

# Senate Graduate and Research Council

## Open Session

April 7, 2025

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Needles Hall

NH 3318 with Zoom option

Waterloo Campus

Think Differently | Act with Purpose | Work Together

## 2025 04 07 Senate Graduate and Research Council Meeting Book

### AGENDA

#### Governance Resources

[Link to Governance Resources](#)

#### 1. Conflict of Interest

Declaration

Excerpt from Senate Bylaw 1, regarding conflicts of interest

3

10:30 a.m.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

Decision

Motion to approve or receive for information the items on the consent agenda, listed as items 2-5 below.

#### 2. Approval of the Minutes

2.1 Minutes of March 17, 2025

Decision (SGRC)

4

#### 3. Graduate Awards and Scholarships

3.1 New Scholarships - April 2025

Decision (SGRC)

7

#### 4. Curricular Submissions

4.1 Faculty of Arts [Anna Esselment]

Decision (SGRC)

9

4.2 Faculty of Engineering [Siva Sivoththaman]

Decision (SGRC)

101

4.3 Faculty of Health [Brian Laird]

Decision (SGRC)

112

4.4 Faculty of Science [Martin Ross]

Decision (SGRC)

130

#### REGULAR AGENDA

#### 5. Business Arising from the Minutes

Input

10:35 a.m.

#### 6. Co-Chair's Remarks [Dean, Woudsma]

Information

10:40 a.m.

#### 7. Continuation of Discussion - Draft Terms of Reference for SGRC restructuring

Discussion

Material to be distributed separately ahead of the meeting

11:00 a.m.

#### 8. Task Force Reports [Sarah Hadley, Ian Milligan]

8.1 Reports from the Task Force on Principles for Institutional Partnerships and the Task Force on Social Responsibility in Investing

Discussion

137

11:20 a.m.

#### 9. Renewal of Centres & Institutes

9.1 Questions to Consider for Centre/Institute Renewals

Information

139

9.2 Centre for Theoretical Neuroscience report [Britt Anderson]

Decision (SGRC)

140

#### 10. Other Business

Input

10.1 Annual Senate Survey

174

#### 11. Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 6, 2025 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon in NH 3318

## Excerpt from Senate Bylaw 1

### 8. Declarations of conflict of interest

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- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 8.01 | At the beginning of each meeting of Senate or any of Senate's committees or councils, the chair will call for members to declare any conflicts of interest with regard to any agenda item. For agenda items to be discussed in closed session, the chair will call for declarations of conflict of interest at the beginning of the closed portion of the meeting. Members may nonetheless declare conflicts at any time during a meeting.  |
| 8.02 | A member shall be considered to have an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest, when the opportunity exists for the member to use confidential information gained as a member of Senate, or any of Senate's committees or councils, for the personal profit or advantage of any person, or use the authority, knowledge or influence of the Senate, or a committee or council thereof, to further her/his personal, familial or corporate interests or the interests of an employee of the university with whom the member has a marital, familial or sexual relationship. |
| 8.03 | Members who declare conflicts of interest shall not enter into debate nor vote upon the specified item upon which they have declared a conflict of interest. The chair will determine whether it is appropriate for said member to remove themselves from the meeting for the duration of debate on the specified item(s).  |
| 8.04 | Where Senate or a committee or council of Senate is of the opinion that a conflict of interest exists that has not been declared, the body may declare by a resolution carried by two-thirds of its members present at the meeting that a conflict of interest exists and a member thus found to be in conflict shall not enter into debate on the specified item upon which they have declared a conflict of interest. The chair will determine whether it is appropriate for said member to remove themselves from the meeting for the duration of debate on the specified item(s).   |

**University of Waterloo**  
**SENATE GRADUATE & RESEARCH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the March 17, 2025 Meeting**

**Present:** Hassan Baaj, Steven Bednarski, Sue Ann Campbell, Ashley Day (secretary), Peter Deadman, Charmaine Dean (co-chair), Robert de Loe, Bernard Duncker, Anna Esselment, Ana Ferrer, Alison Hitchens, Abhishesh Homagain, Brian Ingalls, Julie Joza, Brian Laird, Joseph Meleshko, Ian Milligan, Carlee Ann Montgomery, Marina Mourtzakis, Nicholas Pellegrino, Martin Ross, Marianne Simm, Siva Sivoththaman, Shirley Tang, Clarence Woudsma (co-chair), Alfred Yu

**Resources/Guests:** Melissa Benjamin, Gen Gauthier-Chalifour, Maysah Eid, Carrie MacKinnon Molson, Blake Phillips, Justin Wan

**Absent:** Mrittika Dreesha, Neela Hassan

**Organization of Meeting:** Charmaine Dean and Clarence Woudsma took the chair and Ashley Day acted as secretary. The secretary advised that quorum was present. The agenda was approved without formal motion.

**1. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Council heard a motion to approve or receive for information the items of the consent agenda. Duncker and Sivoththaman. Carried

**2. MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 2025 MEETING**

Council approved the minutes of the meeting as distributed.

**3. HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS BOARD**

Council received for information the renewal of a member for HREB.

**4. CURRICULAR SUBMISSIONS**

Council approved items 4.1 and 4.2 on behalf of Senate.

**5. UPDATE TO RULES FOR MAJOR MODIFICATIONS – PROGRAM NAME CHANGES**

Council received for information revised classification criteria for program name changes.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**7. CHAIR REMARKS**

Dean welcomed Hassan Baaj, Associate Dean, Research and External Partnerships for the Faculty of Engineering as a new member of SGRC.

A Tri-Council updated was provided by Dean regarding the harmonizing of all scholarship and fellowship programs from the granting agencies. The Canada Research Training Awards Suite (CRTAS) was announced on March 11, 20205. The CRTAS will include the Canada Graduate Research Scholarship for **Master's and Doctoral, among others**. This will be adjudicated in a harmonized way. SGRC will have the opportunity to weigh in over the summer. [More information can be found online.](#)

**8. DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SGRC RESTRUCTURING**

Dean invited Gen Gauthier-Chalifour, University Secretary, to speak on the restructuring process. Gauthier-Chalifour gave a high-level overview of the environmental scan and findings that supported the proposal. Dean added that other Senate level committees are being combined for efficiency, the focus of the SGRC restructuring is effectiveness. Members discussed the size of both councils with some in favour of a larger membership with more opportunity for diverse academic discussions. Others noted the size as potentially challenging to find interested Senators or other members to participate. Members discussed the distribution of Senators, students and ex-officio, asking if the addition of Senators is duplicative if they have a vote at



## **Senate Graduate and Research Council**

### **March 17, 2025 Minutes**

Senate as well. Gauthier-Chalifour clarified that this is a common model in university governance and with **UW's Board and Committees. This also allows** Senators to voice support on the Senate floor, having been involved in previous governance discussions on related matters. This also allows us to be more inclusive of members of the community. Members inquired if we have enough interest from Senators to fill six seats and Dean confirmed that Senators have expressed interest in sitting on more Senate committees.

With respect to the addition of 'four members holding regular faculty appointments' on both councils, members inquired how those seats would be chosen. Gauthier-Chalifour responded that as per the note on page 5 of the proposal, the aim is to have broad and inclusive representation from all Faculties but will revisit the allocation of the four members in the next version of the proposal. The Secretariat is looking to provide more transparency around member selection on councils/committees in the future. Members asked **for clarification about the new membership language 'Dean or designate' and the rationale for the change.** Gauthier-Chalifour clarified that this approach is being implemented across all committees for consistency in language and to allow for flexibility at the Faculty level. Dean added that there is a strong sentiment across campus to find flexibility in senior level roles. The terms of reference requires both councils to conduct an annual review of their membership and responsibilities.

A member commented on the meeting cadence of the Graduate Studies Council in relation to academic calendar publishing. It was suggested that the Graduate Studies Council meet no less than four times a year to ensure pathways for Senate approvals. Gauthier-Chalifour **responded that the word 'normally' is in** the terms of reference under section 5.4 (page 11 of the proposal) to build in flexibility. The Secretariat will work with GSPA Office to ensure council meeting cadence aligns with curriculum approval requirements and noted that special meetings could be called at the discretion of the Chair. A member requested that the **language in 5.4 be changed to 'at least four regular meetings' instead of 'normally hold four regular meetings';** Gauthier-Chalifour agreed.

Members discussed the addition of a postdoctoral scholar to the Research and Innovation Council. A member suggested that a postdoctoral scholar also be added to the Graduate Studies Council. Members were in support of adding a postdoctoral scholar to the Graduate Studies Council, as they often interact with Masters and PhD students and are involved in teaching courses. It will be critical that the supervisor supports participation of the postdoctoral scholar on any committee. Woodsma noted that this can be a grey area as postdoctoral scholars are considered students and employees under HR and the research mandate, but that their inclusion is important as they are a part of the university community and should be able to engage in strategic discussions.

Regarding student membership on the Research and Innovation Council, a member noted while other **membership roles increased, there wasn't an increase proportionately for student members. The Associate Deans Graduate Studies confirmed** that student members are present on the Faculty Councils, and SGRC is not the only body for student feedback and engagement. However, this is not consistent with the research items that come forward to SGRC. Dean noted that students have expressed interest in participating and further student consultation will be conducted on the proposed membership of both councils. The proposal aims to find a balance of having diverse voices at the table while reducing the burden on students to attend meetings.

In summary, the Secretariat noted the following key items of feedback:

- Revisit student membership on both councils, with clarity that they do not have to be Senators
- Consider additional consultation with student leaders
- Add a Post Doctoral member to the Graduate Council
- Revisit the '4 faculty members holding regular faculty appointments' on both councils
- Provide clarity on how appointments to the council are made (future item from Secretariat)
- **Graduate Studies Council, item 5.4 be changed to 'at least four regular meetings' instead of 'normally hold four regular meetings'**

In closing, Dean thanked the council for their thoughtful feedback. A revised proposal will be brought forward to the April SGRC meeting with a motion to recommend to Senate for a September 1, 2025 implementation date.

## **9. CENTRE FOR ACCOUNTING RESEARCH AND EDUCATION (CARE) RENEWAL**

Phillips, on behalf of CARE and the School of Accounting and Finance, presented an overview of the centre. The overview included the areas of focus of the centre and the importance of connection with the profession. Primary activities include the academic linkage to the profession done through symposia where practitioners and students can discuss client behaviour. The council then discussed the presentation and the renewal of the centre in camera.

**Senate Graduate and Research Council**  
**March 17, 2025 Minutes**

A motion was heard to approve the report to renew the Centre for Accounting Research and Education on behalf of Senate, as presented. Duncker and Ferrer. Carried.

**10. CURRICULAR SUBMISSIONS**

**10.1 Faculty of Arts**

Esselment spoke to the change rationale for the major modifications that impact three programs in the Faculty of Arts. Woudsma noted, in connection with item 5. Update To Rules For Major Modifications, that some name changes may be classified as minor modifications in the future.

A motion was heard to recommend that Senate approve the major modifications to the PhD in Psychology, MA in English - Critical Media Studies, and MA in English - Critical Media Studies (Co-op), as presented. Esselment and Ferrer. Carried.

**10.2 Faculty of Engineering**

Sivoththaman spoke to the new specialization and proposed collaborative programs in Master of Engineering (MEng).

A motion was heard to recommend that Senate approve the new specialization in Future Cities for the MEng in Civil Engineering, and the new collaborative programs MEng - Civil Engineering - Health Technologies (Co-op), MEng - Electrical and Computer Engineering - Health Technologies (Co-op), and MEng - Systems Design Engineering - Health Technologies (Co-op), as presented. Sivoththaman and Ross. Carried.

**10.3 Faculty of Environment**

Deadman spoke to the major modification which includes the removal of the Masters research paper study option and adds a new coursework study option that does not require a Graduate Studies Internship.

A motion was heard to recommend that Senate approve the major modifications to the Master of Climate Change (MCC), as presented. Deadman and Esselment. Carried.

**11. OTHER BUSINESS**

Dean spoke to the substantive work on the Report of the Task Force on Principles for Institutional Partnerships. SGRC will have dedicated time to discuss the report at a future meeting.

