



University of California, Santa Barbara  
Program Learning Outcomes

PhD in Political Science

***Students graduating with a PhD in Political Science should be able to:***

*(Items listed in italics are considered highly desirable outcomes but are not required for degree completion.)*

*Core Knowledge*

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- Demonstrate general knowledge of political science research and theory with specific command of at least two qualifying fields, including American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political Theory, and an approved interdisciplinary field.
- Demonstrate specialized knowledge of a sub-field or related field of Political Science research and theory sufficient to carry out substantive independent research.

*Research Methods and Analysis*

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- Understand and be capable of using appropriate methods from the range of qualitative and quantitative methodologies typically used in political science research.
- Able to critically evaluate the methodologies used in published research in political science and related fields.
- Design a sound study using appropriate methods, measures, and analytical techniques or strategies.
- Follow research ethics in the handling of research subjects and the collection and dissemination of research findings.
- Political Theory students will:
  - Be familiar with and be able to discuss the central texts and ideas that form the on-going tradition of political thought.
  - Develop research questions that engage and respond to those texts and ideas.
  - Be capable of answering questions that contribute to the scholarly conversation that constitutes the field.

*Pedagogy*

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- Communicate effectively to groups of undergraduate students; capable to lead discussion sessions.
- Demonstrate basic skills of classroom management.
- Assess students effectively-- including how to develop and use appropriate measures and rubrics for grading exams and assignments.
- Design an undergraduate course in political science with clear goals, appropriate readings, assignments, and sequencing of topics.

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## University of California, Santa Barbara Program Learning Outcomes, continued

### *Scholarly Communication*

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- Critically review and cogently synthesize relevant literature to identify need for new research.
- Structure a coherent argument that rigorously presents and evaluates evidence to support claims.
- Discuss ideas and research findings in a clear and convincing manner.
- Produce high quality writing able to meet the standards of publication in outlets for political science or related fields.
- Cogently summarize the research problem, findings, and significance for audiences outside students' own subfield.

### *Professionalism*

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- Identify appropriate conference venues for presenting political science research and produce research proposals for them.
- Publicly present own research.
- *Prepare manuscripts that meet the standards of specific political science and related field journals and respond appropriately to recommendations for revision or other constructive feedback.*
- *Identify appropriate fellowship or grant opportunities and prepare proposals for them.*

### *Independent Research*

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- Develop their own research projects that meet the standards of a sub-field of political science or a related field.
- Demonstrate originality in thinking and understanding of the research problem and research design.
- Independently implement the research and writing plan(s).