Political Science

The doctoral program in political science at Washington University is one of the top programs in the country. Graduate students take classes and engage in research with a faculty recognized nationally and internationally as among the most expert, active, and productive in the country.

Our graduate program is relatively small. We admit around eight to 10 students into the PhD program each year, and most of these complete the doctorate, generally in five to six years. There are approximately 40 graduate students currently in residence.

Washington University's PhD program in Political Science is designed to prepare students for academic careers in research and teaching at major institutions across the country. While our program stresses the importance of political methodology (applied statistics) and formal theory (game theory and mathematical modeling), our program is designed to teach all students in these methods, regardless of their mathematical background.

We have active research groups in American politics and institutions, comparative politics, international political economy, positive and normative theory, and political methodology. It is important to emphasize that we do not regard these subfields as separate entities. Many of our faculty have research and teaching interests that transcend political science subfields, as well as traditional disciplinary boundaries. We have strong connections with other departments at Washington University, including economics, anthropology, the law school, and with various interdisciplinary research centers on campus.

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Degree Requirements
PhD in Political Science
For more information regarding our doctoral program and the curriculum, please visit our Graduate Program webpage (http://polisci.wustl.edu/graduate).