. degree, a student must have completed advanced research tool requirements in both qualitative methodology and quantitative methodology, or in a foreign language. Students whose field of study or research does not include a need for competence in a foreign language must satisfy the tools requirement in quantitative and qualitative research techniques.

Quantitative and Qualitative Research Techniques. Students satisfying the quantitative or qualitative research tool requirement must be competent in research design, data analysis, and elementary statistics. The requirement may be satisfied either by successful completion of POS 517 (Empirical Data Analysis) or equivalent graduate course work in another department or at another university. Students must also be competent in qualitative research design and analysis. The requirement may be satisfied either by successful completion of POS 618 (Qualitative Research Methods) or equivalent graduate course work in another department or at another university. NOTE: Depending on a student's field of study, the department may recommend that a student take additional research tools beyond POS 517 and 618.

Foreign Language Option. Students whose research requires use of a foreign language may choose the foreign language option. It may be met by passing an examination administered by the appropriate foreign language department of the University at Albany or through the appropriate graduate school foreign language test administered by the Educational Testing Service. English may not be used to satisfy a foreign language requirement. With the approval of the faculty advisor, a foreign student may present their native language other than English in meeting this requirement, so long as the language is relevant to the student's area of academic study and research and the student demonstrates competency in English.

Degree Progress:
Full-time course load. In order to ensure completion of the degree in an acceptable time period, doctoral students — including those students working on assistantships — are recommended to take 12 credit hours each semester; first-year graduate students who are serving as teaching assistants, however, may wish to consider taking 9 credit hours their first semester of graduate work. As financial and workload considerations may sometimes preclude doctoral students from taking 12 credits each semester, the department will permit registration for 9 credit hours per semester as the minimum for students who wish to obtain funding from departmental sources.
Normal progress toward the degree. The doctoral program has been designed so that it can be completed by graduate students within the eight year limit prescribed by the graduate school. Students who do not make normal progress toward their degree will not be eligible for departmental funding and will be referred to the department for possible dismissal from the program. While exceptions are possible for good cause, the following situations will be considered in a determination that a student is not making normal progress:

1. One or more incomplete grades that have not been completed by the midpoint of the following semester;
2. Any grade below B-;
3. A cumulative grade-point average below 3.0;
4. Failure of a full-time student to maintain a course load of 12 credits per semester, except during final preparation for the comprehensive examinations, during writing of the dissertation, or for those semesters when the department has permitted students to take 9 credit hours owing to workload or financial considerations.
5. Failure of a student, in the view of their faculty advisor, to move expeditiously toward completion of the degree.

University Regulations Concerning Time to Degree:

1. The required full-time study in residence must be completed within four calendar years from the date of initial registration in the program in the fall.
2. All requirements for a doctoral degree in political science must be completed within eight calendar years from the date of initial registration in the program. Extensions may be granted on a case-by-case basis.
Note: These rules apply equally to students who enter with or without advanced standing and to students who formally change their areas of specialization after admission.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Two-Credit Course Registration Option:
Most departmental graduate courses are offered for four credits or as a readings version for two-credits (field seminars and the required four-credit methods classes can only be taken for four credits). While faculty members set the course requirements for courses they teach, students enrolled in a course for two credits generally will be expected to complete the reading and class participation requirements for the course and possibly take a final examination. They may not be required to fulfill all of the writing requirements of the four-credit course. Both four- and two-credit courses are graded A-E. Students may audit most graduate classes, as well, with the permission of the instructor, with the instructor to determine reading, attendance, and other requirements.
GRADUATE COURSES

The titles and descriptions of courses offered by the Department of Political Science are available in the university graduate bulletin, http://www.albany.edu/graduatebulletin/. Students interested in interdisciplinary programs should review course listings of other schools and departments. Not all courses listed in the bulletin are offered in any given year or at consistent intervals. Students may consult lists of recent courses taught, as well as syllabi for those courses, at [website].

Courses Offered at the 400/500 Level:
Graduate students may not take undergraduate courses (400 level) for graduate credit, except those students involved in the department’s Combined B.A.-M.A. Program who are simultaneously working towards completing the requirements for both undergraduate and graduate degrees. However, in some 500-level graduate courses students may be required to attend lectures in the corresponding undergraduate course, meeting separately with the instructor and doing additional reading and writing to earn graduate credit for the course. In addition, graduate students may find it desirable to audit selected undergraduate courses if their background in that area is weak.

Non-departmental Courses:
A student may receive department credit for completing non-departmental courses as part of their regular program. Approval of the Director of Graduate Studies or Faculty Advisor is required prior to registering for these courses.

Transfer Credits:
A student who wishes to receive graduate credit for courses taken elsewhere should consult with their Faculty Advisor(s) and/or the Director of Graduate Studies. The decision whether to transfer credit will be made by the Faculty Advisor/Director of Graduate Studies in consultation with the Department Chair. In accordance with University requirements, a maximum of 30 hours of transfer credit can be granted toward the Ph.D. (including transfer credits previously applied to the M.A.). The Director of Graduate Studies will submit transfer credit requests to the University’s Office of Graduate Education for approval.

