

Hillsdale College Van Andel Graduate School of Statesmanship

Degree Requirements – Ph.D.

Doctoral students are expected to develop a firm knowledge of the first principles of American constitutionalism and to understand the fate of those principles in American political development and contemporary American politics. Since the first principles of American constitutionalism and subsequent developments in the American political tradition have been informed by the great works of Western political thought, students ought also to understand the critical elements of Western political thought, both classical and Modern. In addition to becoming conversant in the most relevant contemporary scholarship on these themes, doctoral students are expected to develop an understanding of the following Core Texts of Western and American political thought:

Plato, *Republic*

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*; *Politics*

Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, Treatise on Law

Machiavelli, *The Prince*

Hobbes, *Leviathan*

Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, *Letter Concerning Toleration*

Rousseau, *Second Discourse*, *Social Contract*

Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals*

Hegel, *Philosophy of History*; *Philosophy of Right*

Marx, *Communist Manifesto*; Critique of Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*

Nietzsche, *Use & Disadvantage of History*; *Beyond Good and Evil*

U.S. Declaration of Independence

U.S. Constitution

The Federalist

Essential writings of Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James

Madison, George Washington

Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*

Lincoln-Douglas Debates

Lincoln, Lyceum Speech; Temperance Address; Speech on the Kansas-Nebraska Act; Speech on the Dred

Scott Decision; Cooper Institute Speech; House Divided Speech; First and Second Inaugural

Addresses; Message to Congress of July 4, 1861; Gettysburg Address

Progressive commentaries on American constitutionalism by Woodrow

Wilson, John Dewey, Theodore Roosevelt, and Herbert Croly

Franklin Roosevelt, Commonwealth Club Address; 1944 Annual Message

Other writings on 20th and 21st century thought and politics in America,

including institutions and policies, used in doctoral coursework

during the student's time in the program

Degree Requirements

- 72 credit hours
- Minimum of 18 hours in each of the two tracks
- Maximum of 12 hours in advanced undergraduate courses cross-listed for graduate credit (only courses designated at the 500 level). This maximum may be raised in individual cases of compelling need at the discretion of the Graduate Dean, and the Dean will determine on a case-by-case basis which track (political philosophy or American politics), if any, will be credited for each 500-level course.
- POL 601-605, POL 621-625, POL 810
- Completion of 6 hours of Doctoral Humanities Seminar (included in the 72-hour requirement, above)
- Reading competence in two foreign languages, one classical and one modern.

- Successful completion of a doctoral qualifying exam (consisting of written and oral components), administered by the graduate faculty to determine students' suitability for continuing in the program, taken during the third semester of full-time coursework or its credit equivalent.
- Successful completion of a doctoral comprehensive examination (consisting of written and oral components), to be administered upon the completion of all coursework, based upon a set of core texts (see above).
- Successful completion and defense of a doctoral dissertation.

Regulations

Required Courses

Doctoral student coursework will consist of required elements and electives. Required 3-hour courses are POL 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, and 810. The requirement for one or more of these courses may be waived by the Graduate Dean if the student demonstrates that he or she has taken graduate coursework dealing substantially with the same text(s) as the required course for which a waiver is sought.

Independent Study

One independent study (up to three credit hours) may be counted toward the required credit hours for the Ph.D. Independent studies count towards elective credit only and cannot be substituted for core courses. Independent studies must be on topics that are not covered by the regular course offerings of the graduate program. All independent studies require the approval of the Graduate Dean, application for which must be submitted to the Graduate Dean's office at least one week prior to the beginning of the semester in which the independent study is to be taken. Upon approval, the Graduate Dean will assign an appropriate course number in consultation with the Registrar, and will determine whether the course will apply to the political philosophy track or the American politics track.

Doctoral Humanities Seminar Requirement

All doctoral students are required to take six hours of Doctoral Humanities Seminar (POL 801, 802, 803). These are year-long, 2-credit courses that address the broad themes of the humanities and draw upon the breadth of the Western tradition. The purpose of these seminars is to emphasize to students the place of the study of politics within the humanities and liberal arts as a whole, and to help prepare them for teaching positions which will often be found at liberal arts institutions. The texts studied will be drawn from the great books of the Western canon. The seminar will meet 9 times per academic year, and each session will be guided by a different Hillsdale College faculty member. Disciplines to be drawn from will most likely include, but are not limited to: Classics, English, History, Philosophy, and Politics. Sessions will normally be scheduled for 3 hours in the evening, and will consist of a faculty lecture followed by questions and discussions with the doctoral students led by the faculty member. Students will write a paper for each year of the seminar, based upon a particular session from that year, under the direction of the faculty member who conducted the session. Session themes and faculty will be organized by the Graduate Dean.