**12. CREATE LOI ADJUDICATION**

With the exception the Associate Deans and Duncker, members left the meeting. Remaining members, with staff from the Office of Research, reviewed the ranking of the submitted NSERC CREATE submissions.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 7, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. in NH 3318.

March 19, 2025

Ashley Day  
Governance Officer  
Secretariat

March 17, 2025

TO: Mike Grivicic, Associate University Secretary  
Ashley Day, Governance Officer

FROM: Heidi Mussar, Associate Director, Graduate Financial Aid & Awards

RE: Agenda items for Senate Graduate & Research Council – April 2025

**Items for Consent**

**a) David Gerard Conroy Engineering Graduate Scholarship – endowment**

An award, valued at \$3,000, will be awarded annually to a full-time domestic graduate student who is registered in any research-based Master's or Doctoral program (excluding Architecture) in the Faculty of Engineering. Selection will be based on academic excellence and research excellence and the contributions students have made in advancing research in their field. A committee comprised of representatives from the Faculty of Engineering Graduate Studies Office will select recipients annually based on nominations received from the departments. This fund is made possible by a donation from David Gerard Conroy (BASc '77) and Lynn Cope Conroy (BSc '77) to empower the next generation to achieve academic and professional success.

The value of the Award will be determined by the income generated by the Fund each year. The goal is to provide one or more awards annually, each with a value that will, at a minimum, cover the annual tuition for two years for a student in a research-based or four years for a student in a PhD program in the Faculty of Engineering. Until the endowment can support an Award of that size, UW will provide Award(s) annually with a value that can be sustained by the endowment. The value and/or number of Awards may change from year to year.

Total endowment = \$100,000

**b) Lynn Cope Conroy Graduate Scholarship for Women in Science – endowment**

An award, valued at \$3,000, will be awarded annually to a full-time domestic graduate student who identifies as a woman and who is registered in a research-based Master's or Doctoral program where women are underrepresented in the Faculty of Science. Selection will be based on academic excellence and research excellence in their program. A committee comprised of representatives from the Faculty of Science will select recipients annually, normally each winter term. This fund is made possible by a donation from David Gerard Conroy (BASc '77) and Lynn Cope Conroy (BSc '77) to empower the next generation to achieve academic and professional success.

The value of the Award will be determined by the income generated by the Fund each year. The goal is to provide one or more awards annually, each with a value that will, at a minimum, cover the annual tuition for two years for a student in a research-based Master's program or four years for a student in a PhD program in the Faculty of Science. Until the endowment can support an Award of that size, UW will provide Award(s) annually with a value that can be sustained by the endowment. The value and/or number of Awards may change from year to year.

Total endowment = \$100,000

**c) Dr. E. Palmer Patterson II Graduate Scholarship in Indigenous Histories – endowment**

One award, valued at \$1,500, will be provided annually to a master's or doctoral student registered full time in the Department of History in the Faculty of Arts. Selection will be based on academic achievement and a demonstrated interest in Indigenous histories. Interested students should submit a letter between 500 – 750 words demonstrating their interest in and engagement with Indigenous Studies by a deadline announced by the Department of History. Selection will be made by the Graduate Studies committee in the Department of History. The scholarship has been established by Francesca Patterson, with support from the Patterson Rozee Family Foundation, in memory of her father Dr. E Palmer Patterson II who taught in the History Department from 1964 to 1992. In 1972, Dr. Patterson wrote the first comprehensive academic history of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada, "The Canadian Indian: A History Since 1500".

Total endowment = \$50,000 pledged over 5 years; unless the endowment reaches its goal sooner, the first 5 years will be funded from a Trust.

# SGRC - Consent Agenda - Faculty of Arts - April 7, 2025

## Meeting Information

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**Agenda Page Title** ⓘ

SGRC - Consent Agenda - Faculty of Arts - April 7, 2025

**Career Level**

Graduate

**Faculty/Unit**

Arts

**Date**

04/07/2025

**Time**

**Location**

**Summary**

**Other Business**

**Attachment(s)**

## Course Proposals


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**Course Proposal Details**

**Courses: Retire**

No proposals have been added.

**Courses: New**

Code	Title	Type	Workflow Step	
PSCI 601	Research and Writing in Political Science	Course	SGRC, Senate Graduate and Research Council (SGRC)   Under Review	

**Courses: Changes**

No proposals have been added.

## Programs & Plans Proposals

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**Programs & Plans Proposal Details**

### Programs & Plans: Retire

No proposals have been added.

### Programs & Plans: Major Modifications

No proposals have been added.

### Programs & Plans: Minor Modifications

Code	Title	Type	Workflow Step	
PhD in Applied Philosophy	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Applied Philosophy	Program	SGRC, Senate Graduate and Research Council (SGRC)   Under Review	
PhD in Philosophy	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Philosophy	Program	SGRC, Senate Graduate and Research Council (SGRC)   Under Review	
MA in Philosophy	Master of Arts (MA) in Philosophy	Program	SGRC, Senate Graduate and Research Council (SGRC)   Under Review	
PhD in Political Science	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Political Science	Program	SGRC, Senate Graduate and Research Council (SGRC)   Under Review	
PhD in Political Science-Co-op	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Political Science - Co-operative Program	Program	SGRC, Senate Graduate and Research Council (SGRC)   Under Review	
MA in Political Science	Master of Arts (MA) in Political Science	Program	SGRC, Senate Graduate and Research Council (SGRC)   Under Review	
MA in Political Science-Co-op	Master of Arts (MA) in Political Science - Co-operative Program (direct entry)	Program	SGRC, Senate Graduate and Research Council (SGRC)   Under Review	
MA in Social & Legal Studies	Master of Arts (MA) in Social and Legal Studies	Program	SGRC, Senate Graduate and Research Council (SGRC)   Under Review	
MA in Social & Legal Studies-Co-op	Master of Arts (MA) in Social and Legal Studies - Co-operative Program (direct entry)	Program	SGRC, Senate Graduate and Research Council (SGRC)   Under Review	
MA in Sociology	Master of Arts (MA) in Sociology	Program	SGRC, Senate Graduate and Research Council (SGRC)   Under Review	
MA in Sociology-Co-op	Master of Arts (MA) in Sociology - Co-operative Program (direct entry)	Program	SGRC, Senate Graduate and Research Council (SGRC)   Under Review	

## Regulations Proposals

### Regulations Proposal Details

**Regulations: Retire**

No proposals have been added.

**Regulations: New**

No proposals have been added.

**Regulations: Changes**

No proposals have been added.

## Under Review | Fall 2025

### Workflow Status

### In Progress

**SGRC, Senate Graduate and Research Council (SGRC)**

expand ▲

**Waiting for Approval | Approval Delegate(s)**

**Mike Grivicic**

**Tim Weber-Kraljevski**

Diana Goncalves

**Melanie Figueiredo**

**Ashley Day**

## Career ?

## Graduate

### Important!

**Quest Course ID**

**Effective Term and Year ?**

Fall 2025

**Offering Number**

### Proposal Type ?

## New

### Academic Unit Approval

11/22/2024

## Rationale for New Course ②

A required course for all PSCI grad students (MA and PhD), PSCI 601 will consolidate six mandatory modules in professional development currently required of all PhD students and the currently required MA Methods Workshop (Master's Seminar). This change will better prepare MA and PhD students for MRP/thesis/dissertation writing and will create a stronger grad cohort.

## Consultations ?

## Supporting Documentation



## Course Information

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**Faculty** ⓘ

Faculty of Arts

**Academic Unit** ⓘ

Department of Political Science

**Subject Code** ⓘ

PSCI

**Number** ⓘ

601

**Title** ⓘ

Research and Writing in Political Science

**Abbreviated Title** ⓘ

Research in Political Science

**Description** ⓘ

A seminar focusing on the practicalities of research and writing in political science, topics include conducting literature reviews, research design, planning and best practices in field work, conferencing best practices, careers and skills translation, and communicating research to a broader audience.

**Units** ⓘ

0.50

**Components** ⓘ

Seminar

**Primary Component**

Seminar

## Grading Information

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**Grading Basis**

Credit/No Credit

## Cross-Listing Information

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**Is this course cross-listed?** ⓘ

No

## Repeatable Courses

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**Can this course be repeated for credit?**

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No

# Enrolment Rules

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**Consent to Add ?**

No consent required

**Consent to Drop ?**

No consent required

**Prerequisites ?**

No Rules

**Corequisites ?**

No Rules

**Antirequisites ?**

No Rules

# Course Notes

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**Fee Statement ?**

# Workflow Information

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**Workflow Path ?**

Committee approvals

**Faculty/AFIW Path(s) for Workflow ?**

Faculty of Arts

# Dependencies

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**Dependent Courses and Programs/Plans**

There are no dependencies

PhD in Applied Philosophy

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Applied Philosophy

Under Review | Fall 2025

Proposal Information

<b>Status</b> Active	<b>Workflow Status</b> In Progress <b>SGRC, Senate Graduate and Research Council (SGRC)</b> expand ▲ Waiting for Approval   Approval Delegate(s) Mike Grivicic Tim Weber-Kraljevski Diana Goncalves Melanie Figueiredo Ashley Day  <b>Changes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Effective Term and Year</li><li>Graduate Course Requirements</li></ul>
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Effective Date and Career

<b>Career</b> Graduate	<b>Important!</b>  Proposed <b>Effective Term and Year</b> ⓘ Fall 2025  Existing <b>Effective Term and Year</b> ⓘ Fall 2023
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Proposal Details

<b>Proposal Type</b> ⓘ Change	<b>Academic Unit Approval</b> 11/29/2024
<b>Quality Assurance Designation</b> ⓘ Minor Modification	

**Is there an impact to existing students? ⓘ**

Yes

**Impact on Existing Students ⓘ**

The only students currently registered who might be affected by these changes are part-time graduate students and students in Year 1 of a PhD program, since those students take at least one 600-level seminar in Year 2. In both cases, the change does not introduce any new barriers or requirements for the students. If necessary, those students will be able to substitute a 673 or 675 in place of a previously required 674 or 676.

**Is the credential name changing?**

No

**Graduate Co-operative Requirements**

Not Applicable

**Internship Requirements**

Not Applicable

**Rationale and Background for Change(s) ⓘ**

The Philosophy Department requires all graduate students take PHIL 680 A/B, a methods and professional development seminar. Currently, the department divides the remaining graduate course offerings into two categories, based on whether they are held with 400-level undergraduate courses. 674/676 courses are not held with undergraduate courses, while 673/675 courses are typically held with 400-level undergraduate courses.

Currently, graduate students are required to take a certain number of 674/676 courses. Students in the MA program must take at least one 674/676 and students in the PhD programs must take at least two 674/676 courses. The aim of the change is to eliminate this requirement in order to give graduate students more flexibility in choosing their courses. Students will still be required to take 680A/B and the same total number of 600-level graduate seminars, but they will be able to choose among all of the available 600-level seminars.

Students in the Applied Philosophy PhD program will still be required to take at least two 'applied Philosophy' seminars at the 600-level. 673 indicates that the course is a regular (i.e. non-applied) philosophy course, and 675 indicates that it is an applied philosophy course.

Change to Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Applied Philosophy

Current version of one of our requirements:

- 5 one-term Philosophy graduate courses (0.50 unit weight per course), at least 2 of which are PHIL 675 or PHIL 676, and at least 2 of which are PHIL 674 or PHIL 676.

New version of this requirement:

- 5 one-term Philosophy graduate courses (0.50 unit weight per course), at least 2 of which are PHIL 675.

The proposed changes will increase course choices for graduate students and simplify their program requirements. All graduate courses that are held with undergraduate courses will include learning outcomes that are specific to graduate students.