Continuous Registration and Leave of Absence:
A doctoral student must register each semester (excluding summer) until they have completed all requirements (including defense of dissertation) for the degree, or must request and receive a leave of absence approved by the Director of Graduate Studies, the Department Chair, and the University’s Office of Graduate Education. Normally, a leave of absence will be granted for a period up to one year; with a compelling justification the leave may be extended another year. The period of authorized leave is not counted as part of the statute of limitations for completion of degree requirements.
GRADES AND EVALUATIONS OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Grade Requirements:
The grade of “B” is considered the minimal satisfactory grade in individual graduate courses. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher is needed for a degree to be awarded, and failure to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 will be considered evidence of inadequate progress toward the degree.

Incompletes:
Students are expected to complete course work on time. A grade of incomplete may be given only in those instances in which the student has not been able to complete all of the assigned projects and/or examinations in a course due to illness or other unforeseeable compelling circumstances. A date for completion of the work should be arranged by the instructor; however, University policy requires that incompletes received during a given semester be completed one month before the close of the following semester. The grade of I is automatically changed to E or U unless work is completed as agreed between the student and instructor.

The department may elect to revoke financial support for students receiving departmental funding if course work is not completed on time and incompletes are accrued.

Academic Integrity:
Academic integrity is taken seriously. Violations of academic integrity in any form can result in course failure or even dismissal from the program. Violations include but are not limited to plagiarism, cheating on examinations, multiple submissions, and unauthorized collaboration. Details on the University’s academic honesty policies are located in the Graduate Bulletin: http://www.albany.edu/graduatebulletin/requirements_degree.htm#standards_integrity. Students are also required to comply with course-specific guidelines and requirements, as outlined in course syllabi.

Academic Grievance Procedures:
Students who elect to challenge an academic evaluation of their work in a course or seminar, in research or another educational activity, or an unfavorable academic standing or status assigned to them because of inadequate grades or other evaluations of their performance, may request a review of the evaluation or the academic status, or both. Students should attempt to resolve any problems with the faculty member(s) responsible for issuing a particular grade or evaluation. If an adequate resolution is not found, students may petition the Political Science Department’s Grievance Committee to review cases by contacting the Director of Graduate Studies, or, if the contested evaluation has been conducted by the Director of Graduate Studies, by contacting the Department Chair.
FIELD REQUIREMENTS FOR THE Ph.D.

General Rules for Comprehensive Examinations
1. Examinations for all subfields will be offered on the same dates, once in the fall and once in the spring, for both major and minor examinations. The actual dates of examinations will be determined administratively each semester. All subfields will have the same examination procedures.
2. For full-time students who entered the graduate program with a bachelor's degree, the major and minor field examinations and prospectus defense should take place by the end of the fourth year of full-time study. For students who entered the graduate program with a master's degree, these examinations and the prospectus defense should normally be taken by the end of the third year of full-time study.
3. Each faculty member contributing to a subfield examination will provide feedback of not less than one paragraph to graduate students within a maximum period of three weeks from the date of the written examination’s completion (though ideally earlier). Subfield chairs may opt to aggregate that feedback.
4. Graduate students may retake a failed examination in a major or minor field once. Selecting a different major or minor field is permissible at any time, but regardless of whether a student changes fields, only two attempts may be made to pass a major or minor field examination. If a student fails a second attempt at a major or minor field examination, the student will be deemed to have made unsatisfactory progress in the program, and the department will recommend dismissal to the Office of Graduate Education.

Major Field:
Each student takes the major field comprehensive examination when the major field committee has concluded that the student is satisfactorily prepared to teach on the graduate level in the field.

1. The major field examination includes a written examination and, assuming satisfactory performance on the written portion, an oral examination.
2. The written examination will be a twelve-hour, open-book examination distributed to the students taking the exam by email and returned through the same medium to the examining committee.
3. Oral examinations will be scheduled within two weeks of the delivery of a successful written examination.
4. Both the written and oral components must be evaluated as passing in order for the student to pass the major comprehensive examination.

Ordinarily, the examining committee for the major field examination is composed of faculty members from the major field. With prior notification to the field members and consensus in the field, a faculty member from another field with substantial expertise in the major field may serve on the committee. The choice of committee members from within the major field is at the discretion of the subfield chair.
Second Field:
The second field examination is a written comprehensive examination conducted in the same manner as the major field examination, but taking six hours. The exam is scheduled when the minor field committee has concluded that the student is satisfactorily prepared to teach on the undergraduate level in the field. Exam committees are to be composed in the same fashion as for the major field.

Comprehensive Exam and Dissertation Committees
Early in the fall semester of the year in which a student is required to take comprehensive examinations and prepare a dissertation prospectus, they should begin the process of forming committees for the comprehensive exams and dissertation. Students should meet with prospective faculty committee members to discuss their plans for examination preparation, including courses under consideration and reading lists for the field. Signature forms for committee members for major and minor subfield comprehensive exams may be downloaded from the Rockefeller College website at http://www.albany.edu/rockefeller/user_current_graduate_students_3tabs.shtml.

SUBFIELD GUIDELINES

Throughout these guidelines, the word “committee” refers to the student’s major or second field committee as defined by the Department of Political Science.

AMERICAN POLITICS

Major Field Examination:
Students preparing for comprehensive exams with a major in American Government and Politics, in addition to departmental requirements, will be expected (1) to demonstrate knowledge of four subfields of American Government and Politics, and (2) to demonstrate an ability to formulate and grapple with some overarching questions that range across the scope of the field.