Foreign Language Competence

The requirement is for reading competence, demonstrated by passing a written translation examination on material from a critical text in the Western political tradition in the relevant language. Determination of the text and the faculty member who is competent to administer the examination is made by the Graduate Dean, who makes the final decision as to whether or not a student has demonstrated foreign language competence. Alternatively, competence in some languages may be demonstrated by the successful completion of language courses at Hillsdale College. Students should consult the Appendix to this handbook for information specific to each language. Competence in one ancient language is required (Latin or ancient Greek), in addition to competence in one modern language (normally French, Italian, or German). In those cases where a student's doctoral research would benefit most from specialized language competence, the Graduate Dean has the discretion to permit the student to qualify in two ancient languages or two modern languages, instead of one of each. No coursework that students may take in preparation for a language exam is counted toward the 72-hour degree requirement.

Doctoral Qualifying Examinations

The purpose of this exam is to determine students' suitability for continuing in the doctoral program. Grade achievement in individual courses is not sufficient to establish a student's suitability for continuing. Qualifying exams will be administered during a student's third semester of coursework (or its credit equivalent), and will be based on coursework the individual student has completed during his or her first two semesters. There will be written and oral components to the examination. Students failing it will be transferred into the Master's program (effective the subsequent semester) so that they can earn that degree upon completion of its requirements. Students transferred into the M.A. program are no longer eligible for fellowship support.

Each semester the Graduate Dean will appoint a Qualifying Examination Panel from among the Graduate Faculty, consisting of three members including the Dean, which will conduct all qualifying exams for students who are due to take them that semester. The panel will write the questions for the written portion of each student's examination, based upon the coursework taken by each student to be examined. The examination as a whole consists of three parts:

- 1) On the date of the written examination, each student must submit a substantial paper (minimum of 20 typed, double-spaced pages) as evidence of writing, scholarly, and intellectual abilities. Although this paper may be one previously submitted in satisfaction of a course requirement in the College's graduate program, it should be free of instructor's grades or remarks.
- 2) A four-hour written examination tailored to the individual student, based upon coursework he or she has taken in the College's graduate program.
- 3) An oral examination held 1 to 3 weeks after the written examination. It will be conducted by the Qualifying Examination Panel, will last from 60 to 90 minutes, and will cover the paper submitted, the written examination, and other questions the examiners may deem pertinent based upon the student's body of work in the program.

At the conclusion of the oral examination, the Qualifying Examination Panel shall deliberate on the student's suitability for continuing in the doctoral program. It will consider the following factors: all written materials submitted for the examination, the student's performance in the oral portion of the examination, the student's record of academic achievement in the coursework of the College's graduate program, and the impression made by the student on the Graduate Faculty during his or her time in the program (the Graduate Dean shall be prepared to report on these last two factors to the other members of the panel). On the basis of these factors, the panel shall strive to make a judgment as to whether the student's overall performance in the program to date and the performance on the qualifying examination merit continuation in the doctoral program, and as to how likely it is that the student will be able to perform well in the remaining elements of the program and write successfully a dissertation. At the conclusion of its deliberations the panel shall vote, with a majority required for the student to continue in the doctoral program. The judgment of the panel is final.

Doctoral Comprehensive Examinations

Comprehensive exams, containing both written and oral components, are to be taken upon the completion of all required coursework and satisfaction of language requirements. The exams will be based both upon the individual student's coursework in the program and the list of Core Texts (above) which applies to all doctoral students and for which all doctoral students will be responsible. In choosing their coursework, students should thus keep in mind the list of Core Texts; the list is based upon courses that will be offered at least once every three years (that is, courses that all students will be able to take during their time in the program). Courses from which these core texts are drawn are numbered in the 600s.

Each semester the Graduate Dean will appoint a Comprehensive Examination Panel from among the Graduate Faculty, consisting of three members including the Dean, which will conduct all comprehensive exams for students who are due to take them that semester. The panel will write the

questions for the written portion of the examination based upon the list of Core Texts. The examination consists of two parts:

- 1) An eight-hour written examination, administered over the course of two days, which will be the same for all students taking the examination that semester and which all students will take at the same date and time.
- 2) A one to two hour oral examination for each individual student, held 1 to 3 weeks after the written examination, based not only upon the written examination but also any material that a student is expected to know on the basis of the Core Texts and his or her coursework in the program. All works from the list of Core Texts are legitimate grounds for examination for all students.

