Doctor of Arts

Department of Political Science
Idaho State University

revised 09/05/2014
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY  
DOCTOR OF ARTS  

ENTERING THE D.A. PROGRAM:  

1. Make application to the Graduate School, non-refundable. Application must be made online at: http://www.isu.edu/graduate/  

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 Graduate School. 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 Graduate School. 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
discretionary 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 following five cooperating social science departments: Anthropology, Economics, History, Psychology and Sociology built around an interdisciplinary theme 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.
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DOCTOR OF ARTS PROGRAM
IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

I. Minimum Number of Credits
   Beyond M.A.: 49
   Beyond B.A.: 79

II. Course Work:

Three Areas of Study within Political Science
Each DA student must take courses in THREE areas of Political Science. All students must take American politics as an area (at least 15 credits before you can team-teach) and then students must select TWO ADDITIONAL sub-fields from the following choices: comparative politics/international relations, political theory and philosophy, public administration, and public law. Students should work carefully with faculty members from the respective sub-fields to make sure that they have enough coursework and readings. Students are tested in American politics and the two sub-fields. You should carefully plan your course of study to meet these requirements.

A. Political Science

1. 9 credits of 600-level seminar selected from:
   6611 - Seminar: Political Theory
   6612 - Seminar: State and Local Politics
   6613 - Seminar: American Politics - Behavior
   6614 - Seminar: American Politics - Institutions
   6615 - Seminar: World Politics
   6616 – Seminar: Public Administration & Policy

2. Methodology - 4 credits
   5519 - Political Research Methods, 3 credits
   5519L - Political Research Methods Lab, 1 credit

B. Pedagogy

1. 9 credits (three, 3-credit courses)
   a. POLS 6694 - "Seminar in College Teaching" - 3 credits
   b. POLS 7702 - "Team Teaching" - 3 credits
   c. POLS 7703 - "Single Teaching" - 3 credits

2. POLS 6649 - "Research Problems" - (optional) - 1-6 credits
   (May be repeated to a maximum of 6 credits)

3. POLS 7701 - Administrative Internship (optional)
C. **Dissertation** - Variable, 1-6 credits

POLS 8850

D. **OPTION #1**

*D.A. students will take 9 credits each in **TWO** of the following five cooperating social science departments.*

**Anthropology** – 9 credits

Nine graduate credits (specific course to be determined in consultation with each candidate’s graduate committee).

**Economics** - 9 credits

Nine graduate credits (specific courses to be determined in consultation with each candidate's graduate committee).

**History** – 9 credits

Nine graduate credits (specific courses to be determined in consultation with each candidate’s graduate committee).

**Psychology** – 9 credits

Nine graduate credits (specific course to be determined in consultation with each Candidate’s graduate committee)

**Sociology** - 9 credits

Nine graduate credits (specific courses to be determined in consultation with each candidate's graduate committee).

OR

E. **OPTION #2**

*D.A. students will take 18 credits in **ONE** of the following five cooperating social science departments:*

**Anthropology** – 18 credits

Eighteen graduate credits (specific courses to be determined in consultation with each candidate’s graduate committee).
**Economics** – 18 credits

Eighteen graduate credits (specific courses to be determined in consultation with each candidate’s graduate committee).

**History** – 18 credits

Eighteen graduate credits (specific courses to be determined in consultation with each candidate’s graduate committee).

**Psychology** – 18 credits

Eighteen graduate credits (specific courses to be determined in consultation with each candidate’s graduate committee).

**Sociology** – 18 credits

Eighteen graduate credits (specific courses to be determined in consultation with each candidate’s graduate committee).

**OR**

**F. 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 theme such as methodology or theory (courses and theme must be pre-approved by the chair of the student’s D.A. committee)

**G. Interdisciplinary Seminar** - 6 credits

Two 3-credit seminars offered spring semester only.

1. POLS 6620 or ECON 6620 or SOC 6620 - Philosophy of Social Science, 3 credits

2. POLS 6621 or ECON 6621 or SOC 6621 - Topical Issues, 3 credits

(Each of the above classes will be offered every other spring semester.)
Application Material and Information

IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY
Doctor of Arts
Admissions Scoring Rubric

1. Applicant GRE Percentile
   
   80th percentile or above: 10 points
   60th - 79th percentile: 8 points
   40th - 59th percentile: 7 points
   20th - 39th percentile: 4 points
   Below 20th percentile: 0 points

2. Applicant Upper-Division GPA
   
   4.00: 10 points
   3.80 - 3.99: 9 points
   3.60 - 3.79: 8 points
   3.40 - 3.59: 7 points
   3.20 - 3.39: 6 points
   3.00 - 3.19: 5 points
   Below 3.00: 0 points

3. Reference Letters
   Rated on a Scale of: 0 points (very poor) to 10 points (excellent).

4. Goal Statement
   Rated on a Scale of 0 points (very poor) to 10 points (excellent).

5. Undergraduate degree:
   Political Science: 10 points
   Social Sciences: 5 to 9 points
   Other: 0 to 4 points
The candidate for admission should sign, date, and circle their preference below:
I do/do not waive the right to examine this reference letter.