Subfield Identification:
The student’s selection of subfields will be reviewed by the student’s faculty committee to assure that they adequately cover the broad scope of American Government and Politics. At least three of the four subfields should be chosen from the following list:

- Executives and Executive Politics
- Legislatures and Legislative Politics
- Political Parties and Elections
- Political Behavior and Public Opinion
- Interest Groups and Mass Movements
- Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations
- State and Local Government and Politics
- Urban and Community Government and Politics.
The fourth subfield may be chosen: (a) from the above list, (b) from another field within political science, or (c) may be an individually tailored subfield designed jointly by the student and examining committee. If the student chooses a subfield that normally falls within another field of political science (option b), the student may not use the same subfield to serve the other field’s Ph.D. requirements. Examples of acceptable “crossover” fields might include American Political Thought or subfields with Public Administration, Public Law or Public Policy.

**Subfield Certification:**
Ph.D. students majoring in American Government and Politics will be expected to demonstrate competence in at least four subfields. For any three of the four, a member of the examining committee must specifically certify that the student is broadly prepared in the subfield before the student may proceed to the oral examination. Precise subfield expectations or requirements will be arranged individually by students and faculty members. For the fourth subfield, satisfactory completion of one graduate level seminar or the equivalent will be sufficient.

**Oral Exam: Broad Scope of the Field:**
The first part of the oral examination will be devoted to at least one major theme that spans the scope of the field. Students will begin this part of the examination with an opening statement on a theme that will be agreed upon in advance with the committee. Students will be given sample questions or themes for guidance, but they may also construct an alternative theme or question with the approval of their committee chairs. After the opening statement, however, the committee will feel free to let the ensuing discussion draw upon any works listed in the general bibliography the faculty has prepared for the American Government and Politics field.
COMPARATIVE POLITICS

In addition to meeting department requirements, doctoral students with a major or minor field of comparative politics will be expected to be knowledgeable about key theoretical, methodological, and normative issues in the comparative analysis of polities and state-society relations, and about a wide variety of geographical areas and theoretical domains, with special expertise in particular geographical areas and theoretical domains, as detailed in the course outline below. A broad knowledge of cognate disciplines (e.g., economics, history, and sociology) and of subfields (e.g., international relations, public administration, public policy) is strongly encouraged.

The primary focus of both major and minor field exams in comparative politics will be metatheory (e.g., patterns of inference and explanation), theory-building area studies (e.g., post-communist and post-authoritarian transitions), and diverse theoretical approaches (e.g., rational choice analysis, political culture, political structures and processes). The written component of the major exam will include a choice of three questions; the oral exam, with three comparative field professors and lasting up to two hours, ordinarily begins by expanding upon one or more of the student’s responses on the written exam. The minor exam likewise requires responses to a choice of three questions. Students contemplating taking the major or minor exam should review the core reading list provided by the subfield; the list is available from the subfield coordinator. Students are expected to demonstrate expertise in a minimum of one primary and one secondary geographic region or country, so they must also be familiar with “off-list” readings on those areas. Exam responses will be evaluated based on whether they:

1) demonstrate that the student has mastered the key concepts with the field;
2) fully and sufficiently answer the questions that are asked;
3) demonstrate that the student can link key authors or works to the material being discussed;
4) demonstrate that the student is capable of novel and/or critical analysis of the subfield’s literature.

Coursework requirements for the major field:
I. Coursework: 6 required courses (minimum)
A. Field seminar (1 required)
   ➢ RPOS 550 Field Seminar in Comparative Politics (required)
   ➢ (RPOS 570 Field Seminar in International Relations is strongly recommended)
B. Theory-focused seminars (3 required)
   ➢ One course in Contentious Politics/Mobilization
      o RPOS 554 Political Violence
      o RPOS 566 Ethnic Conflict
      o RPOS 567 Contentious Politics
      o Another course approved by advisor
   ➢ One course in Political Economy
      o RPOS 571 International Political Economy
      o RPOS 546 Comparative Public Policy
      o RPOS 549 The Welfare State
      o Another course approved by advisor
   ➢ One course in Political Systems & Development
      o RPOS 551 Democracy and Democratization
C. Region-focused seminars (2 required; cannot also satisfy a theory-focused requirement)

- RPOS 552 Communist and Post-Communist Systems
- RPOS 561 Nationalism & Nation Building
- Another course approved by advisor

Coursework requirements for the minor field:
Coursework: 4 required courses (minimum)

A. Field seminar (1 required)
- RPOS 550 Field Seminar in Comparative Politics (required)
- (RPOS 570 Field Seminar in International Relations is recommended)

B. Theory-focused seminars (Students are advised to select courses and/or topics within courses to develop expertise in at least one region.)

- One course in Contentious Politics/Mobilization
  - RPOS 554 Political Violence
  - RPOS 566 Ethnic Conflict
  - RPOS 567 Contentious Politics
  - Another course approved by advisor

- One course in Political Economy
  - RPOS 571 International Political Economy
  - RPOS 546 Comparative Public Policy
  - RPOS 549 The Welfare State
  - Another course approved by advisor

- One course in Political Systems & Development
  - RPOS 551 Democracy and Democratization
  - RPOS 552 Communist and Post-Communist Politics
  - RPOS 561 Nationalism & Nation Building

Another course approved by advisor
POLITICAL THEORY

The subfield of political theory covers a wide variety of the areas including the History of Political Thought, Critical Theory, Postructuralism and Postmodernism, Democratic Theory, American Political Thought, Feminist Political Theory, Theories of Justice, and the Philosophy of Social Science.