**Consultations (Departmental) ⓘ****Supporting Documentation**

# General Program/Plan Information

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**Faculty ⓘ**

Faculty of Arts

**Graduate Field of Study**

Philosophy

**Program/Plan Name ⓘ**

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Applied Philosophy

**Graduate Credential Type**

PhD

**Program Types**

**Delivery Mode**

On-campus

**Length of Program**

**Registration Option(s)**

Full-time

Part-time

**Graduate Research Fields**

- Ethics and Political Philosophy
- Language, Logic and Metaphysics
- Mind and Cognitive Science
- Philosophy of Science and Mathematics

**Graduate Specializations**

**Additional Program Information**

**Academic Unit ⓘ**

Department of Philosophy

**Faculty ⓘ**

Faculty of Arts

**Accelerated Program**

Not applicable

**Admit Term(s)**

Fall

**Delivery Mode Information**

**Registration Options Information**

# Admissions

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**Admission Requirements: Minimum Requirements ?**

- The average required for admission to the PhD in Applied Philosophy program is 80%.
- The typical background for Applied Philosophy PhD students is a Master of Arts (MA) in Philosophy.
- Applicants with a Master's in a related discipline are encouraged to apply. Depending on the amount of philosophy background, these applicants may be admitted to the PhD in Applied Philosophy program or may be admitted to the MA in Philosophy program. (A separate application to the MA program is not required.)
- English language proficiency (ELP) (if applicable)

**Admission Requirements: Application materials**

- Supplementary information form
  - Statements answering the questions below (at most 300 words for each answer):
    - Question 1: Please provide a brief statement of interest that outlines the areas of philosophy you hope to pursue in the program. Include an explanation of your interests in applied philosophy, and what kind of placement you hope to engage in.
    - Question 2: Please explain why the University of Waterloo's Department of Philosophy is a good place to pursue such a project, and why your background makes you well suited to pursue it successfully. Include any work or volunteer experience relevant to your interests in applied philosophy.
  - Transcript(s)
    - From previous institutions.
    - At the time of applying, an unofficial transcript is fine; if and when a student is enrolled they will be asked to submit official copies.
  - Writing sample
    - A philosophy paper of around 2500 words is desirable; longer and shorter papers are acceptable too, but please do not send anything longer than 5,000 words.

**Admission Requirements: References**

- Number of references: 3
- Type of references: academic (1 of which may be from a referee outside of academic philosophy)

## Requirements Information

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**Graduate Degree Requirements ?**

- Students must complete the course and milestone requirements listed below in addition to the Graduate Academic Integrity Module (Graduate AIM).

**Graduate Course Requirements**

No Rules

## Proposed

### Graduate Course Requirements

- Students must complete the following courses:
  - PHIL 680A/PHIL 680B Departmental Graduate Seminar.
    - The seminar is a graduate level survey course intended to acquaint students with a number of topics under active investigation in the philosophical literature in a specific area of philosophy.
  - 5 one-term Philosophy graduate courses (0.50 unit weight per course), at least 2 of which are PHIL 675.
  - With the approval of the Graduate Officer, a student may replace one Philosophy graduate course (0.50 unit weight) with a graduate course from another department/school.
  - 1 applied research placement course: PHIL 699 Applied Research Placement Tutorial.
    - The applied research placement is an eight-month activity during which roughly half of the time is spent doing background research and learning relevant to a particular topic, three or four months are spent in a placement with a host organization confronting a practical problem related to that topic, and one month is spent completing writing and research projects.
    - The intention is that the applied research placement will prepare the student to make a research contribution in a particular area of philosophy.
    - The student selects a faculty supervisor for the Applied Research Placement in consultation with their pro tem advisor and the Advisor for Applied Philosophy. The Advisor for Applied Philosophy and the supervisor will work with the student to find a suitable applied philosophy research project in the student's area of interest.
    - The faculty member supervising the Applied Research Placement may assign readings and assign papers, and may also require the taking or auditing of relevant courses if a student requires enhanced foundational knowledge of theory, methods, or topic area. The supervisor will also determine the basis for assigning the grade for the Applied Research Placement. The Applied Research Placement supervisor may, in consultation with the Graduate Officer, choose to have a second faculty member participate in the assessment of any assignment or component. Work which has been submitted for credit in a course may not be submitted for credit in an Applied Research Placement.
  - To be admitted to the thesis proposal stage, students must complete these courses (i.e., seminar, courses, and applied research placement) with an average of 83% and no mark lower than 75%.
  - Students are expected to complete their courses (i.e., seminar, courses, and applied research placement) during the first five terms of their doctoral studies. Students who do not complete this work within five terms may only continue in the program at the Department's discretion. The Department may choose to set a further deadline for the completion of outstanding coursework or the applied research placement on a case-by-case basis. Students who do not meet all such further deadlines may be required to withdraw from the program.
  - In a case where the failure to meet progression requirements are solely due to problems in completing the applied research placement that are judged not to be primarily the responsibility of the student, they may be permitted to transfer to the Philosophy PhD program.

## Existing

## Graduate Course Requirements

- Students must complete the following courses:
  - PHIL 680A/PHIL 680B Departmental Graduate Seminar.
    - The seminar is a graduate level survey course intended to acquaint students with a number of topics under active investigation in the philosophical literature in a specific area of philosophy.
  - 5 one-term Philosophy graduate courses (0.50 unit weight per course), at least 2 of which are PHIL 675 or PHIL 676, and at least 2 of which are PHIL 674 or PHIL 676.
  - With the approval of the Graduate Officer, a student may replace one Philosophy graduate course (0.50 unit weight) with a graduate course from another department/school.
  - 1 applied research placement course: PHIL 699 Applied Research Placement Tutorial.
    - The applied research placement is an eight-month activity during which roughly half of the time is spent doing background research and learning relevant to a particular topic, three or four months are spent in a placement with a host organization confronting a practical problem related to that topic, and one month is spent completing writing and research projects.
    - The intention is that the applied research placement will prepare the student to make a research contribution in a particular area of philosophy.
    - The student selects a faculty supervisor for the Applied Research Placement in consultation with their pro tem advisor and the Advisor for Applied Philosophy. The Advisor for Applied Philosophy and the supervisor will work with the student to find a suitable applied philosophy research project in the student's area of interest.
    - The faculty member supervising the Applied Research Placement may assign readings and assign papers, and may also require the taking or auditing of relevant courses if a student requires enhanced foundational knowledge of theory, methods, or topic area. The supervisor will also determine the basis for assigning the grade for the Applied Research Placement. The Applied Research Placement supervisor may, in consultation with the Graduate Officer, choose to have a second faculty member participate in the assessment of any assignment or component. Work which has been submitted for credit in a course may not be submitted for credit in an Applied Research Placement.
  - To be admitted to the thesis proposal stage, students must complete these courses (i.e., seminar, courses, and applied research placement) with an average of 83% and no mark lower than 75%.
  - Students are expected to complete their courses (i.e., seminar, courses, and applied research placement) during the first five terms of their doctoral studies. Students who do not complete this work within five terms may only continue in the program at the Department's discretion. The Department may choose to set a further deadline for the completion of outstanding coursework or the applied research placement on a case-by-case basis. Students who do not meet all such further deadlines may be required to withdraw from the program.
  - In a case where the failure to meet progression requirements are solely due to problems in completing the applied research placement that are judged not to be primarily the responsibility of the student, they may be permitted to transfer to the Philosophy PhD program.



## Milestone Requirements

### PhD Thesis Proposal

- Upon completion of their courses (i.e., seminar, courses, and applied research placement), students are admitted to the thesis proposal stage. They should then undertake discussions with a member of the Department and invite that person to be supervisor of their doctoral thesis, and should consult with the Graduate Officer concerning the formation of their Thesis Committee. Students will then complete a dissertation prospectus. The project must involve the use of philosophical techniques or concepts to understand actual cases or substantial empirical or interdisciplinary work. The Thesis Committee examines the student about the prospectus as they see fit, though normally in an oral exam. The Committee may pass the proposal; pass it with revisions; or require the student to revise the proposal for re-examination. At the re-examination the Committee may pass the proposal; or they may reject the proposal and require the student to withdraw from the program.

### PhD Thesis

- Upon successful defence of the dissertation prospectus, students proceed to the thesis stage. The dissertation project may take the form of a traditional monograph, or it may take the form of several scholarly papers on interrelated topics, or it may take the form of scholarly papers together with work of a different type. In the case of the last option, the scholarly work should form the major component of the project, and the final part may take another form: it could be one or several publications for the press (for example, one in-depth article or three op-ed pieces); it could be a policy recommendation; it could be a contribution to industry (for example, part of a corporate ethics code). In the latter case, the student may be examined on the entire dissertation project at the defense, but it is expected that most of the questioning and most of the decision will be based on discussion of the scholarly component. The PhD degree is awarded after the project has been successfully defended in a public meeting and the student has submitted the final approved version of their thesis to UWSpace.

### Other requirements

- Teaching preparation: PhD students will normally complete the Centre for Teaching Excellence (CTE), CTE's Fundamentals of University Teaching, course in their first year. Completion of this course is required before students are eligible to teach courses independently for the Department of Philosophy. The Department recommends that students who intend to pursue a career in university teaching also complete CTE's Certificate in University Teaching during their time in the program.
- TCPS 2 Tutorial Course on Research Ethics (CORE): Students will normally complete the CORE human ethics training in their first two terms. They may be required to complete it before the start of a placement with a host as part of PHIL 699 Applied Research Placement. If a student's placement does not require TCPS 2, the student is required, nonetheless, to complete TCPS 2 by the end of their fifth term.

#### Notes ⓘ

- Department of Philosophy website
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Applied Philosophy future students program page

## Workflow Information

#### Workflow Path ⓘ

Committee approvals

#### Faculty/AFIW Path(s) for Workflow ⓘ

Faculty of Arts

#### Senate Workflow

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## Dependencies

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### Dependent Courses and Programs/Plans

There are no dependencies

PhD in Philosophy

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Philosophy

Under Review | Fall 2025

Proposal Information

<b>Status</b>	<b>Workflow Status</b>
Active	In Progress
	<b>SGRC, Senate Graduate and Research Council (SGRC)</b> expand ▲
	Waiting for Approval   Approval Delegate(s)
	Mike Grivicic
	Tim Weber-Kraljevski
	Diana Goncalves
	Melanie Figueiredo
	Ashley Day
	<b>Changes</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Effective Term and Year</li><li>Graduate Course Requirements</li></ul>

Effective Date and Career

<b>Career</b>	<b>Important!</b>
Graduate	
	Proposed
	<b>Effective Term and Year</b> ⓘ
	Fall 2025
	Existing
	<b>Effective Term and Year</b> ⓘ
	Fall 2023

Proposal Details

<b>Proposal Type</b> ⓘ	<b>Academic Unit Approval</b>
Change	11/29/2024
<b>Quality Assurance Designation</b> ⓘ	
Minor Modification	

**Is there an impact to existing students? ⓘ**

Yes

**Impact on Existing Students ⓘ**

The only students currently registered who might be affected by these changes are part-time graduate students and students in Year 1 of a PhD program, since those students take at least one 600-level seminar in Year 2. In both cases, the change does not introduce any new barriers or requirements for the students. If necessary, those students will be able to substitute a 673 or 675 in place of a previously required 674 or 676.

**Is the credential name changing?**

No

**Graduate Co-operative Requirements**

Not Applicable

**Internship Requirements**

Not Applicable

**Rationale and Background for Change(s) ⓘ**

The Philosophy Department requires all graduate students take PHIL 680 A/B, a methods and professional development seminar. Currently, the department divides the remaining graduate course offerings into two categories, based on whether they are held with 400-level undergraduate courses. 674/676 courses are not held with undergraduate courses, while 673/675 courses are typically held with 400-level undergraduate courses.

Currently, graduate students are required to take a certain number of 674/676 courses. Students in the MA program must take at least one 674/676 and students in the PhD programs must take at least two 674/676 courses. The aim of the change is to eliminate this requirement in order to give graduate students more flexibility in choosing their courses. Students will still be required to take 680A/B and the same total number of 600-level graduate seminars, but they will be able to choose among all of the available 600-level seminars.

Students in the Applied Philosophy PhD program will still be required to take at least two 'applied Philosophy' seminars at the 600-level. 673 indicates that the course is a regular (i.e. non-applied) philosophy course, and 675 indicates that it is an applied philosophy course.

Change to Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Philosophy

Current version of one of our requirements:

- 5 one-term Philosophy graduate courses (0.50 unit weight per course), at least 2 of which are PHIL 674.

