

THE CHARLES AND LOUISE TRAVERS DEPARTMENT OF

Political Science

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY



UC Berkeley Graduate Diversity Admissions Fair Political Science PhD Program Presentation

October 18th, 2021

Presenters:

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Presentation Outline

- Overview of Program
 - PhD Requirements
 - Funding Structure
 - Job Placement
- Message from our Admission's Chair
- Faculty Research at a Glance
- Graduate Student Experience
- Q and A Session



Picture: <https://gallery.berkeley.edu/>

PhD Program Overview

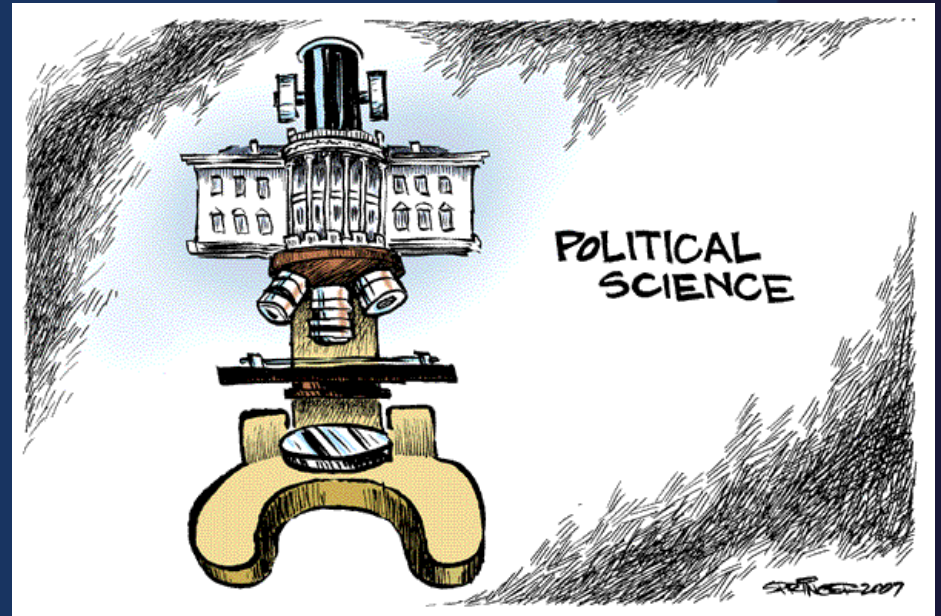
- Average cohort size: 12-15 graduate students
- The Ph.D. program has two major phases:
 - Coursework and Examinations
 - Dissertation Research and Writing
- The two phases typically take approximately five or six years
 - Three years to candidacy
 - Two or three for dissertation research and writing

Coursework and Exams

- Phase requirements:
 - Complete a minimum of 40 units of graduate-level coursework
 - An M.A./second-year research paper
 - Competence in 3 of 9 subfields
 - Demonstrate through written field exams offered each semester and course out requirements
 - All students must pass one exam in a major subfield
 - Complete the recommended course sequence in two additional fields (with a combined GPA of 3.5)

Subfields

- American Politics
- Comparative Politics
- International Relations
- Political Theory
- Methodology
- Models and Politics
- Area Studies
- Interdisciplinary Studies in Political Thought (ISPT)
- Political Behavior
- Public Policy & Organization
- Race & Ethnic Politics



Cartoon from <https://www.springercreative.com/>

Coursework and Exams

- Prospectus for Dissertation Research
- Qualifying Exam (QE) Committee
- When sufficient preparation for the proposed research has been demonstrated to the Qualifying Exam committee, the student is advanced to doctoral candidacy.

Dissertation and Writing

- Student devotes full attention to the research and writing of the dissertation.
- Students work closely with faculty advisors from their dissertation committee.
- When the student submits a satisfactory dissertation to the dissertation committee, the Ph.D. is awarded.

General Curriculum

- First Year:
 - Students are required to complete 24 units of coursework in their first year of study
- Second Year:
 - Field Exams
 - M.A. Paper/Project
 - Research and Writing Seminar

General Curriculum

- Third Year:

- Teaching, Coursework and Field Exams
- Qualifying Exam
- All students are expected to have completed one Field Exam, to have “coursed out” of a second and third field, and to have written and defended their dissertation prospectus (passed their Qualifying Exam) by the end of the third year.



Picture: <https://intaelet.com/effective-study-tips-for-exam-success/>

General Curriculum

- Fourth Year:
 - At this time, students should be collecting much of the information and data necessary for their dissertation
 - Many students spend one or both semesters of their fourth year abroad conducting research
- Fifth Year:
 - Doctoral Completion Fellowship to focus on writing the dissertation.