To ensure that students have a background in the canonical thinkers in the history of political theory, students are strongly encouraged to audit or take for credit RPOS 301 and RPOS 302 (History of Political Thought I and II), a year-long undergraduate course sequence, and RPOS 701. When graduate students take or audit the yearlong sequence in the History of Political Thought, the instructor will provide a special graduate tutorial side by side with the course. In this tutorial we will discuss the more complex aspects of as well as read commentary on the theories under discussion.

Depending on whether they intend to focus their work on canonical or contemporary political theory, or some combination of the two, students will select their courses from the following offerings:

- **POS 500** Political Philosophy
- **POS 501** Field Seminar in Political Theory (required of all political theory graduates)
- **POS 512** Political Theory and Analysis (devoted to philosophy of social science)
- **POS 515** American Political Theory
- **POS 565** Feminist Political Theory
- **POS 603** Contemporary Political Theory
- **POS 701** Tutorial in Political Theory
- **POS 798** Readings in Political Science
- **POS 897** Independent Research

Courses in other departments such as philosophy or sociology, where relevant, are permitted.

Since the topics in RPOS 500 and RPOS 603 change from semester to semester, students may take these courses twice. For example, RPOS 500 has dealt with political thinkers such as Thucydides, Machiavelli, Locke, Rousseau, Hobbes, Marx, Nietzsche, and Weber and topics such as democratic theory, theories of citizenship, theories of justice, theories of equality, problems of interpreting political theory, and theories of truth. Similarly, RPOS 603 has dealt with such topics as critical theory, postmodern theory, political theory and political ideology, literary theory and political theory, and contemporary democratic theory. Since the topics of the seminars change year by year, students are encouraged to take every political theory seminar that they can.

**Major in Political Theory:**

In preparation for meeting the comprehensive examination requirements, students will work together with faculty to plan a curriculum of seminars, tutorials, and independent studies. The chair of a student’s dissertation committee must be a member of the political theory subfield, but may be chosen by the graduate student.
Major Exam in Political Theory
The written major exam in Political Theory will typically have two sections. The first section will test the student’s general knowledge of the field of political theory. The second section will focus on the student’s areas of interest and ask more specific questions related to that area. “General knowledge” refers to the canonical works in the history of political theory (the Greeks through modernity), the most significant contemporary works in the field, the fundamental conceptual questions of political theory, and the major debates within the field. As part of acquiring this knowledge, the student will be responsible for knowing a list of required and recommended readings in Political Theory. This list is comprised of major political theory texts as well as secondary commentary. It also consists of readings on a number of the major issues in the field, both substantive and interpretive. This list is constructed by the political theory faculty (and regularly revised in light of changes in the field). While the readings are determined by the faculty in political theory, the student in conjunction with their committee will add readings to the list related to their areas of interest. This part of the list will serve as basis for the second section of the exam. Once the exam committee has evaluated the written exam, it will decide whether the student may move on to the oral exam. The oral exam will consist of questions raised by the written exam as well as test the student’s general comprehension of the field of political theory.

Minor Field in Political Theory:
With the assistance of a graduate advisor in political theory and the exam committee, graduate students choosing Political Theory as a second field will be responsible for the reading list in political theory, especially sections on canonical and contemporary political theory. However, additions to the list will be made according to the student’s interests in political theory and its relation to the student’s other fields of interest including those outside of political theory. To gain a background across the field, all students choosing Political Theory as a second field should take RPOS 500 – Political Philosophy, RPOS 501 – Field Seminar in Political Theory, and RPOS 603 – Contemporary Political Theory. Students who want to reinforce their knowledge of the canonical works of political theory are strongly encouraged to audit or take as a tutorial the yearlong undergraduate course, RPOS 301 and RPOS 302 (History of Political Thought I and II). The written Ph.D. exam in Political Theory will typically have two sections. The first section will test the student’s general knowledge of the field of political theory. The second section will focus on the student’s areas of interest and ask more specific questions related to that area.
PUBLIC LAW

Major in Public Law:
Doctoral students with a major field in public law will be expected to be broadly prepared to address four core theoretical questions: (1) why empower legal institutions (judicial empowerment)? (2) why activate these institutions (judicial activation)? (3) why are legal issues decided the way they are (judicial decision making)? And (4) why comply/enforce (judicial impact)? These questions span the substantive courses offered in the department and students should not expect to focus exclusively on the United States. All students at the major examination should have a grasp of prior research and be able to read and place in context new public law research in all areas of the subfield.

A necessary (but not sufficient) preparation for the comprehensive examinations includes mastery of the materials covered in RPOS 526, RPOS 527, RPOS 541, and at least one specialized graduate course in some comparative aspect of law, law and society, and/or law and American Political Development, with any exceptions to be agreed upon by the candidate and their committee. While candidates need not necessarily enroll in each of these courses, at least formal auditing of these courses is a minimal expectation even for those with backgrounds in law and politics, and all students will be expected to be fully familiar with the subject matter covered therein. In addition, students will be expected to extend their readings beyond the assigned course readings in most areas covered in the courses, on a basis to be agreed upon by the student and members of the committee.