New version of this requirement:

- 5 one-term Philosophy graduate courses (0.50 unit weight per course).

The proposed changes will increase course choices for graduate students and simplify their program requirements. All graduate courses that are held with undergraduate courses will include learning outcomes that are specific to graduate students.

**Consultations (Departmental) ⓘ****Supporting Documentation**

# General Program/Plan Information

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**Faculty ⓘ**

Faculty of Arts

**Graduate Field of Study**

Philosophy

**Program/Plan Name ⓘ**

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Philosophy

**Graduate Credential Type**

PhD

**Program Types**

**Delivery Mode**

On-campus

**Length of Program**

**Registration Option(s)**

Full-time

Part-time

**Graduate Research Fields**

- Ethics and Political Philosophy
- Language, Logic and Metaphysics
- Mind and Cognitive Science
- Philosophy of Science and Mathematics

**Graduate Specializations**

**Additional Program Information**

**Academic Unit ⓘ**

Department of Philosophy

**Faculty ⓘ**

Faculty of Arts

**Accelerated Program**

Not applicable

**Admit Term(s)**

Fall

**Delivery Mode Information**

**Registration Options Information**

# Admissions

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**Admission Requirements: Minimum Requirements ?**

- The average required for admission to the PhD in Philosophy program is 80%.
- The typical background for PhD students is a Master of Arts (MA) in Philosophy.
- Applicants with a Master's in a related discipline are encouraged to apply. Depending on the amount of philosophy background, these applicants may be admitted to the PhD in Philosophy program or may be admitted to the MA in Philosophy program. (A separate application to the MA program is not required.)
- English language proficiency (ELP) (if applicable)

**Admission Requirements: Application materials**

- Supplementary information form
  - Statements answering the questions below (at most 250 words for each answer):
    - Question 1: Please provide a brief statement of interest that outlines the areas of philosophy you hope to pursue in the program.
    - Question 2: Please explain why the University of Waterloo's Department of Philosophy is a good place to pursue such a project, and why your background makes you well suited to pursue it successfully.
- Transcript(s)
  - From previous institutions.
  - At the time of applying, an unofficial transcript is fine; if and when a student is enrolled they will be asked to submit official copies.
- Writing sample
  - A philosophy paper of around 2500 words is desirable; longer and shorter papers are acceptable too, but please do not send anything longer than 5,000 words.

**Admission Requirements: References**

- Number of references: 3
- Type of references: academic

## Requirements Information

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**Graduate Degree Requirements ?**

- Students must complete the course and milestone requirements listed below in addition to the Graduate Academic Integrity Module (Graduate AIM).

**Graduate Course Requirements**

No Rules

## Proposed

### Graduate Course Requirements

- Students must complete the following courses:
  - PHIL 680A/PHIL 680B Departmental Graduate Seminar.
    - The seminar is a graduate level survey course intended to acquaint students with a number of topics under active investigation in the philosophical literature in a specific area of philosophy.
  - 5 one-term Philosophy graduate courses (0.50 unit weight per course).
  - With the approval of the Graduate Officer, a student may replace one Philosophy graduate course (0.50 unit weight) with a graduate course from another department.
  - 1 research area course (PHIL 698 Research Area Tutorials for PhD).
    - The intention is that each research area will prepare the student to make a research contribution in a particular area of philosophy.
    - The student selects a faculty supervisor for the Research Area in consultation with their pro tem advisor and the Graduate Officer. While it is possible to do an area in one of the traditional divisions of philosophy (e.g., Metaphysics, Ethics, Logic or History of Philosophy), it will normally be on a more specific topic (e.g., Theories of Meaning and Mental Content, Theories of Human Rights, Theories of Truth, Plato's Later Dialogues).
    - The faculty member supervising a Research Area will determine the program for it, which normally should be designed to be completed by the student in two terms. In determining the assignments for the Research Area, the faculty member may assign readings and assign papers, and may also require the taking or auditing of relevant courses if a student requires enhanced foundational knowledge of theory, methods, or topic area. The faculty member will also determine the basis for assigning the grade for the Research Area. The Research Area supervisor may, in consultation with the Graduate Officer, choose to have a second faculty member participate in the assessment of any assignment or component. Work which has been submitted for credit in a course may not be submitted for credit in a Research Area.
- To be admitted to the thesis proposal stage, students must complete these courses (i.e., seminar, courses, and research area) with an average of 83% and no mark lower than 75%.
- Students are expected to complete their courses (i.e., seminar, courses, and research area) during the first five terms of their doctoral studies. Students who do not complete this work within five terms may only continue in the program at the Department's discretion. The Department may choose to set a further deadline for the completion of outstanding coursework or the research area on a case-by-case basis. Students who do not meet all such further deadlines may be required to withdraw from the program.

## Existing

## Graduate Course Requirements

- Students must complete the following courses:
  - PHIL 680A/PHIL 680B Departmental Graduate Seminar.
    - The seminar is a graduate level survey course intended to acquaint students with a number of topics under active investigation in the philosophical literature in a specific area of philosophy.
  - 5 one-term Philosophy graduate courses (0.50 unit weight per course), at least 2 of which are PHIL 674 Graduate Courses.
  - With the approval of the Graduate Officer, a student may replace one Philosophy graduate course (0.50 unit weight) with a graduate course from another department.
  - 1 research area course (PHIL 698 Research Area Tutorials for PhD).
    - The intention is that each research area will prepare the student to make a research contribution in a particular area of philosophy.
    - The student selects a faculty supervisor for the Research Area in consultation with their pro tem advisor and the Graduate Officer. While it is possible to do an area in one of the traditional divisions of philosophy (e.g., Metaphysics, Ethics, Logic or History of Philosophy), it will normally be on a more specific topic (e.g., Theories of Meaning and Mental Content, Theories of Human Rights, Theories of Truth, Plato's Later Dialogues).
    - The faculty member supervising a Research Area will determine the program for it, which normally should be designed to be completed by the student in two terms. In determining the assignments for the Research Area, the faculty member may assign readings and assign papers, and may also require the taking or auditing of relevant courses if a student requires enhanced foundational knowledge of theory, methods, or topic area. The faculty member will also determine the basis for assigning the grade for the Research Area. The Research Area supervisor may, in consultation with the Graduate Officer, choose to have a second faculty member participate in the assessment of any assignment or component. Work which has been submitted for credit in a course may not be submitted for credit in a Research Area.
- To be admitted to the thesis proposal stage, students must complete these courses (i.e., seminar, courses, and research area) with an average of 83% and no mark lower than 75%.
- Students are expected to complete their courses (i.e., seminar, courses, and research area) during the first five terms of their doctoral studies. Students who do not complete this work within five terms may only continue in the program at the Department's discretion. The Department may choose to set a further deadline for the completion of outstanding coursework or the research area on a case-by-case basis. Students who do not meet all such further deadlines may be required to withdraw from the program.



**Milestone Requirements**

**PhD Thesis Proposal**

- Upon completion of their courses (i.e., seminar, courses, and research area), students are admitted to the thesis proposal stage. They should then undertake discussions with a member of the Department and invite that person to be supervisor of their doctoral thesis, and should consult with the Graduate Officer concerning the formation of their Thesis Committee. Students will then complete a dissertation prospectus. The Thesis Committee examines the student about the prospectus as they see fit, though normally in an oral exam. The Committee may pass the proposal; pass it with revisions; require the student to revise the proposal for re-examination. At the re-examination the Committee may pass the proposal; or they may reject the proposal and require the student to withdraw from the program.

**PhD Thesis**

- Upon successful defence of the dissertation prospectus, students proceed to the thesis stage. The PhD degree is awarded after the thesis has been successfully defended in a public meeting and the student has submitted the final approved version of their thesis to UWSpace.

**Other requirements**

- Teaching preparation: PhD students will normally complete the Centre for Teaching Excellence (CTE), CTE's Fundamentals of University Teaching, course in their first year. Completion of this course is required before students are eligible to teach courses independently for the Department of Philosophy. The Department recommends that students who intend to pursue a career in university teaching also complete CTE's Certificate in University Teaching during their time in the program.

**Notes ⓘ**

- Department of Philosophy website
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Philosophy future students program page

**Workflow Information**

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**Workflow Path ⓘ**

Committee approvals

**Faculty/AFIW Path(s) for Workflow ⓘ**

Faculty of Arts

**Senate Workflow**

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**Dependencies**

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**Dependent Courses and Programs/Plans**

There are no dependencies

# MA in Philosophy

## Master of Arts (MA) in Philosophy

Under Review | Fall 2025

### Proposal Information

**Status**

Active

**Workflow Status**

In Progress

**SGRC, Senate Graduate and Research Council (SGRC)**

expand ▲

Waiting for Approval | Approval Delegate(s)

- Mike Grivicic
- Tim Weber-Kraljevski
- Diana Goncalves
- Melanie Figueiredo
- Ashley Day

**Changes**

- Coursework Option: Course Requirements
- Thesis Option: Course Requirements
- Effective Term and Year
- Admin Notes

### Effective Date and Career

**Career**

Graduate

**Important!**

Proposed  
**Effective Term and Year** ⓘ  
Fall 2025

Existing  
**Effective Term and Year** ⓘ  
Spring 2024

### Proposal Details

**Proposal Type** ⓘ

Change

**Academic Unit Approval**

11/29/2024

**Quality Assurance Designation ⓘ**

Minor Modification

**Is there an impact to existing students? ⓘ**

Yes

**Impact on Existing Students ⓘ**

The only students currently registered who might be affected by these changes are part-time graduate students and students in Year 1 of a PhD program, since those students take at least one 600-level seminar in Year 2. In both cases, the change does not introduce any new barriers or requirements for the students. If necessary, those students will be able to substitute a 673 or 675 in place of a previously required 674 or 676.

**Is the credential name changing?**

No

**Graduate Co-operative Requirements**

Not Applicable

**Internship Requirements**

Not Applicable

**Rationale and Background for Change(s) ⓘ**

The Philosophy Department requires all graduate students take PHIL 680 A/B, a methods and professional development seminar. Currently, the department divides the remaining graduate course offerings into two categories, based on whether they are held with 400-level undergraduate courses. 674/676 courses are not held with undergraduate courses, while 673/675 courses are typically held with 400-level undergraduate courses.

Currently, graduate students are required to take a certain number of 674/676 courses. Students in the MA program must take at least one 674/676 and students in the PhD programs must take at least two 674/676 courses. The aim of the change is to eliminate this requirement in order to give graduate students more flexibility in choosing their courses. Students will still be required to take 680A/B and the same total number of 600-level graduate seminars, but they will be able to choose among all of the available 600-level seminars.

Students in the Applied Philosophy PhD program will still be required to take at least two 'applied Philosophy' seminars at the 600-level. 673 indicates that the course is a regular (i.e. non-applied) philosophy course, and 675 indicates that it is an applied philosophy course.

Change to MA in Philosophy:

Current version of one of our requirements:

- 3 one-term graduate courses (0.50 unit weight per course), at least 1 of which is a PHIL 674 Graduate Courses.

New version:

- 3 one-term graduate courses (0.50 unit weight per course).

The proposed changes will increase course choices for graduate students and simplify their program requirements. All graduate courses that are held with undergraduate courses will include learning outcomes that are specific to graduate students.

