## Process for a Two-Year Political Science MA Degree with a Comprehensive Exam (Plan B)

### 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 the three fields in which you would like to take an exam, and begin compiling an annotated bibliography of materials from any courses that you think might be relevant.

**Completed:** 9 units

### 2nd Semester
- Enroll in 515 (Research Design and Analysis)
- Enroll in two other courses that apply towards the degree requirements for your track
- As part of these classes, write papers that permit you to review literatures relevant to the fields for your likely exams.
- Start thinking about who might serve on your exam committee (3 full-time faculty members in the department). It will be essential for you to take examinations on topics about which someone in the department is an expert. Begin conversations with them about your ideas for exam fields and the literatures you should be learning.
- Work with the Grad Adviser to submit a Program of Study after the Fall Schedule comes out.

**Completed:** 18 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.

### 3rd Semester
- Enroll in 516 (Statistics)
- Enroll in two courses that apply towards the degree requirements for your track. Public Policy students who have not yet completed an internship (796) use this as one of the two.
- Enroll in a third elective or independent study closely connected to one of your exam fields. Use this course to review further literatures and develop your annotated bibliographies.
- Have your Program of Study reviewed to secure your **Advancement to Candidacy**. You need to advance before you can finalize your committee.
- Working with prospective committee members, finalize a bibliography for each exam field that incorporates all the material for which you will be held responsible on the exam. Define the exam format for each field.
- Once the bibliographies are complete, meet with each committee member to review the plan and collect a signature. Submit form to the graduate adviser.

**Completed:** 27 units

### 4th Semester
- Enroll in a course that applies toward the degree requirements for your track. If you have not yet had 6 units of electives, take an independent study (798) with one of your exam committee members.
- Submit an **Application to Graduate** with a fee to the Cashier’s Office by the 2nd week of the semester.
- Study for your exams.
- Take the written exams according to the Spring schedule in April.
- Hold an oral defense for your exams a week after the written portion.
- Submit the evaluation form by your committee to the department graduate adviser.
- If your exams were successful, ask the graduate adviser to submit a Report of Final Examinations to the Graduate Division.

**Completed:** 30 units