The student is responsible for submitting a written compendium of the specific material they expect to be examined upon for approval of their examining committee. The starting point for this list should be the material covered in the required public law courses indicated above. It should be supplemented by additional materials at the direction of the examination committee. Students should start formulation of this compendium at the earliest possible date in consultation with the examination committee. The final version of the compendium should be submitted to each member of the examination committee at least eight weeks prior to the scheduled examination.

The written portion of the major examination has four sections: that correspond with the core theoretical questions listed above. Multiple questions will be provided, but students must complete one question in each section. Once the committee has reviewed the written responses, they will determine whether the student may proceed to an oral defense. The oral examination will address the written responses as well as testing for overall comprehension of the field.

Minor in Public Law:
Students with the second field in public law will be expected to be broadly prepared in constitutional law and judicial processes. A necessary (but not necessarily sufficient) preparation for the comprehensive examinations includes mastery of the materials covered in RPOS 526, RPOS 527, RPOS 541, and at least one specialized graduate course in some comparative aspect of law, law and society, and/or law and American Political Development. While students need not necessarily enroll in each of these classes, at least formal auditing of these courses is a minimal expectation even for those with backgrounds in law and politics, and all students will be expected to be fully familiar with the subject matter covered therein. In addition, students will be expected
to extend their readings beyond the assigned course readings, on a basis to be agreed upon by the student and members of the committee.

The student is responsible for submitting a written compendium of the specific material they expect to be examined upon for approval of their examining committee. The starting point for this listing should be the material covered in the required public law courses indicated above. It should be supplemented by additional materials at the direction of the examination committee. Students should start formulation of this compendium at the earliest possible date in consultation with the examination committee. The final version of the compendium should be submitted eight weeks prior to the scheduled examination.
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Major in International Relations
Students preparing to take comprehensive exams with a major in International Relations (IR) will be expected to comply with departmental examination requirements, and (a) to demonstrate knowledge of contemporary debates in the field; (b) to demonstrate competence in the three major concentrations listed below; and (c) to demonstrate an ability to formulate and grapple with some overarching questions that range across the scope of the field. The field seminar (RPOS 570) fulfills requirement (a) and is mandatory for all IR students. Requirement (b) will usually entail taking the following three courses in the subfield’s primary concentrations, plus two or more electives.
1. RPOS 582 – Global Security
2. RPOS 571 – International Political Economy
3. RPOS 583 – Global Governance

Electives are offered on a rotating basis and may include independent study. As a general rule, students are advised to get to know—through course work—the entire IR faculty. Even though some students may be entering with graduate course work from other institutions, students are strongly encouraged to take all core courses at the University at Albany.

Minor in International Relations
To be eligible for the minor exams, students must have successfully completed RPOS 570, RPOS 571, RPOS 582, and RPOS 583.
PUBLIC POLICY

Major in Public Policy
Doctoral students with a major in public policy will be expected to be broadly trained in the important theoretical and methodological issues in the field. Thus, students will be expected to understand the key questions, approaches, and research designs appropriate to studying public policy. In addition to broad overarching capabilities, students are also expected to be “experts” in at least one substantive area of public policy (such as the environment or immigration).

The public policy faculty recommends that in addition to departmental requirements, students who wish to work in public policy as a major field take no fewer than five classes distributed as follows. (See the list below for specific courses in each category.)

(A) Field Seminar in Public Policy – 1 course
(B) Process, Theory, and Methods – 2-3 courses
(C) Substantive area of your choice – 1-2 courses

These courses are the recommended minimum for comprehensive exams. Students are expected to prepare extensively beyond the books and articles in these courses. The student is responsible for submitting a written compilation of the specific material they expect to be examined on for approval by their examining committee. The written material should start with coursework and expand beyond that to relevant books, articles, and chapters. Students are responsible for knowing the field of public policy, not only what is covered in any particular course. Students should begin collecting materials as early as possible and communicate with their committee members. The final list should be submitted to each member of the examining committee no less than three weeks prior to the scheduled examination.

Minor in Public Policy
Students planning to take comprehensive exams with a minor in public policy will be expected to be broadly trained in the important theoretical and methodological issues in the field as well as have expertise in at least one substantive area of public policy (such as the environment or immigration).

Students who plan on sitting for the minor exam should take no fewer than four classes from the following areas (see the list below for specific courses in each category):

(A) Field Seminar in Public Policy – 1 course
(B) Process, Theory, and Methods – 2 courses
(C) Substantive area of your choice – 1 course

Students are expected to prepare extensively beyond the books and articles in these courses.

The student is responsible for submitting a written compilation of the specific material they expect to be examined on for approval of their examining committee. The written material should start with coursework and expand beyond that to relevant books, articles, and chapters. Students are responsible for knowing the field of public policy not only what is covered in any particular course. Students should begin collecting materials as early as possible and communicate with the committee. The final list should be submitted to each member of the examining committee no less than three weeks prior to the scheduled examination.
A. Required Course for all Public Policy Minors:

