

**Ph.D. Program Milestones**  
**Department of Political Science**  
**University of Rochester**

**Coursework: Must complete by Year 3; typically completed in Years 1 and 2**

Successfully complete 14 regular graduate-level courses, including 6 required courses

**Fields of Concentration: Must complete by February 1 of Year 3**

Students must pass three fields of concentration by February 1 of their third year. At least one of the three fields must be Methods or Formal Theory. At least two of the fields must be passed with exams, at least one of which must be in a substantive field. To pass a field based solely on coursework, a student must take at least three courses in that field and have a GPA of at least 3.2 for at least three of those courses. Students may petition to retake a course and substitute the higher grade to satisfy this requirement.

**Second-Year Paper: Write in the summer immediately following Year 2**

Each student must complete and formally present a *second-year paper*. The second-year paper should demonstrate the capacity for conducting research.

*Associated Deadlines*

June 1 prior to a student's fifth semester: submit paper proposal to faculty advisor

August 1 prior to a student's fifth semester: submit rough draft to faculty advisor

First day of classes in a student's fifth semester: paper due

Second or third Friday (typically) of a student's fifth semester: department presentation

**Teaching Requirement: Typically fulfill in Years 3 and 4**

Students are required to serve as teaching assistants for four semesters, typically in the third and fourth years.

**Ph.D. Qualifying Exam: Must complete by the end of Year 3**

In political science, the University Ph.D. Qualifying Examination consists of the presentation and defense of a thesis proposal. The structure of the proposal will depend on the requirements set by the student's committee.

*Associated Deadlines* (dates refer to student's third year in the program)

March 1: Submit committee list and 1-page summary to Director of Graduate Studies

April 1: Submit proposal draft to committee

Two weeks prior to defense: Formally schedule defense

One week prior to defense: Submit written outline of the proposal to committee

May 31: Deadline for successful defense

**Dissertation**

Our program is designed for successful defense of the dissertation by the end of a student's fifth year.

Please consult <http://www.rochester.edu/college/psc/graduate/degree.php> for a complete list of requirements for the Ph.D. program.