DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY
DOCTOR OF ARTS

ENTERING THE D.A. PROGRAM:

1. Make application to the College of Graduate Studies and Research, non-refundable.

2. Submit application for a fellowship to Department of Political Science (this is optional).

3. Submit three letters of recommendation to the Department of Political Science. The letters may be from anyone who can reasonably speak of your preparation and ability to be successful in the D.A. Program; e.g., former professors, employers, supervisors.

4. Submit a "Statement of Career Objectives" to the Department of Political Science. Your statement will be from 1-3 pages in length. Address your reasons for pursuing the degree.

5. Have your official transcripts sent to the College of Graduate Studies and Research. Both your undergraduate and graduate transcripts from this, or any other institution you have attended, are required.

6. Have the results of your Graduate Record Examination (GRE) sent to the College of Graduate Studies and Research. If you have not taken the GRE, you can sign up for it at the University Testing and Counseling Center. Only the "aptitude" portion of the GRE is required. If a student has a GPA of 3.5 in the final 60 hours of undergraduate work, the GRE requirement is waived.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION:

1. There are three possible classifications for graduate students: unclassified, conditional, and classified. You wish to be admitted as a classified student. Unclassified is for non-degree-seeking students. Conditional is a temporary (and discretionary) classification for those deficient in some documentation, or other requirement. Normally, a conditional classification lasts for just one semester. Deficiencies must be made up before registration for a second semester can take place.

2. A classified student must have a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0 for the last two years of undergraduate study, an average score in the 50th percentile or above on any one of the three sections of the GRE exam and a 3.5 GPA in all previous graduate study. The Candidate must also submit to the Department of Political Science three letters of recommendation and a statement of his or her personal goals that will be weighted equally with the applicant’s GPA and GRE scores.

3. A low G.P.A. or GRE score may be waived by the Department on the basis of additional evidence of ability to perform satisfactorily as a D.A. student. Waiver is entirely
dicretionary with the Department of Political Science. Waiver of both a low GRE and G.P.A. is not possible.

THE DOCTOR OF ARTS COMMITTEE:

Each DA student must put together a committee consisting of two faculty members from Political Science. You should designate one faculty from Political Science as the Chair of the committee. The chair serves as your formal advisor. In addition, a third member of the committee is selected as a “Graduate Faculty Representative” (GFR). The GFR can be selected from among the graduate faculty of participating social science departments including Anthropology, Economics, History, Psychology, and Sociology.

Please notify the Department of Political Science, in writing, when the composition of your committee is selected.

This committee is your official advisory group, although most of your interaction will be with the Committee Chair, so selection of this person is important. Choose someone with whom you are compatible. The committee helps you plan your course work as a D.A. student, and it gives you advice on other D.A.-related matters.

You should select this committee during your first semester as a D.A. student, and the committee should hold a formal meeting with you during the first or second semester.

Changes in the committee's composition may be made by mutual agreement and in the case of a member's inability to continue to serve (such as death, movement of employment, or retirement). Changes must also be made in consultation with the Director of the D.A. Program. A formal letter requesting a change must accompany the request.

CANDIDACY:

A "Program of Study" must be completed and approved the semester before the student plans on graduating. Any changes after the program of study has been approved will be documented by the Department secretary in the student's file and the Graduate School will also be notified. Students should plan their course work with their committee chair to make sure their classes meet program requirements. If you fail to file this application by the penultimate semester, your graduation may be delayed.

D.A. students must account for all 79 graduate credits for their Doctor of Arts degree on their Program of Study. This means any credits earned from your Masters degree or your Master of Public Administration degree, whether working on the degree concurrently with your D.A. degree, or whether already earned from Idaho State University or another university. If another university, you will have to get prior approval for transfer credit from the Chair of this Department.

D.A. students working on a Masters or Master of Public Administration degree concurrently will be filling out two Program of Study forms, the first Program of Study form accounting for 36 graduate credits on the Masters level and the second Program of Study form accounting for 79 graduate credits on the Doctoral level, including those from your Masters program. All other
D.A. students will be filling out just **one** Program of Study, but accounting for all 79 credits, including those gained from Masters programs.

**TEACHING:**

The Doctor of Arts degree involves a serious commitment to learning about teaching, as well as acquiring subject-matter competence.

All D.A. students will complete nine credit hours (three, 3-credit courses) of "pedagogy": POLS 6694 - "Seminar in College Teaching," POLS 7702 - "Team Teaching," (supervised teaching of a political science course), and POLS 7703 - "Solo Teaching" (teaching by oneself). In the "single" teaching course, D.A. candidates apply theories and methods of teaching (especially their own ideas) to a real classroom situation. This may be completed in an I.S.U. classroom or that of another university or college.

*Please not before team-teaching, the DA student must complete the Seminar on College Teaching and complete 15 hours of courses in American politics.*

**DISSERTATION**

POLS 8850 - "Dissertation" is required for the Doctor of Arts degree and replaces the former D.A. Project, POLS 649. POLS 6649 is being returned to a "Research Problems" course. Students who entered the program under the old D.A. requirements prior to 1993 have a choice of dissertation or D.A. Project paper.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY OPTIONS** – students take 18 credit hours in social sciences outside Political Science. There are three options.

**OPTION #1**

D.A. students will take 9 credits each in **TWO** of the following five cooperating social science departments: Anthropology, Economics, History, Psychology, and Sociology.

**OPTION #2**

D.A. students will take 18 credits in **ONE** of the following five cooperating social science departments: Anthropology, Economics, History, Psychology and Sociology.

**OPTION #3**

D.A. students will take 18 credits from **at least two** of the five cooperating social science departments: Anthropology, Economics, History, Psychology and Sociology built around an interdisciplinary them such as methodology or theory (courses and theme must be pre-approved by the chair of the student’s D.A. committee).

**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS:**

Upon completion of all course work, the candidate may take the written comprehensive examinations in Political Science. There are no comprehensive examinations in Anthropology,
Economics, History, Psychology and Sociology. The Political Science comprehensive examination covers three areas, one of which must include American politics, while the other two areas are optional with the D.A. candidate. The exams consist of 12 hours: six hours on American Politics and three hours each on the other two areas. Test questions reflect the three areas, not specific courses you have completed. This point is very important for you to remember in planning your course work and preparing for the examinations. If you fail one or more examinations, you may retake the failed exams once.

The examinations are offered two times a year: late October, and late March. They will not be scheduled at other times.

Your oral examination will be scheduled soon after successful completion of the written exams.