POS 513: Field Seminar in Public Policy

B. Policymaking and Implementation Subfield: (2-3 courses)

PAD 660 (PAD 660): Theories and Models of the Policy Process
PAD 522: Politics and Policy
PAD 529: Law and Policy
PAD 530: Intergovernmental Relations, Federalism, and Public Policy
POS 606 (PAD 606): Social Capital and Public Policy
POS 509: Citizen Participation and Public Policy
PAD 604 (WSS 604): Gender, Race, Class and Public Policy
POS 506/R: Implementation and Impact
PAD 605: Politics of Migration and Membership
POS 749: The Welfare State
POS 504 (PAD 504): Political Theory and Public Affairs
POS 525Q (AWSS 525/EAPS525): Feminist Thought & Public Policy
PAD 505: Statistics for Public Managers and Policy Analysts
PAD 521 Historical Analysis and Public Policy
PAD 684: Seminar in Urban Policy Analysis

C. Public Policy Substantive Area of Interest (2-3 courses)

Welfare
- PAD 520: Welfare Policy
- POS 729: The Welfare State
- SSW 600: Social Welfare Policy and Services
- SSW 732R: Poverty, Health, and Policy
- SSW 782: International Social Welfare Policy

Education
- EAPS 500: U.S. Educational Governance, Policy, and Administration
- EAPS 604: Macrosociology of Education and Administration
- EAPS 608: Politics of Education
- EAPS 658: Politics of Higher Education
- EAPS 666: Comparative Education Policy
- EAPS 670: Analysis for Educational Policy and Leadership
- EAPS 750: Higher Education Finance
- EAPS 751: Higher Education and the Law
- EAPS 771: Educational Policy and Law

Environment
- PAD 635: Health, Safety, and Environmental Regulation
- PAD 665 Biodiversity, Conservation, and Public Policy
- BIO 601 (3) Topics in Ecology: Issues in Landscape Conservation and Land Use Policy

Health
- HPM 500: Health Care Organization, Delivery and Financing
- HPM 501: Health Policy, Analysis, and Management
• HPM 627: Public Health Educations: Targeting Social, Organizational, and Behavioral Factors to Promote Health
• HPM 641: Organization and Management in Health Institutions
• HPM 669: Topics in Health Policy and Management
• PHI 505: Philosophical and Ethical Issues in Public Policy
• HPM 612: Applications in Health Policy Analysis and Evaluations
• SSW 781: Poverty Health and Health Policy

_Urban Policy_
• PAD 566: Urban Policy in the US
• POS 528: US Housing Policy
• PAD 684: Seminar in Urban Policy Analysis
• PAD 561: Urban Community Development

_Information Policy_
• IST 560: Information and Public Policy
• INF 704: Proseminar in Information Policy
• POS 543: Science, Technology, and Public Policy

_Gender and Public Policy_
• POS 525Q: Feminist Thought and Public Policy
• WSS 540: Black Women in US History
• WSS 640: Gender Inequality
• PAD 604 (WSS 604): Gender, Race, Class, and Public Policy

_Other Policy Areas Not Included in the Above List_
• Students may also propose their own specialty area and submit a set of courses for approval. The required criteria are a definition of the policy area and a justification for a series of courses from appropriate disciplines that would be comparable with those in other areas.
• Other courses not on this list, but relevant to public policy, may be presented to the student’s advisor for consideration.
Producing a successful dissertation is the most difficult element of the Ph.D. program for most students. Students are therefore strongly encouraged to select and develop their respective dissertation topics carefully and in close consultation with appropriate advisors and thoughtfully composed committees. Frequent communication with the dissertation advisor from the initial development of the prospectus to the preparation of the final dissertation draft will greatly facilitate a student’s timely and successful completion of the dissertation. It is ultimately the student’s responsibility to ensure regular communication and consultation with their advisor(s) and other committee members. Students who encounter difficulty in communicating with or getting feedback from their advisor(s), and who can demonstrate that they have already tried themselves to rectify the situation, should consult with the Director of Graduate Studies.

The Composition of the Dissertation Committee:
A student may write a dissertation in any subfield or combination of subfields that the department offers. Most students will write a dissertation primarily focused within one subfield, but the dissertation committee should be composed of those faculty members best suited to supervise the student’s research in substantive, methodological, and epistemological terms, regardless of the subfields with which these faculty members are formally aligned. Students are encouraged to work with relevant faculty in other departments or at other universities; however, a dissertation committee must have a member of the political science department as chair and at least half of its members must be faculty with tenure lines primarily in political science. The composition of the dissertation committee need not be identical to the composition of the major comprehensive exam committee. From the time the dissertation committee is formed through the committee’s approval of the student’s prospectus, the student must inform their advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies immediately about any proposed changes in committee membership. Signature forms for the dissertation committee are available on the College’s website: https://www.albany.edu/rockefeller/user_current_graduate_students_3tabs.shtml.

The Dissertation Prospectus:
While the precise format and content of a dissertation prospectus will vary according to the student’s field and advisor’s and committee’s recommendations, the prospectus should, in broad terms, be equivalent in scope and specificity to a grant proposal that might be sent to a funding agency such as the National Science Foundation or the National Endowment for the Humanities. It should be written in full scholarly format with footnotes and bibliography and must include the following elements:

A) Problem statement: a discussion of the specific problem to be examined and why it is important to the subfield(s) in which the dissertation will be situated, to political science, and to political life and/or public policy.

B) Literature review of existing research: a critical, integrative evaluation of previous research in the broad area of the dissertation. This discussion should include analysis of how the proposed research will advance understanding of the field, and how it will fit within existing theoretical frameworks and approaches.