__________________________________  
Candidate Signature  Date  

________________________ has applied for admission to the ISU Doctor of Arts program in political science. You have been chosen by the applicant as a reference. Please answer the questions below. Please return this page and make sure that you complete the box for question #6. Feel free to answer questions 1-5 on a separate sheet of paper, or submit a reference letter that addresses these questions.

1. In what capacity do you know the applicant?

2. How long have you known the applicant?

3. Please discuss the applicant’s academic strengths.

4. Please discuss the applicant’s academic weaknesses.

5. Do you think that the applicant is ready to undertake graduate school work? Why or why not?

6. In terms of college students that you have been associated with where would you rate this applicant in terms of overall academic ability? Please place a check under each criterion that indicates your rating of the candidate’s ability.

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<th>Rating</th>
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<th>Dependability</th>
<th>Motivation to Succeed</th>
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Please sign and date your review

__________________________________  
Reference Writer  Date  

IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Political Science
Doctor of Arts
Reference Letter

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I do/do not waive the right to examine this reference letter.

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Please sign and date your review

__________________________________
Reference Writer

________________________
Date
DA Goal Statement

Please answer the following questions. Type your answers and develop them fully. The goal statement is an important part of the selection process.

1. Why do you want to pursue a Doctor of Arts in political science?

2. Please describe your academic background paying particular attention to course-work in political science, economics, sociology or other social science disciplines that have prepared you for doctoral study in political science.

3. Please provide your philosophy of college teaching.

4. What specific skills do you possess that would make you capable of being an effective college teacher?

5. In what type of setting (university, college, junior college) do you hope to work?

6. What are your research interests? Discuss any previous research projects undertaken and/or completed.

7. What major academic works (books, articles) in political science or the social sciences have influenced you the most?
IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Political Science
Doctor of Arts in Political Science
Application Checklist

1. Send a complete Application for Admission to Graduate School, application fee, to:
   Graduate School
   Campus Box 8075
   Idaho State University
   Pocatello, ID  93209-8075

2. Ask each college or university you have attended to send two official transcripts to:
   Graduate School
   Campus Box 8075
   Idaho State University
   Pocatello, ID  83209-8075

3. Have official transcripts of your scores on the GRE general examination sent to:
   Graduate School
   Campus Box 8075
   Idaho State University
   Pocatello, ID  83209-8075

4. Have three letters of recommendation, preferably from professors who know your recent academic work, sent to:
   Department of Political Science
   Campus Box 8073
   Idaho State University
   Pocatello, ID  83209-8073

5. Send a statement of your personal goals to:
   Department of Political Science
   Campus Box 8073
   Idaho State University
   Pocatello, ID  83209-8073

6. To apply to financial assistance, send a completed Application for a Doctor of Arts Fellowship, by March 1, to:
   Department of Political Science
   Campus Box 8073
   Idaho State University
   Pocatello, ID  83209-8073
Application for a graduate:

______ Teaching Assistantship
______ Fellowship

College of ____________________________ Department of ____________________________

Graduate major or minor ____________________________
Areas (order of preference) ____________________________
if needed). ____________________________

See announcement concerning assistantships and fellowships available.

An individual applying for financial aid specified above should complete this form and forward it to the dean of the college or chairman of the department to which application is being made. In addition the applicant must complete the Application for Admission to Graduate Study and send that form to the Admissions Office. A complete set of official copies of transcripts from colleges or universities attended must be sent to the Admissions Office and a set to the college or department to which this application is being made. The set sent to the department will be forwarded promptly to the Admissions Office to complete requirements of two completes in that office. This application, letters of recommendation and transcripts must be received by March 15 or earlier in case of certain departments (see announcements) and ordinarily awards will be made soon after that date, but prior to May 1.

Name in Full ____________________________
First ____________ Middle ____________ Last ____________

Present Address ______________________________________________________________________

Home Address _________________________________________________________________________

Place of Birth ____________________________ Date of Birth ____________

Citizenship __________________________________________________________________________

Colleges attended

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<th>Colleges attended</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Major Field of Study</th>
<th>Degrees Granted</th>
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*(If still in college, indicate the date on which requirements for the degree will be met. Admission and financial aid are provisional in this case.)*
If you have a reading knowledge of any foreign languages, list such languages and indicate for each whether you read with fair, good or excellent facility.

______________________________________________________________________________

Purpose of taking graduate work. ________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

What do you plan to do after receiving your degree? ________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Honors, fellowships or scholarships, if any, which have been awarded to you. __________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Assisting positions held while in college, if any, and dates. __________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

If employed since graduation, give positions held (including present position, if any) with names of institutions or firms, and dates. In case of teaching positions, give rank or title and the subjects taught.

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Names and addresses of three college teachers who will serve as reference and **Have Been Requested** by you to send recommendations to the dean of the college or the chairman of the department concerned.

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Student’s Signature ___________________________________ Date ______________________

*(Idaho State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity institution and does comply with the various State and Federal statutes and Executive Orders designed to insure equal opportunity.)*