**Consultations (Departmental) ⓘ**

# General Program/Plan Information

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**Faculty ⓘ**

Faculty of Arts

**Academic Unit ⓘ**

Department of Philosophy

**Graduate Field of Study**

Philosophy

**Faculty ⓘ**

Faculty of Arts

**Program/Plan Name ⓘ**

Master of Arts (MA) in Philosophy

**Graduate Credential Type**

Master's

**Accelerated Program**

Not applicable

**Study Options (New)**

Thesis / Coursework

**Program Types**

**Admit Term(s)**

Fall

**Delivery Mode**

On-campus

**Delivery Mode Information**

**Length of Program**

- 3 terms (12 months)

**Registration Option(s)**

Full-time

Part-time

**Registration Options Information**

**Graduate Research Fields**

- Ethics and Political Philosophy
- Language, Logic and Metaphysics
- Mind and Cognitive Science
- Philosophy of Science and Mathematics

**Graduate Specializations**

**Additional Program Information**

# Admissions

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## Admission Requirements: Minimum Requirements ②

- The average required for admission to the Master of Arts (MA) in Philosophy program is 78%.
- The typical background for MA students is a four-year Honours Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy.
- Applicants with a three-year general BA in Philosophy may also apply and may be accepted as "qualifying" students who will take a qualifying program that normally includes a minimum of eight specified undergraduate courses over a minimum of two terms. Completion of a qualifying program does not automatically entitle students to proceed towards the MA. Students who wish to enter the MA program after completing a qualifying program must apply again in the normal way.
- Applicants with a 4-year Honours Bachelor's in another field who have a philosophy minor or significant philosophy background are encouraged to apply. Applicants should keep in mind that reference letters from philosophy professors are strongly preferred. Depending on the amount of philosophy background, these applicants may be admitted either as regular students or as "transitional" students. A transitional student will normally be required to complete selected graduate or undergraduate courses, to be specified in writing at the time the student is recommended for admission, in addition to the usual requirements of the MA program. A transitional student is admitted directly into the MA program and is eligible for funding.
- Applicants with a 4-year Honours Bachelor's in another field who have only some philosophy background may also apply and may be accepted as "qualifying" students who will take a qualifying program that normally includes a minimum of eight specified undergraduate courses over a minimum of two terms. Completion of a qualifying program does not automatically entitle students to proceed towards the MA. Students who wish to enter the MA program after completing a qualifying program must apply again in the normal way.
- English language proficiency (ELP) (if applicable)

## Admission Requirements: Application materials

- Supplementary information form
  - Statements answering the questions below (at most 250 words for each answer):
    - Question 1: Please provide a brief statement of interest that outlines the areas of philosophy you hope to pursue in the program.
    - Question 2: Please explain why the University of Waterloo's Department of Philosophy is a good place to pursue such a project, and why your background makes you well suited to pursue it successfully.
- Transcript(s)
  - From previous institutions.
  - At the time of applying, an unofficial transcript is fine; if and when a student is enrolled they will be asked to submit official copies.
- Writing sample
  - A philosophy paper of around 2500 words is desirable; longer and shorter papers are acceptable too, but please do not send anything longer than 5,000 words.

## Admission Requirements: References

- Number of references: 3
- Type of references: academic

# Requirements Information

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## **Graduate Degree Requirements** ⓘ

- Students must complete the course and milestone requirements associated with their chosen study option in addition to the Graduate Academic Integrity Module (Graduate AIM).

### **Thesis Option: Course Requirements**

No Rules

Proposed

#### **Thesis Option: Course Requirements**

- Students must complete the following courses:
  - PHIL 680A/PHIL 680B Departmental Graduate Seminar.
  - 3 one-term graduate courses (0.50 unit weight per course).
  - 1 directed research course (PHIL 696 Directed Research for MA Candidates).
- The directed research course will normally be taken with the thesis supervisor, and will involve research leading to the production of the thesis. Students wishing to take this option should have decided on their topic by mid-year.
- Students must complete PHIL 680A/PHIL 680B and the 3 one-term courses required for the degree with a 78% average with at least one mark in the 80-100% range. The grade requirement for PHIL 696, the preparatory research course for the thesis, is a mark no lower than 78%.

Existing

#### **Thesis Option: Course Requirements**

- Students must complete the following courses:
  - PHIL 680A/PHIL 680B Departmental Graduate Seminar.
  - 3 one-term graduate courses (0.50 unit weight per course), at least 1 of which is a PHIL 674 Graduate Courses.
  - 1 directed research course (PHIL 696 Directed Research for MA Candidates).
- The directed research course will normally be taken with the thesis supervisor, and will involve research leading to the production of the thesis. Students wishing to take this option should have decided on their topic by mid-year.
- Students must complete PHIL 680A/PHIL 680B and the 3 one-term courses required for the degree with a 78% average with at least one mark in the 80-100% range. The grade requirement for PHIL 696, the preparatory research course for the thesis, is a mark no lower than 78%.

### **Thesis Option: Milestone Requirements**

## **Master's Thesis**

- The thesis must be accepted by a committee made up of the thesis supervisor and two other members of the department, to be selected in consultation with the Graduate Officer.

### **Coursework Option: Course Requirements**

No Rules

## Proposed

### Coursework Option: Course Requirements

- Students must complete the following courses:
  - PHIL 680A/PHIL 680B Departmental Graduate Seminar.
  - 3 one-term graduate courses (0.50 unit weight per course).
  - 3 directed research courses (PHIL 696 Directed Research for MA Candidates).
- The 3 directed research courses involve writing research papers under the supervision of three different members of the department. The choice of subjects is not restricted in advance, but must be agreed to by the student's supervisor and by the Graduate Officer. Students with special interests may take 1 of these courses with a member of another department if they have received approval from the Graduate Officer.
- Students must complete PHIL 680A/PHIL 680B and the 3 one-term courses required for the degree with a 78% average with at least one mark in the 80-100% range. The grade requirement for the 3 PHIL 696 directed research courses in lieu of a thesis is no mark lower than 78% with at least 1 in the 80-100% range.

## Existing

### Coursework Option: Course Requirements

- Students must complete the following courses:
  - PHIL 680A/PHIL 680B Departmental Graduate Seminar.
  - 3 one-term graduate courses (0.50 unit weight per course), at least 1 of which is a PHIL 674 Graduate Courses.
  - 3 directed research courses (PHIL 696 Directed Research for MA Candidates).
- The 3 directed research courses involve writing research papers under the supervision of three different members of the department. The choice of subjects is not restricted in advance, but must be agreed to by the student's supervisor and by the Graduate Officer. Students with special interests may take 1 of these courses with a member of another department if they have received approval from the Graduate Officer.
- Students must complete PHIL 680A/PHIL 680B and the 3 one-term courses required for the degree with a 78% average with at least one mark in the 80-100% range. The grade requirement for the 3 PHIL 696 directed research courses in lieu of a thesis is no mark lower than 78% with at least 1 in the 80-100% range.

### Coursework Option: Milestone Requirements

## Notes ⓘ

- Department of Philosophy website
- Master of Arts (MA) in Philosophy future students program page

## Workflow Information

### Workflow Path ⓘ

Committee approvals

### Faculty/AFIW Path(s) for Workflow ⓘ

Faculty of Arts

### Senate Workflow

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## Dependencies

### Dependent Courses and Programs/Plans

There are no dependencies

PhD in Political Science

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Political Science

Under Review | Fall 2025

Proposal Information

<div>Status</div> <div>Active</div>	<div>Workflow Status</div> <div>In Progress</div> <div>SGRC, Senate Graduate and Research Council (SGRC) <div>expand ▲</div></div> <div>Waiting for Approval   Approval Delegate(s)</div> <div><div>Mike Grivicic</div><div>Tim Weber-Kraljevski</div><div>Diana Goncalves</div><div>Melanie Figueiredo</div><div>Ashley Day</div></div> <div>Changes</div> <div><div>• Graduate Course Requirements</div><div>• Milestone Requirements</div><div>• Effective Term and Year</div></div>
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Effective Date and Career

<div>Career</div> <div>Graduate</div>	<div>Important!</div> <div><div>Proposed</div><div>Effective Term and Year ⓘ</div><div>Fall 2025</div></div> <div><div>Existing</div><div>Effective Term and Year ⓘ</div><div>Spring 2025</div></div>
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Proposal Details

<div>Proposal Type ⓘ</div> <div>Change</div>	<div>Academic Unit Approval</div> <div>11/22/2024</div>
<div>Quality Assurance Designation ⓘ</div> <div>Minor Modification</div>	



**Is there an impact to existing students? ⓘ**

Yes

**Impact on Existing Students ⓘ**

Change will apply to new cohorts only (Fall 2025 and beyond).

**Is the credential name changing?**

No

**Graduate Co-operative Requirements**

Not Applicable

**Internship Requirements**

Not Applicable

**Rationale and Background for Change(s) ⓘ**

1) Adding PSCI 601 as a required course; revising the PhD milestone requirements accordingly: Consolidating the professional development milestones that made up the PhD Professional Development Seminar by activating PSCI 601 (PSCI 601 will deliver those milestones and other content).

2) Reducing the number of required field courses (from 2 to 1): Fewer required field courses will provide greater flexibility for PSCI electives.

**Consultations (Departmental) ⓘ****Supporting Documentation**

## General Program/Plan Information

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**Faculty ⓘ**

Faculty of Arts

**Academic Unit ⓘ**

Department of Political Science

**Graduate Field of Study**

Political Science

**Faculty ⓘ**

Faculty of Arts

**Program/Plan Name ⓘ**

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Political Science

**Graduate Credential Type**

PhD

**Accelerated Program**

Not applicable

**Program Types****Admit Term(s)**

Fall

**Delivery Mode**

On-campus

**Delivery Mode Information****Length of Program****Registration Option(s)**

Full-time

Part-time

**Registration Options Information****Graduate Research Fields**

- Canadian Politics
- International Relations
- Political Economy

**Graduate Specializations****Additional Program Information**

## Admissions

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**Admission Requirements: Minimum Requirements** ⓘ

- Students must hold a Master's degree with a minimum 80% average or equivalent in political science, or a related discipline.
- Experienced professionals in the private or public sectors will be considered for admission, but additional course work may be required.
- English language proficiency (ELP) (if applicable)

**Admission Requirements: Application materials**

- Résumé
- Supplementary information form
- Transcript(s)
- Writing sample

**Admission Requirements: References**

- Number of references: 3
- Type of references: normally from academic sources

## Requirements Information

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### **Graduate Degree Requirements ⓘ**

- Students must complete the course and milestone requirements listed below in addition to the Graduate Academic Integrity Module (Graduate AIM).
- Note: In addition to the Regular stream of the program, students have the option of taking the Teaching stream (featuring additional professional development modules, including a mentored teaching experience) and the Experiential stream (which may include entry into the Co-op program - described separately - or another placement and other experiential training, including additional professional development modules).

### **Graduate Course Requirements**

No Rules

## Proposed

### Graduate Course Requirements

#### Regular stream / Teaching stream / Experiential stream

- Students must complete 6 (0.50 unit weight) graduate-level courses in PSCI:
  - PSCI 600 Political Science Methods
  - PSCI 601 Research and Writing in Political Science
  - 1 core course in one of the program's three graduate research fields
  - 1 course in the student's second area (which may be another of the three graduate research fields or a custom concentration)
  - 2 electives in PSCI
- If selecting the Canadian Politics research field, students must complete at least 1 of the following core courses:
  - PSCI 661 Canadian Political Institutions
  - PSCI 662 Canadian Political Process
- If selecting the International Relations research field, students must complete at least 1 of the following core courses:
  - PSCI 610 International Relations Theory
  - PSCI 611 Current Issues in International Relations
- If selecting the Political Economy research field, students must complete at least 1 of the following core courses:
  - PSCI 690 Theories of Political Economy
  - PSCI 691 Developments in Political Economy or PSCI 688 Governance of Global Economy
- Students entering the PhD program from the University of Waterloo's Master of Arts (MA) in Political Science program may have already completed some of the required core courses for their chosen research fields. To meet formal course requirements for the PhD degree, these students must complete 6 new (0.50 unit weight) graduate-level courses that satisfy their comprehensive examination preparation.
- Reading courses may supplement regular offerings in the program, although it is understood that they will be approved at the discretion of the Department. Students will normally be permitted to take 1 reading course as part of their degree.
- Students are required to maintain an overall average of 80% in their graduate-level coursework.