At the conclusion of the oral examination, the panel will deliberate on whether or not the student has demonstrated satisfactory knowledge of the Core Texts and of the concepts outlined in the aims of the doctoral program. A majority vote of the panel is required for the student to pass the examination. Students who do not pass may be given one re-examination in the subsequent semester. Students failing the examination a second time may not proceed to candidacy and are removed from the doctoral program. Students who fail their second attempt at comprehensive examination may appeal the decision of the Comprehensive Examination Panel to the full Graduate Committee. In the case of such an appeal, the Graduate Dean will submit to the Graduate Committee the student's written answers from both the first and the second comprehensive exam. The Graduate Committee may, at its sole discretion, call the student before it and conduct its own oral examination. The decision of the Graduate Committee is final. Under no circumstances may a third comprehensive examination be attempted.

Dissertation

Students may move to the dissertation stage only after a written dissertation proposal has been approved by the dissertation committee and the Graduate Dean. Students must have completed all of their language requirements and the comprehensive examination before a dissertation proposal can be approved. No student is permitted to write a dissertation on a topic whose major texts are in a language in which the student has not demonstrated reading competence. Dissertation committees are to consist of three faculty, at least two of whom must be regular graduate faculty of Hillsdale College. The composition of the committee is to be approved by the Graduate Dean.

Dissertation Proposal

The student must submit to the Graduate Dean a dissertation proposal which has been developed in consultation with a prospective dissertation director who has signed off on the final proposal. The proposal must also include the names of two other prospective committee members who have consented to serve on the committee. The proposal should state the thesis to be developed, outline the basic argument of the dissertation, and indicate the key areas of research. It should include a complete bibliography of primary source material and a substantial selection of relevant secondary literature. The length of the proposal's narrative should be no shorter than five (double-spaced, typed) pages.

Dissertation Defense

Once the dissertation has met with the approval of all committee members, the student shall submit a final typescript to the Graduate Dean, who will then schedule an oral defense. The defense committee shall consist of five members: the dissertation's three readers, the Graduate Dean, and one other member of the College faculty (or, if appropriate, an outside scholar) appointed by the Graduate Dean. If the Graduate Dean is already a reader of the dissertation, then a second faculty member is appointed to the defense committee in order to bring the final number to five. The defense is open to all members of the Graduate Faculty and College administration, but only the five members of the defense committee may vote on the candidate's performance, with four votes required for approval. An unsuccessful defense means that the dissertation will not be accepted and

the doctoral degree will not be awarded. A second and final defense will be permitted by the examiners after the candidate has made the required corrections or revisions.

After the candidate has successfully completed his or her defense, he or she must deliver a public lecture of approximately thirty minutes based upon the dissertation, open to the attendance of all College faculty and students.

Format and Final Copy

The final copy of the dissertation must follow consistently one of the options provided by The Chicago Manual of Style, as summarized in the Turabian-Honigsblum manual for thesis and dissertation writing. To ensure permanence, the final copy should be on 100% cotton rag paper, and the print should be letter quality. This final copy must be submitted to the Graduate Dean no later than four weeks prior to graduation.

Time Limit

All requirements for the doctorate must be met within eight years from the time the student begins coursework in the program. Periods for which a Leave of Absence is requested and granted are not counted toward the limit. Extensions to this limit may be granted by the Graduate Committee.

Scholarship Policy and Grade-Point Minimum

At the end of each semester, the Graduate Dean will review students' academic performance. A cumulative grade point average of 3.5 is required for continuance of scholarship and fellowship support. The continuance of support is also contingent upon student adherence to the personal conduct policy (see below). The maintenance of the minimum GPA is not the sole condition for continuance of scholarship/fellowship support or continuance in the program – see the policy on Doctoral Qualifying Examinations (above).

Doctoral students who decide to transfer from the doctoral program to the M.A. program forfeit fellowship support and may, at the discretion of the Graduate Dean, also forfeit scholarship support.

A cumulative grade point average of 3.0 for all doctoral coursework is required for graduation.

Application for M.A.

Doctoral students may apply for the M.A. degree upon successful completion of their Qualifying Examination and thirty-six hours of coursework in the graduate program at Hillsdale College.

Transfer of Graduate Credit

After students have passed the Qualifying Examination, they may petition the Graduate Dean for a transfer of credits from previous graduate study. Credits transferred from previous study may not be counted toward those necessary to apply for the M.A. No more than 15 credits may be transferred into the doctoral program, and the transfer of credits is not automatic. Petitions for transfer credit must be for work completed within the last five years, strictly compatible with Hillsdale's Politics curriculum, must have been done at an accredited university or college, and must have received the equivalent of a "B" or better. Pass/fail courses may not be transferred. The Graduate Dean will make the final determination on any transfer of credit, and on how it will be applied to the specific requirements of the doctoral program.

Admission to Candidacy

Doctoral students are admitted to candidacy after successfully completing all course requirements, satisfying the two language requirements, and passing the Comprehensive Examination. Having completed these requirements, students are permitted to use the designation "Ph.D. (cand.*)" after their name.