1ST SEMESTER
- Enroll in 601 (Seminar in Scope and Methods)
- Enroll in two courses that apply towards the degree requirements for your track (general MA, Public Policy, or Comparative/IR)
- Take care of any conditions placed on your admission if you do not yet have “classified graduate” standing.
- Begin thinking about a thesis topic and question. Write assigned papers for your classes that permit you to learn more about a potential topic.

Completed: 9 units

2ND SEMESTER
- Enroll in 515 (Research Design and Analysis), and use the research proposal assignment to design a prospective thesis.
- Enroll in two other courses that apply toward the degree requirements for your track
- As part of one of these classes, write a paper that could serve as the literature review for your thesis or that involves some preliminary analysis of some of the data/material you might use for your thesis
- Start thinking about who might serve on your thesis committee (2 faculty members in the department, one outside the department). Begin conversations with them about your ideas and the proposal you are developing for 515.
- Work with the Grad Adviser to submit a Program of Study after the Fall Schedule comes out.

Completed: 18 units

3RD SEMESTER
- Enroll in 516 (Statistics)
- Enroll in a course that applies toward the degree requirements for your track. Public Policy students who have not yet completed an internship enroll in the internship course (796).
- Enroll in a third course very closely connected to your thesis topic, or take an independent study (798) with a faculty member who might become your thesis adviser. Use this course to write portions of your thesis.
- Have your Program of Study reviewed to secure your Advancement to Candidacy. You need to advance before you can finalize your committee or enroll in 799A.
- Complete a thesis proposal and give it to potential committee members prior to asking for their commitment to serve on your thesis committee.
- Once you have three committee members who have agreed to support your work, hold a meeting to discuss your thesis plan, methods, and timetable.

Completed: 27 units

4TH SEMESTER
- Before the semester begins, pick up an Appointment of Thesis Committee form from the Grad Division. Obtain the signatures of your three committee members and the grad adviser.
- When the Thesis Committee form is submitted and approved, enroll in 799A
- Submit an Application to Graduate with a fee to the Cashier’s Office by the 2nd week of the semester.
- Write the remaining sections of your thesis by the end of February. Give chapters in draft to your thesis chair for comments for revision.
- Once the chair has seen and approved your revisions, submit the thesis to the 2nd and 3rd readers for comments and revision.
- When the committee members are satisfied with your work, obtain their signatures.
- Format the thesis, or have it formatted professionally.
- Submit the formatted thesis by the no-risk deadline (early April) for a Spring graduation.

Completed: 30 units

Note on electives: 24 units must be within the Political Science department. At least 18 units must be at the 600- or 700-level. These guidelines leave some room for taking relevant courses outside the department or 500-level courses on special topics of interest.