## Existing

## Graduate Course Requirements

### Regular stream / Teaching stream / Experiential stream

- Students must complete 6 (0.50 unit weight) graduate-level courses:
  - PSCI 600 Political Science Methods
  - 2 core courses in one of the program's three graduate research fields
  - 2 courses in the student's second area (which may be another of the three graduate research fields or a custom concentration)
  - 1 elective (may be taken outside the Department of Political Science at the approval of the Associate Chair, Graduate Studies)
- If selecting the Canadian Politics research field, students must complete the following core courses:
  - PSCI 661 Canadian Political Institutions
  - PSCI 662 Canadian Political Process
- If selecting the International Relations research field, students must complete the following core courses:
  - PSCI 610 International Relations Theory
  - PSCI 611 Current Issues in International Relations
- If selecting the Political Economy research field, students must complete the following core courses:
  - PSCI 690 Theories of Political Economy
  - PSCI 691 Developments in Political Economy or PSCI 688 Governance of Global Economy
- Students entering the PhD program from the University of Waterloo's Master of Arts (MA) in Political Science program may have already completed some of the required core courses for their chosen research fields. To meet formal course requirements for the PhD degree, these students must complete 6 new (0.50 unit weight) graduate-level courses that satisfy their comprehensive examination preparation.
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- Students are required to maintain an overall average of 80% in their graduate-level coursework.

Proposed

## Milestone Requirements

### Regular stream:

## PhD Professional Development Seminar

- Students must complete 3 professional development workshops to satisfy the requirements of the PhD Professional Development Seminar. Workshops must be approved by the Associate Chair, Graduate Studies, but may include the following:
  - Practice job talk / job interview
  - Workshops or courses providing additional training in social science methods
  - CTE workshop aimed at graduate students
  - MITACS Edge workshop/course
  - Writing Centre workshop
  - Career Centre workshop
  - Counselling Services workshop on mindfulness, cognitive therapy, or practical skills to reduce anxiety
  - Completion of any course or workshop relevant to professional development offered by a campus partner

## PhD Comprehensive Examination

- Students are required to meet the University-level PhD Comprehensive Examination minimum requirements, with certain noted exceptions that are specific to the Faculty of Arts Comprehensive Examination minimum requirements:
  - Comprehensive examination purpose: Consistent with University-level minimum requirements.
  - Timing: Consistent with University-level minimum requirements.
  - Committee: Consistent with University-level minimum requirements with the exception that in the Faculty of Arts, the Graduate Chair can approve the committee for comprehensive examinations.
  - Who Chairs an examination: Consistent with University-level minimum requirements.
  - Format / Content: Consistent with University-level minimum requirements.
  - Academic integrity: Consistent with University-level minimum requirements.
- In addition to the University-level and Faculty-level PhD Comprehensive Examination minimum requirements, students in the PhD in Political Science program are also required to meet the following requirements:
  - At the end of their coursework, typically in September of Year 2, students are required to sit two exams.
  - The first exam will be from one of the three graduate research fields of the program the student has selected to study in. It will be comprised of a written exam, followed by an oral exam.
  - The second exam may follow the same format as the first if the student's second field is also one of the three graduate research fields of the program. Alternatively, the student may elect to submit a review essay broadly addressing the major theoretical debates, methodological hurdles, or substantive problems posed by existing scholarship in the field.
  - If the second area of study is a custom concentration, the comprehensive exam will consist of a review essay broadly addressing the major theoretical debates, methodological hurdles, or substantive problems posed by existing scholarship in the field.

## PhD Thesis Proposal

- Students will write a thesis proposal situating their research question(s) in the extant literature, outlining their approach, theory, scope, and research methodology, and explaining the original nature of their contribution, along with a timeline and proposed chapter outline. The proposal will be subject to an oral defence, normally by the end of the sixth term, before a committee including the student's supervisor and two other faculty members.

## PhD Thesis

- Students will have choice in the format of their thesis. Students may choose a traditional dissertation (ranging from 200 to 350 pages in length), or a 'publication model' consisting of at least three sole-authored published (or in press)

works, at least one of which is in a traditional, peer-reviewed outlet (other publications might include research reports for think tanks, etc.), and including an original introduction, conclusion and any necessary bridging chapters to reflect a coherent project. In rare cases, and with the approval of the student's supervisor and the Department's Graduate Committee, students may opt for a non-traditional thesis that meets the standards of an original doctoral-level contribution to knowledge, but in a different form (for example, a documentary). The Department is especially cognizant of the potential for alternative approaches to knowledge-generation and dissemination, such as Indigenous approaches to knowledge, as something to be accommodated on a case-by-case basis.

- Normally, students should complete and defend the dissertation within four years of starting the program. Regardless of format, the thesis will be subject to an oral defence before a committee, including the supervisor, two other Political Science faculty members, an internal-external examiner from another department/program at the University of Waterloo, and an external examiner.

## Teaching stream:

### PhD Professional Development Seminar

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  - Practice job talk / job interview
  - Workshops or courses providing additional training in social science methods
  - CTE workshop aimed at graduate students
  - MITACS Edge workshop/course
  - Writing Centre workshop
  - Career Centre workshop
  - Counselling Services workshop on mindfulness, cognitive therapy, or practical skills to reduce anxiety
  - Completion of any course or workshop relevant to professional development offered by a campus partner

### PhD Teaching Seminar

- Students who participate in the teaching stream of the program will be required to complete the PhD Teaching Seminar. The following mandatory professional development workshops must be completed:
  - Centre for Teaching Excellence Fundamentals of University Teaching program (student may begin this program as early as Year 1)
  - 2 Guest Lectures in Political Science (students will receive automatic credit if they have the opportunity to teach their own course as a sessional instructor)
  - Develop a syllabus for a real or prospective Political Science course

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- In addition to the University-level and Faculty-level PhD Comprehensive Examination minimum requirements, students in the PhD in Political Science program are also required to meet the following requirements:
  - At the end of their coursework, typically in September of Year 2, students are required to sit two exams.
  - The first exam will be from one of the three graduate research fields of the program the student has selected



to study in. It will be comprised of a written exam, followed by an oral exam.

- The second exam may follow the same format as the first if the student's second field is also one of the three graduate research fields of the program. Alternatively, the student may elect to submit a review essay broadly addressing the major theoretical debates, methodological hurdles, or substantive problems posed by existing scholarship in the field.
- If the second area of study is a custom concentration, the comprehensive exam will consist of a review essay broadly addressing the major theoretical debates, methodological hurdles, or substantive problems posed by existing scholarship in the field.

## PhD Thesis Proposal

- Students will write a thesis proposal situating their research question(s) in the extant literature, outlining their approach, theory, scope, and research methodology, and explaining the original nature of their contribution, along with a timeline and proposed chapter outline. The proposal will be subject to an oral defence, normally by the end of the sixth term, before a committee including the student's supervisor and two other faculty members.

## PhD Thesis

- Students will have choice in the format of their thesis. Students may choose a traditional dissertation (ranging from 200 to 350 pages in length), or a 'publication model' consisting of at least three sole-authored published (or in press) works, at least one of which is in a traditional, peer-reviewed outlet (other publications might include research reports for think tanks, etc.), and including an original introduction, conclusion and any necessary bridging chapters to reflect a coherent project. In rare cases, and with the approval of the student's supervisor and the Department's Graduate Committee, students may opt for a non-traditional thesis that meets the standards of an original doctoral-level contribution to knowledge, but in a different form (for example, a documentary). The Department is especially cognizant of the potential for alternative approaches to knowledge-generation and dissemination, such as Indigenous approaches to knowledge, as something to be accommodated on a case-by-case basis.
- Normally, students should complete and defend the dissertation within four years of starting the program. Regardless of format, the thesis will be subject to an oral defence before a committee, including the supervisor, two other Political Science faculty members, an internal-external examiner from another department/program at the University of Waterloo, and an external examiner.

## Experiential stream:

### PhD Professional Development Seminar

- Students must complete 3 professional development workshops to satisfy the requirements of the PhD Professional Development Seminar. Workshops must be approved by the Associate Chair, Graduate Studies, but may include the following:
  - Practice job talk / job interview
  - Workshops or courses providing additional training in social science methods
  - CTE workshop aimed at graduate students
  - MITACS Edge workshop/course
  - Writing Centre workshop
  - Career Centre workshop
  - Counselling Services workshop on mindfulness, cognitive therapy, or practical skills to reduce anxiety
  - Completion of any course or workshop relevant to professional development offered by a campus partner

### PhD Experiential Seminar

- Students who participate in the experiential stream of the program will be required to complete the PhD Experiential Seminar. The following course and mandatory professional development workshops must be completed:
  - WIL 601 Career Foundations for Work-Integrated Learning (must be completed prior to internship placement)

(Centre for Work Integrated Learning)

- Writing resumes (must be completed prior to internship placement) (Centre for Career Development)
- Parallel career planning (Centre for Career Development)
- MITACS or other campus partner module(s) (as approved by the Associate Chair, Graduate Studies)

## PhD Comprehensive Examination

- Students are required to meet the University-level PhD Comprehensive Examination minimum requirements, with certain noted exceptions that are specific to the Faculty of Arts Comprehensive Examination minimum requirements:
  - Comprehensive examination purpose: Consistent with University-level minimum requirements.
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- In addition to the University-level and Faculty-level PhD Comprehensive Examination minimum requirements, students in the PhD in Political Science program are also required to meet the following requirements:
  - At the end of their coursework, typically in September of Year 2, students are required to sit two exams.
  - The first exam will be from one of the three graduate research fields of the program the student has selected to study in. It will be comprised of a written exam, followed by an oral exam.
  - The second exam may follow the same format as the first if the student's second field is also one of the three graduate research fields of the program. Alternatively, the student may elect to submit a review essay broadly addressing the major theoretical debates, methodological hurdles, or substantive problems posed by existing scholarship in the field.
  - If the second area of study is a custom concentration, the comprehensive exam will consist of a review essay broadly addressing the major theoretical debates, methodological hurdles, or substantive problems posed by existing scholarship in the field.

## PhD Internship

- Students in the experiential stream have the option of undertaking an internship through Mitacs or finding an alternative placement (at the approval of the student's supervisor and the Associate Chair, Graduate Studies). Students will be eligible to go on placements for periods ranging from four months to one year.

## PhD Internship Report

- Required for students who are participating in the experiential stream. Students must complete and submit a PhD Internship Report within one month of the completion of their placement.

## PhD Thesis Proposal

- Students will write a thesis proposal situating their research question(s) in the extant literature, outlining their approach, theory, scope, and research methodology, and explaining the original nature of their contribution, along with a timeline and proposed chapter outline. The proposal will be subject to an oral defence, normally by the end of the sixth term, before a committee including the student's supervisor and two other faculty members.

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Existing

## Milestone Requirements

### Regular stream:

## PhD Professional Development Seminar

- Students must complete the following mandatory professional development workshops (typically in Year 2 and 3 of the program). The six mandatory workshops are offered by the Department:
  - Research design and methods
  - Conducting literature review
  - Planning and best practices in fieldwork
  - Conferencing best practices (completed after proposal defence)
  - Careers in political science and translating skills for a non-academic job market
  - Communicating research to a broader audience
- Students must also complete 3 additional professional development workshops to satisfy the requirements of the PhD Professional Development Seminar. Workshops must be approved by the Associate Chair, Graduate Studies, but may include the following:
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  - Workshops or courses providing additional training in social science methods
  - CTE workshop aimed at graduate students
  - MITACS Edge workshop/course
  - Writing Centre workshop
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- Normally, students should complete and defend the dissertation within four years of starting the program. Regardless of format, the thesis will be subject to an oral defence before a committee, including the supervisor, two other Political Science faculty members, an internal-external examiner from another department/program at the University of Waterloo, and an external examiner.

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  - Research design and methods
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  - Planning and best practices in fieldwork
  - Conferencing best practices (completed after proposal defence)
  - Careers in political science and translating skills for a non-academic job market
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  - 2 Guest Lectures in Political Science (students will receive automatic credit if they have the opportunity to teach their own course as a sessional instructor)
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- In addition to the University-level and Faculty-level PhD Comprehensive Examination minimum requirements, students in the PhD in Political Science program are also required to meet the following requirements:
  - At the end of their coursework, typically in September of Year 2, students are required to sit two exams.
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- Students will write a thesis proposal situating their research question(s) in the extant literature, outlining their approach, theory, scope, and research methodology, and explaining the original nature of their contribution, along with a timeline and proposed chapter outline. The proposal will be subject to an oral defence, normally by the end of the sixth term, before a committee including the student's supervisor and two other faculty members.