C) Research methods: a detailed description of how the dissertation research will be carried out, including a discussion of the specific research questions and sub-questions to be asked, the theoretical framework or model within which those questions fit, and the specific methods to be used in gathering data to answer these questions. The main kinds of data and primary
source materials should be identified. If appropriate, the specific empirical tools and linguistic skills to be used should be described and their use justified.

D) Time schedule: a month-by-month time chart that sets out when specific tasks will be carried out and when the overall dissertation will be completed. As with all sections of the prospectus, the schedule is subject to revision. Nevertheless, it is crucial for the student to think seriously in these terms to ensure the proposed topic can be completed within a reasonable time period, and that the student subdivides the topic into manageable chapters or segments that allow for regular self-checking.

E) Tentative chapter outline: the outline should include a brief statement describing the proposed contents of each chapter.

F) Budget: if relevant, the prospectus should list anticipated expenses for travel, equipment, etc., and plans for financing these expenses.

G) Plan for seeking approval from the University’s Institutional Review Board (IRB): if relevant, the prospectus should discuss the timeline for submitting a proposal to the University’s Institutional Review Board to secure permission for any research involving human subjects.

The faculty shall not approve a dissertation prospectus that proposes research on human subjects unless the prospectus includes a concrete plan for securing IRB approval for this research.

The oral examination on the prospectus will not be scheduled until the committee agrees that the student is ready, based on the written prospectus and subfield preparation. A student should normally expect a response to a prospectus draft within two weeks of its submission to members of the committee. Completing several revisions of the prospectus is normal and may be required before and/or after the oral examination. A prospectus is usually about twenty-five pages (12 point font, double-spaced) or 6,000 to 7,000 words. The final prospectus should be submitted to the committee members at least three weeks prior to the defense, and the committee may request further modifications to the prospectus after the defense.

Note: The oral defense of the prospectus should normally be completed within six months after the comprehensive oral examination in the student’s major field. In some cases – for instance, if the student must complete overseas pre-dissertation field research prior to finalizing the prospectus – the student’s committee and the Director of Graduate Studies may grant an extension.

Application for Admission to Candidacy:
To advance to candidacy, a student must complete the following requirements: 1) a successful pass on a comprehensive examination in a major field, 2) a successful prospectus defense, 3) a successful pass on the comprehensive examination in the minor field, 4) completion of the scope and methods sequence, and 5) completion of the foreign language or advanced research tool requirement. The Admission to Candidacy forms are available online at:
http://www.albany.edu/graduate/graduate-forms-publications.php.
**Final Acceptance of the Dissertation:**
A student must be admitted to candidacy at least one regular semester in advance of submission of the dissertation.

Most completed doctoral dissertations will range from 250 to 400 typed, double-spaced pages. Dissertations will ordinarily be revised multiple times in response to faculty evaluations of the initial draft. Prior to final acceptance of the dissertation, the candidate must defend the dissertation before the entire dissertation committee. If necessary, members of the committee may participate in this meeting by speaker phone or other electronic means, but a formal defense open to the public must take place and the degree candidate themself must be present at the defense. To ensure that the candidate has time to make requested changes to the dissertation prior to university deadlines, the defense must take place at least three weeks prior to the deadline for formal submission of the dissertation to the University’s Office of Graduate Education – by April 10 for prospective May graduates, by July 10 for prospective August graduates, and by November 10 for prospective December graduates. Students must provide their dissertation committee with a complete copy of the dissertation at least three weeks prior to the defense. Failure to provide the final draft to the committee by this deadline may be grounds for postponement of the defense. Dissertations approved by the committee must be transmitted to the University’s Office of Graduate Education, by the student, by May 1 for degrees to be conferred in May, by August 1 for degrees to be conferred in August, and by December 1 for degrees to be conferred in December.

Note: the University will not permit students to participate in graduation ceremonies unless all degree requirements, including deposition of the dissertation, have been completed by the deadline. Details may be found on the Graduate Education website under Graduate Student Resources.
SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment of employees and students is contrary to University policy and is a violation of federal and state laws and regulations. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when: 1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or academic advancement; 2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a basis for employment or academic decisions affecting such individual; or 3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance, or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

No University employee shall impose a requirement of sexual cooperation as a condition of employment or academic advancement, or in any way contribute to or support unwelcome physical or verbal sexual behavior.

Any member of the University community who requires additional information, or wishes to make a complaint or receive a copy of the University procedures to be followed for complaints arising from matters related to the policies outlined above should contact the University’s Title IX Coordinator, Building 25, Suite 117, 518-442-3800.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

No persons in any relationship with the University at Albany, SUNY shall be subject to discrimination on the basis of age, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, gender identity, disability, Vietnam-era veteran status, marital status, or sexual orientation.

ADMISSION OF PERSONS WITH PRIOR FELONY CONVICTIONS

State University of New York (SUNY) policy prohibits University at Albany, SUNY admission applications from inquiring into an applicant’s prior criminal history. After acceptance, the College shall inquire if the student previously has been convicted of a felony if such individual seeks campus housing or participation in clinical or field experiences, internships, or study abroad programs. The information required to be disclosed under SUNY policy regarding such felony convictions shall be reviewed by a standing campus committee consistent with the legal standards articulated in New York State Corrections Law.

Students who have previously been convicted of a felony are advised that their prior criminal history may impede their ability to complete the requirements of certain academic programs and/or to meet licensure requirements for certain professions. Students who have concerns about such matters are advised to contact the dean's office of their intended academic program.
TIPS FOR GETTING READY TO TEACH YOUR FIRST CLASS

1. Tuition waiver
The union, United University Professionals (UUP), offers a tuition waiver for instructors teaching one class per semester. The form can be accessed here: http://www.albany.edu/registrar/21884.php. You should complete the form and take it to the Registrar/Student Accounts located in the Campus Center room B52.

2. Getting books from publishers
Most publishers will send instructors of record books they are adopting for their classes free of charge. (Some also provide inspection copies, but these may need to be returned if not adopted.) Visit the publisher’s website to submit a desk-copy request form. You will need to fill in information about your course, i.e. when it is being offered and anticipated enrollment. The books are usually sent to the university address.

3. How to order books?
There are two possible sources for books for undergraduates: the campus bookstore and online avenues (e.g. Amazon). To order books from the Campus bookstore go to http://www.facultyenlight.com/. Books need to be ordered early. Fall book orders are due during the spring semester and spring semester orders, during the fall semester. Summer book orders are submitted early in the spring semester. When ordering books and listing books on your syllabus, include the edition of a book, whether older editions are acceptable, and the ISBN number(s).

4. Making book chapters/articles available
If you want to assign your students book chapters/articles, you should post materials on Blackboard or note which materials students should download themselves from the university library. All courses have a Blackboard component (see below). Note this in your syllabus.

5. Essential ingredients for your syllabus
The University provides guidelines on the information required on any undergraduate course syllabus. These guidelines can be found at http://www.albany.edu/generaleducation/syllabi-requirements.php. The Political Science department also has a checklist for information to include in a syllabus; please contact the Director of Student Affairs for a copy of the departmental checklist. Sample syllabi can be found here: http://www.albany.edu/rockefeller/courses_syllabi_pos.shtml. You should actively seek out faculty members for input and advice on your syllabus.

6. In class activities
The Institution for Teaching, Learning and Academic Leadership (ITLAL) offers resources for in-class activities and mid-semester surveys. ITLAL also offers one-on-one consultation for instructors and competitive fellowships for graduate students especially interested in pedagogy.

7. Blackboard
All undergraduate courses offered by the University have a Blackboard component. If you are an instructor of record, you automatically have access via www.albany.edu/its. ITS has online tutorials available at: www.albany.edu/its/svc_blackboard.php

8. MyUAlbany
Use MyUAlbany for access to your course rosters: www.albany.edu/myualbany. Log in as an employee and click on “Academic Services and Advising” and “my class rosters.”
FACULTY

For more information about political science faculty, including curriculum vitae, sample publications, and contact information, please visit the Department of Political Science directory at http://www.albany.edu/rockefeller/directory_pos.shtml.

Victor Asal, Professor
Ph.D. University of Maryland at College Park, 2003
Specializations: Comparative Politics and International Relations

Zsofia Barta, Assistant Professor
Ph.D. London School of Economics and Political Science - European Institute, 2011
Specialization: Public Policy

Peter D. Breiner, Associate Professor
Ph.D. Stanford University, 1986
Specialization: Political Theory

Cheng Chen, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies
Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 2003
Specializations: Comparative Politics and International Relations

Christopher Clary, Assistant Professor
Ph.D. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2015
Specialization: International Affairs

José Cruz, Associate Professor
Ph.D. City University of New York, 1994
Specialization: American Politics

Bryan Early, Associate Professor
Ph.D. University of Georgia, 2009
Specialization: International Relations

Virginia Eubanks, Associate Professor
Ph.D. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 2004
Specialization: Public Policy

Sally Friedman, Associate Professor
Ph.D. University of Michigan, 1983
Specialization: American Politics

Brian Greenhill, Associate Professor and Vice Chair
Ph.D. University of Washington, 2010
Specialization: International Relations

Matthew Ingram, Associate Professor
Ph.D. University of New Mexico, 2009; JD, School of Law, University of New Mexico, 2006
Specialization: Public Law
Rey Koslowski, Associate Professor  
Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, 1994  
Specialization: International Relations

Michael J. Malbin, Professor  
Ph.D., Cornell University, 1973  
Specialization: American Politics

Bruce L. Miroff, Professor  
Ph.D., University of California at Berkeley, 1974  
Specialization: American Politics

Gregory Nowell, Associate Professor  
Ph.D. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1988  
Specialization: International Relations

Julie Novkov, Professor  
Ph.D., University of Michigan, 1998; JD, New York University School of Law, 1992  
Specialization: Public Law

David L. Rousseau, Associate Professor  
Ph.D., University of Michigan, 1996  
Specialization: International Relations

Morton Schoolman, Professor  
Ph.D., Brown University, 1975  
Specialization: Political Theory

Niloufer Siddiqui, Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., Yale University, 2017  
Specialization: Comparative Politics

Stephan Stohler, Assistant Professor  
Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania, 2014; JD, University of Pennsylvania Law School, 2010  
Specialization: Public Law

Patricia Strach, Professor  
Ph.D., University of Wisconsin at Madison, 2004  
Specializations: Public Policy and American Politics

Timothy Weaver, Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, 2012  
Specialization: Public Policy

Meredith Weiss, Professor and Department Chair  
Ph.D., Yale University, 2001  
Specialization: Comparative Politics