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## Experiential stream:

### PhD Professional Development Seminar

- Students must complete the following mandatory professional development workshops (typically in Year 2 and 3 of the program). The six mandatory workshops are offered by the Department:
  - Research design and methods
  - Conducting literature review
  - Planning and best practices in fieldwork
  - Conferencing best practices (completed after proposal defence)
  - Careers in political science and translating skills for a non-academic job market
  - Communicating research to a broader audience

### PhD Experiential Seminar

- Students who participate in the experiential stream of the program will be required to complete the PhD Experiential

Seminar. The following course and mandatory professional development workshops must be completed:

- WIL 601 Career Foundations for Work-Integrated Learning (must be completed prior to internship placement) (Centre for Work Integrated Learning)
- Writing resumes (must be completed prior to internship placement) (Centre for Career Development)
- Parallel career planning (Centre for Career Development)
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  - If the second area of study is a custom concentration, the comprehensive exam will consist of a review essay broadly addressing the major theoretical debates, methodological hurdles, or substantive problems posed by existing scholarship in the field.

## PhD Internship

- Students in the experiential stream have the option of undertaking an internship through Mitacs or finding an alternative placement (at the approval of the student's supervisor and the Associate Chair, Graduate Studies). Students will be eligible to go on placements for periods ranging from four months to one year.

## PhD Internship Report

- Required for students who are participating in the experiential stream. Students must complete and submit a PhD Internship Report within one month of the completion of their placement.

## PhD Thesis Proposal

- Students will write a thesis proposal situating their research question(s) in the extant literature, outlining their approach, theory, scope, and research methodology, and explaining the original nature of their contribution, along with a timeline and proposed chapter outline. The proposal will be subject to an oral defence, normally by the end of the sixth term, before a committee including the student's supervisor and two other faculty members.

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**Notes ⓘ**

- Department of Political Science website
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Political Science future students program page

# Workflow Information

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Workflow Path ⓘ	Faculty/AFIW Path(s) for Workflow ⓘ	Senate Workflow
Committee approvals	Faculty of Arts	--

# Dependencies

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**Dependent Courses and Programs/Plans**  
There are no dependencies



# PhD in Political Science-Co-op Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Political Science - Co-operative Program

Under Review | Fall 2025

## Proposal Information

**Status**

Active

**Workflow Status**

In Progress

**SGRC, Senate Graduate and Research Council (SGRC)**

expand ▲

Waiting for Approval | Approval Delegate(s)

Mike Grivicic  
Tim Weber-Kraljevski  
Diana Goncalves  
Melanie Figueiredo  
Ashley Day

**Changes**

- Effective Term and Year
- Graduate Course Requirements
- Milestone Requirements

## Effective Date and Career

**Career**

Graduate

**Important!**

Proposed  
**Effective Term and Year** ⓘ  
Fall 2025

Existing  
**Effective Term and Year** ⓘ  
Fall 2023

## Proposal Details

**Proposal Type** ⓘ

Change

**Academic Unit Approval**

11/22/2024

**Quality Assurance Designation ⓘ**

Minor Modification

**Is there an impact to existing students? ⓘ**

Yes

**Impact on Existing Students ⓘ**

Change will apply to new cohorts only (Fall 2025 and beyond).

**Is the credential name changing?**

No

**Graduate Co-operative Requirements**

No

**Internship Requirements**

Not Applicable

**Rationale and Background for Change(s) ⓘ**

1) Adding PSCI 601 as a required course; revising the PhD milestone requirements accordingly: Consolidating the professional development milestones that made up the PhD Professional Development Seminar by activating PSCI 601 (PSCI 601 will deliver those milestones and other content).

2) Reducing the number of required field courses (from 2 to 1): Fewer required field courses will provide greater flexibility for PSCI electives.

**Consultations (Departmental) ⓘ****Supporting Documentation**

## General Program/Plan Information

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**Faculty ⓘ**

Faculty of Arts

**Academic Unit ⓘ**

Department of Political Science

**Graduate Field of Study**

Political Science

**Faculty ⓘ**

Faculty of Arts

**Program/Plan Name ⓘ**

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Political Science - Co-operative Program

**Graduate Credential Type**

PhD

**Accelerated Program**

Not applicable

**Program Types**

Co-operative

**Admit Term(s)**

Fall

Winter

Spring

**Delivery Mode**

On-campus

**Delivery Mode Information****Length of Program****Registration Option(s)**

Full-time

Part-time

**Registration Options Information****Graduate Research Fields**

- Canadian Politics
- International Relations
- Political Economy

**Graduate Specializations****Additional Program Information**

## Admissions

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**Admission Requirements: Minimum Requirements** ⓘ

- Students in the PhD in Political Science program can apply to transfer into the PhD in Political Science Co-operative Program after completing at least one academic term. Admission will be decided based on the student's progress to date, and is subject to approval by the Department Associate Chair, Graduate Studies.

**Admission Requirements: Application materials****Admission Requirements: References**

## Requirements Information

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**Graduate Degree Requirements** ⓘ

- Students must complete the course and milestone requirements listed below in addition to the Graduate Academic Integrity Module (Graduate AIM).

## **Graduate Course Requirements**

No Rules

## Proposed

### Graduate Course Requirements

- Students must complete 6 (0.50 unit weight) graduate-level courses in PSCI:
  - PSCI 600 Political Science Methods
  - PSCI 601 Research and Writing in Political Science
  - 1 core course in one of the program's three graduate research fields
  - 1 course in the student's second area (which may be another of the three graduate research fields or a custom concentration)
  - 2 electives in PSCI
- If selecting the Canadian Politics research field, students must complete at least 1 of the following core courses:
  - PSCI 661 Canadian Political Institutions
  - PSCI 662 Canadian Political Process
- If selecting the International Relations research field, students must complete at least 1 of the following core courses:
  - PSCI 610 International Relations Theory
  - PSCI 611 Current Issues in International Relations
- If selecting the Political Economy research field, students must complete at least 1 of the following core courses:
  - PSCI 690 Theories of Political Economy
  - PSCI 691 Developments in Political Economy or PSCI 688 Governance of Global Economy
- Students entering the PhD program from the University of Waterloo's Master of Arts (MA) in Political Science program may have already completed some of the required core courses for their chosen research fields. To meet formal course requirements for the PhD degree, these students must complete 6 new (0.50 unit weight) graduate-level courses that satisfy their comprehensive examination preparation.
- Reading courses may supplement regular offerings in the program, although it is understood that they will be approved at the discretion of the Department. Students will normally be permitted to take 1 reading course as part of their degree.
- Students are required to maintain an overall average of 80% in their graduate-level coursework.

## Existing

## **Graduate Course Requirements**

- Students must complete 6 (0.50 unit weight) graduate-level courses:
  - PSCI 600 Political Science Methods
  - 2 core courses in one of the program's three graduate research fields
  - 2 courses in the student's second area (which may be another of the three graduate research fields or a custom concentration)
  - 1 elective (may be taken outside the Department of Political Science at the approval of the Associate Chair, Graduate Studies)
- If selecting the Canadian Politics research field, students must complete the following core courses:
  - PSCI 661 Canadian Political Institutions
  - PSCI 662 Canadian Political Process
- If selecting the International Relations research field, students must complete the following core courses:
  - PSCI 610 International Relations Theory
  - PSCI 611 Current Issues in International Relations
- If selecting the Political Economy research field, students must complete the following core courses:
  - PSCI 690 Theories of Political Economy
  - PSCI 691 Developments in Political Economy or PSCI 688 Governance of Global Economy
- Students entering the PhD program from the University of Waterloo's Master of Arts (MA) in Political Science program may have already completed some of the required core courses for their chosen research fields. To meet formal course requirements for the PhD degree, these students must complete 6 new (0.50 unit weight) graduate-level courses that satisfy their comprehensive examination preparation.
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- Students are required to maintain an overall average of 80% in their graduate-level coursework.

Proposed

## Milestone Requirements

### PhD Professional Development Seminar

- Students must complete 3 professional development workshops to satisfy the requirements of the PhD Professional Development Seminar. Workshops must be approved by the Associate Chair, Graduate Studies, but may include the following:
  - Practice job talk / job interview
  - Workshops or courses providing additional training in social science methods
  - CTE workshop aimed at graduate students
  - MITACS Edge workshop/course
  - Writing Centre workshop
  - Career Centre workshop
  - Counselling Services workshop on mindfulness, cognitive therapy, or practical skills to reduce anxiety
  - Completion of any course or workshop relevant to professional development offered by a campus partner

### PhD Experiential Seminar

- The following mandatory professional development workshops must be completed:
  - Reflective practices in experiential learning (must be completed prior to internship placement) (offered by the Department)
  - Writing resumes (must be completed prior to internship placement) (Centre for Career Development)
  - Parallel career planning (Centre for Career Development)
  - MITACS or other campus partner module(s) (as approved by the Associate Chair, Graduate Studies)

### PhD Comprehensive Examination

- Students are required to meet the University-level PhD Comprehensive Examination minimum requirements, with certain noted exceptions that are specific to the Faculty of Arts Comprehensive Examination minimum requirements:
  - Comprehensive examination purpose: Consistent with University-level minimum requirements.
  - Timing: Consistent with University-level minimum requirements.
  - Committee: Consistent with University-level minimum requirements with the exception that in the Faculty of Arts, the Graduate Chair can approve the committee for comprehensive examinations.
  - Who Chairs an examination: Consistent with University-level minimum requirements.
  - Format / Content: Consistent with University-level minimum requirements.
  - Academic integrity: Consistent with University-level minimum requirements.
- In addition to the University-level and Faculty-level PhD Comprehensive Examination minimum requirements, students in the PhD in Political Science program are also required to meet the following requirements:
  - At the end of their coursework, typically in September of Year 2, students are required to sit two exams.
  - The first exam will be from one of the three graduate research fields of the program the student has selected to study in. It will be comprised of a written exam, followed by an oral exam.
  - The second exam may follow the same format as the first if the student's second field is also one of the three graduate research fields of the program. Alternatively, the student may elect to submit a review essay broadly addressing the major theoretical debates, methodological hurdles, or substantive problems posed by existing scholarship in the field.
  - If the second area of study is a custom concentration, the comprehensive exam will consist of a review essay broadly addressing the major theoretical debates, methodological hurdles, or substantive problems posed by existing scholarship in the field.

### Graduate Studies Work Report

- Students must complete and submit a work-term report within one month of the completion of the work-term(s).



## PhD Thesis Proposal

- Students will write a thesis proposal situating their research question(s) in the extant literature, outlining their approach, theory, scope, and research methodology, and explaining the original nature of their contribution, along with a timeline and proposed chapter outline. The proposal will be subject to an oral defence, normally by the end of the sixth term, before a committee including the student's supervisor and two other faculty members.

## PhD Thesis

- Students will have choice in the format of their thesis. Students may choose a traditional dissertation (ranging from 200 to 350 pages in length), or a 'publication model' consisting of at least three sole-authored published (or in press) works, at least one of which is in a traditional, peer-reviewed outlet (other publications might include research reports for think tanks, etc.), and including an original introduction, conclusion and any necessary bridging chapters to reflect a coherent project. In rare cases, and with the approval of the student's supervisor and the Department's Graduate Committee, students may opt for a non-traditional thesis that meets the standards of an original doctoral-level contribution to knowledge, but in a different form (for example, a documentary). The Department is especially cognizant of the potential for alternative approaches to knowledge-generation and dissemination, such as Indigenous approaches to knowledge, as something to be accommodated on a case-by-case basis.
- Normally, students should complete and defend the dissertation within four years of starting the program. Regardless of format, the thesis will be subject to an oral defence before a committee, including the supervisor, two other Political Science faculty members, an internal-external examiner from another department/program at the University of Waterloo, and an external examiner.

Existing

## Milestone Requirements

### PhD Professional Development Seminar

- Students must complete the following mandatory professional development workshops (typically in Year 2 and 3 of the program). The six mandatory workshops are offered by the Department:
  - Research design and methods
  - Conducting literature review
  - Planning and best practices in fieldwork
  - Conferencing best practices (completed after proposal defence)
  - Careers in political science and translating skills for a non-academic job market
  - Communicating research to a broader audience

### PhD Experiential Seminar

- The following mandatory professional development workshops must be completed:
  - Reflective practices in experiential learning (must be completed prior to internship placement) (offered by the Department)
  - Writing resumes (must be completed prior to internship placement) (Centre for Career Development)
  - Parallel career planning (Centre for Career Development)
  - MITACS or other campus partner module(s) (as approved by the Associate Chair, Graduate Studies)

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  - Format / Content: Consistent with University-level minimum requirements.
  - Academic integrity: Consistent with University-level minimum requirements.
- In addition to the University-level and Faculty-level PhD Comprehensive Examination minimum requirements, students in the PhD in Political Science program are also required to meet the following requirements:
  - At the end of their coursework, typically in September of Year 2, students are required to sit two exams.
  - The first exam will be from one of the three graduate research fields of the program the student has selected to study in. It will be comprised of a written exam, followed by an oral exam.
  - The second exam may follow the same format as the first if the student's second field is also one of the three graduate research fields of the program. Alternatively, the student may elect to submit a review essay broadly addressing the major theoretical debates, methodological hurdles, or substantive problems posed by existing scholarship in the field.
  - If the second area of study is a custom concentration, the comprehensive exam will consist of a review essay broadly addressing the major theoretical debates, methodological hurdles, or substantive problems posed by existing scholarship in the field.

### Graduate Studies Work Report

- Students must complete and submit a work-term report within one month of the completion of the work-term(s).

### PhD Thesis Proposal

- Students will write a thesis proposal situating their research question(s) in the extant literature, outlining their approach, theory, scope, and research methodology, and explaining the original nature of their contribution, along with

a timeline and proposed chapter outline. The proposal will be subject to an oral defence, normally by the end of the sixth term, before a committee including the student's supervisor and two other faculty members.

## PhD Thesis

- Students will have choice in the format of their thesis. Students may choose a traditional dissertation (ranging from 200 to 350 pages in length), or a 'publication model' consisting of at least three sole-authored published (or in press) works, at least one of which is in a traditional, peer-reviewed outlet (other publications might include research reports for think tanks, etc.), and including an original introduction, conclusion and any necessary bridging chapters to reflect a coherent project. In rare cases, and with the approval of the student's supervisor and the Department's Graduate Committee, students may opt for a non-traditional thesis that meets the standards of an original doctoral-level contribution to knowledge, but in a different form (for example, a documentary). The Department is especially cognizant of the potential for alternative approaches to knowledge-generation and dissemination, such as Indigenous approaches to knowledge, as something to be accommodated on a case-by-case basis.
- Normally, students should complete and defend the dissertation within four years of starting the program. Regardless of format, the thesis will be subject to an oral defence before a committee, including the supervisor, two other Political Science faculty members, an internal-external examiner from another department/program at the University of Waterloo, and an external examiner.

**Notes** ⓘ

- Department of Political Science website

## Workflow Information

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Workflow Path ⓘ	Faculty/AFIW Path(s) for Workflow ⓘ	Senate Workflow
Committee approvals	Faculty of Arts	--

## Dependencies

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**Dependent Courses and Programs/Plans**

There are no dependencies

# MA in Political Science

## Master of Arts (MA) in Political Science

Under Review | Fall 2025

### Proposal Information

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**Status**

Active

**Workflow Status**

In Progress

**SGRC, Senate Graduate and Research Council (SGRC)**

expand ▲

Waiting for Approval | Approval Delegate(s)

Mike Grivicic  
Tim Weber-Kraljevski  
Diana Goncalves  
Melanie Figueiredo  
Ashley Day

**Changes**

- Master's Research Paper Option: Milestone Requirements
- Thesis Option: Milestone Requirements
- Master's Research Paper Option: Course Requirements
- Thesis Option: Course Requirements
- Effective Term and Year

Show All ▼

### Effective Date and Career

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**Career**

Graduate

**Important!**

Proposed  
**Effective Term and Year** ⓘ  
Fall 2025

Existing  
**Effective Term and Year** ⓘ  
Spring 2024

### Proposal Details

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**Proposal Type ⓘ**

Change

**Academic Unit Approval**

11/22/2024

**Quality Assurance Designation ⓘ**

Minor Modification

**Is there an impact to existing students? ⓘ**

Yes

**Impact on Existing Students ⓘ**

Changes will apply to new cohorts only (Fall 2025 and beyond).

**Is the credential name changing?**

No

**Graduate Co-operative Requirements**

Not Applicable

**Internship Requirements**

Not Applicable

**Rationale and Background for Change(s) ⓘ**

Adding PSCI 601 as a required course; revising the MA milestone requirements accordingly by inactivating the Master's Seminar milestone: Consolidating the Master's Seminar milestone (Methods Workshop) with PhD Professional Development Seminars by activating PSCI 601 (PSCI 601 will deliver those milestones and other content).

**Consultations (Departmental) ⓘ****Supporting Documentation**

## General Program/Plan Information

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**Faculty ⓘ**

Faculty of Arts

**Academic Unit ⓘ**

Department of Political Science

**Graduate Field of Study**

Political Science

**Faculty ⓘ**

Faculty of Arts

**Program/Plan Name ⓘ**

Master of Arts (MA) in Political Science

**Graduate Credential Type**

Master's

**Accelerated Program**

Not applicable

**Study Options (New)**

Thesis / Master's Research Paper

**Program Types****Admit Term(s)**

Fall

**Delivery Mode**

On-campus

**Delivery Mode Information****Length of Program**

- 3 terms (12 months)

**Registration Option(s)**

Full-time

Part-time

**Registration Options Information****Graduate Research Fields****Graduate Specializations****Additional Program Information**

## Admissions

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**Admission Requirements: Minimum Requirements ?**

- An Honours Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in Political Science with at least a 78% overall standing.
- Statement of Research.
- Students with an Honours BA in a related discipline will be considered for admission but may be required to complete further work in Political Science before proceeding. Students with a General Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Political Science may be admitted to a qualifying program, and then apply for admission to the Master of Arts (MA) program after completion of that program.
- Probationary students admitted to the program must achieve at least 75% in 2 predetermined courses in order to continue in the Winter term. Normally a student will not continue on probationary status for more than two terms.
- Transitional students admitted are normally required to complete additional predetermined undergraduate or graduate courses and achieve at least a 75% average.
- English language proficiency (ELP) (if applicable)

**Admission Requirements: Application materials**

- Résumé
- Supplementary information form
- Transcript(s)
- Writing sample

**Admission Requirements: References**

- Number of references: 3
- Type of references: normally from academic sources

## Requirements Information

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**Graduate Degree Requirements ⓘ**

- Students must complete the course and milestone requirements associated with their chosen study option in addition to the Graduate Academic Integrity Module (Graduate AIM).
- Note: At the time of application, students are asked to provide the Department with a general outline of their research interests, together with a suggested Thesis or Master's Research Paper project. There are many opportunities for students and faculty to discuss research interests and the two options in the program. Upon arrival, the Graduate Officer assigns a faculty advisor to each student. Although the faculty advisor could become a student's supervisor, the advisor is to assist and offer advice on academic and administrative matters until a research supervisor is chosen.
- The Department presumes that all students are in the Master's Research Paper option. Students who wish to write a thesis may apply to do so at the end of the Fall term. A committee composed of the Graduate Officer, the prospective supervisor and prospective reader assesses a thesis proposal.

**Thesis Option: Course Requirements**

No Rules

Proposed

**Thesis Option: Course Requirements**

- Students must complete the equivalent of 4 one-term graduate level Political Science courses 0.50 unit weight) including PSCI 600 Political Science Methods and PSCI 601 Research and Writing in Political Science.
- The overall average achieved in the 4 credit courses should be at least 70%.
- Reading courses may supplement regular offerings in the program, although it is understood that they will be approved at the discretion of the Department. Students will normally be permitted to take 1 reading course as part of their degree.

Existing

**Thesis Option: Course Requirements**

- Students must complete the equivalent of 4 one-term graduate level Political Science courses 0.50 unit weight) including PSCI 600 Theories and Methods of Political Analysis.
- The overall average achieved in the 4 credit courses should be at least 70%.
- Reading courses may supplement regular offerings in the program, although it is understood that they will be approved at the discretion of the Department. Students will normally be permitted to take 1 reading course as part of their degree.

Proposed

**Thesis Option: Milestone Requirements**

## Master's Thesis

- Students must submit and defend a thesis embodying the results of original research.
- The thesis is the equivalent of 4 one-term courses (0.50 unit weight), and therefore should occupy roughly half of the student's allotted time.
- Students are allowed much latitude in the choice of research topic, it is expected that the thesis itself to be somewhat narrow in scope and analytically well-defined. Students sometimes do not appreciate how ambitious their initial proposals are. One elementary criterion of a suitable topic is that it can be completed within the time allotted.
- Students must apply to write a thesis at the end of the Fall term. The thesis proposal is assessed early in the Winter term by the Graduate Officer and the prospective supervisor and reader.

Existing

**Thesis Option: Milestone Requirements**

## Master's Seminar

- Students are required to participate in a Master's Seminar (also referred to as a Methods Workshop) in the winter term: they will present their in-progress thesis/MRP work and provide feedback to fellow students.

## Master's Thesis

- Students must submit and defend a thesis embodying the results of original research.
- The thesis is the equivalent of 4 one-term courses (0.50 unit weight), and therefore should occupy roughly half of the student's allotted time.
- Students are allowed much latitude in the choice of research topic, it is expected that the thesis itself to be somewhat narrow in scope and analytically well-defined. Students sometimes do not appreciate how ambitious their initial proposals are. One elementary criterion of a suitable topic is that it can be completed within the time allotted.
- Students must apply to write a thesis at the end of the Fall term. The thesis proposal is assessed early in the Winter term by the Graduate Officer and the prospective supervisor and reader.

**Master's Research Paper Option: Course Requirements**

No Rules



Proposed

#### **Master's Research Paper Option: Course Requirements**

- Students must complete the equivalent of 6 one-term graduate level Political Science courses (0.50 unit weight) including PSCI 600 Political Science Methods and PSCI 601 Research and Writing in Political Science.
- The overall average achieved in the 6 credit courses should be at least 70%.
- Reading courses may supplement regular offerings in the program, although it is understood that they will be approved at the discretion of the Department. Students will normally be permitted to take 1 reading course as part of their degree.

Existing

#### **Master's Research Paper Option: Course Requirements**

- Students must complete the equivalent of 6 one-term graduate level Political Science courses (0.50 unit weight) including PSCI 600 Theories and Methods of Political Analysis.
- The overall average achieved in the 6 credit courses should be at least 70%.
- Reading courses may supplement regular offerings in the program, although it is understood that they will be approved at the discretion of the Department. Students will normally be permitted to take 1 reading course as part of their degree.

Proposed

#### **Master's Research Paper Option: Milestone Requirements**

### **Master's Research Paper**

- The Master's Research Paper is best thought of as a "mini thesis" and is the equivalent of 2 one-term courses (0.50 unit weight). The work is co-supervised by two faculty members who may ask for corrections and who jointly decide on the grade to be awarded upon completion.
- Students must achieve a grade of 75% or higher on their MRP in order to satisfy the degree requirements for the program.

Existing

#### **Master's Research Paper Option: Milestone Requirements**

### **Master's Seminar**

- Students are required to participate in a Master's Seminar (also referred to as a Methods Workshop) in the winter term: they will present their in-progress thesis/MRP work and provide feedback to fellow students.

### **Master's Research Paper**

- The Master's Research Paper is best thought of as a "mini thesis" and is the equivalent of 2 one-term courses (0.50 unit weight). The work is co-supervised by two faculty members who may ask for corrections and who jointly decide on the grade to be awarded upon completion.
- Students must achieve a grade of 75% or higher on their MRP in order to satisfy the degree requirements for the program.

#### **Notes ⓘ**

- Department of Political Science website
- Master of Arts (MA) in Political Science future students program page

## **Workflow Information**

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