General Curriculum

- Sixth Year & Beyond:
 - Students are normally expected to finish by their sixth year.
 - Continue to work on completing and revising the dissertation
 - Entering the job market
 - Post-Doctoral Fellowships

Funding Structure

- Students are automatically considered for departmental aid when they submit an application for admission and are notified of their financial aid offer when they are accepted into the program.
- While funding packages vary by student, our department generally provides our PhD students with five years of funding support, which covers tuition, fees, and health insurance, and also provides a stipend or salary for living expenses.



Picture: <https://www.cjr.org/analysis/foundation-funding-journalism.php>

Funding Overview

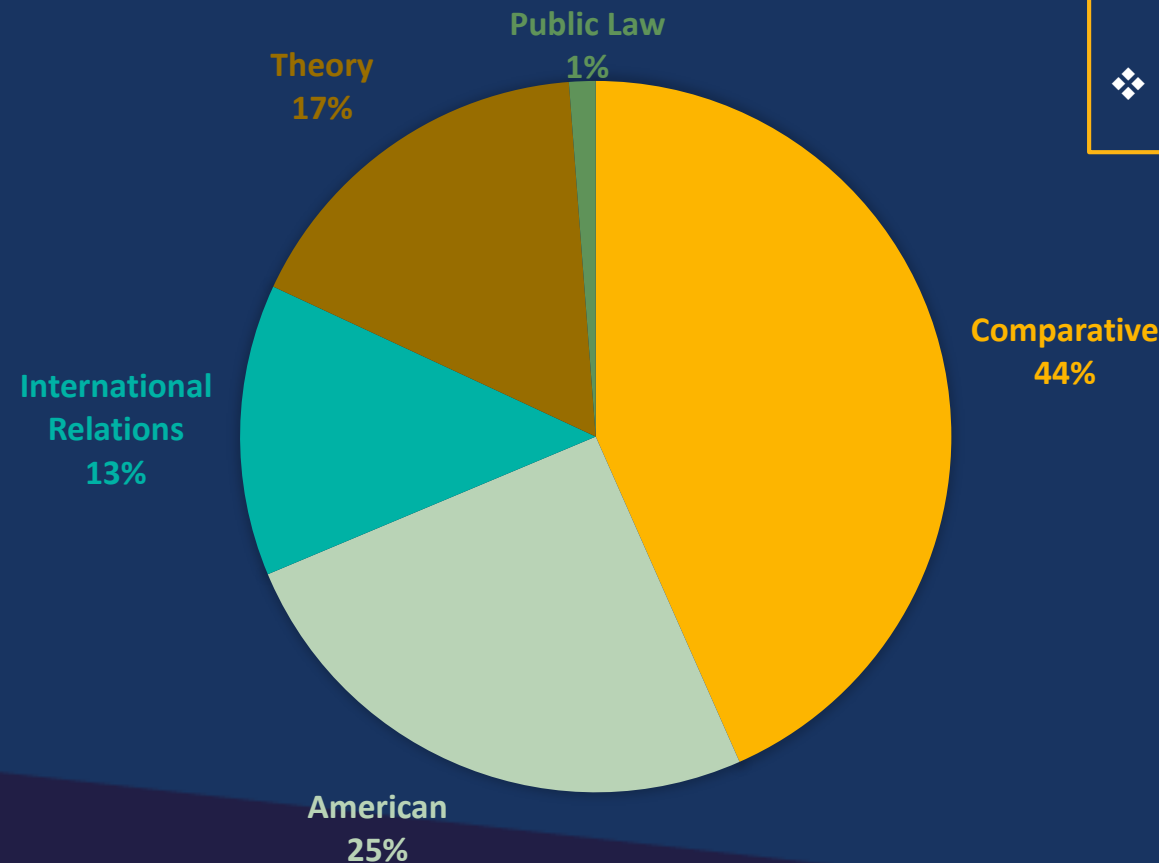
- Most graduate students have a funding package as follows....
 - Year 1: Department Fellowship
 - Year 2 and 3: GSling
 - Year 4: Department Fellowship
 - Year 5: University's Doctoral Completion Fellowship (DCF)
- 6th year funding (and beyond) options:
 - GSI for our department or another department
 - Graduate Student Researcher Position (GSR)
 - Apply for external funding through a fellowship or research opportunity

Funding Websites

- Graduate Program Funding
 - <http://polisci.berkeley.edu/graduate-program/funding>
- Graduate Division Fellowships
 - <https://grad.berkeley.edu/financial/fellowships/>

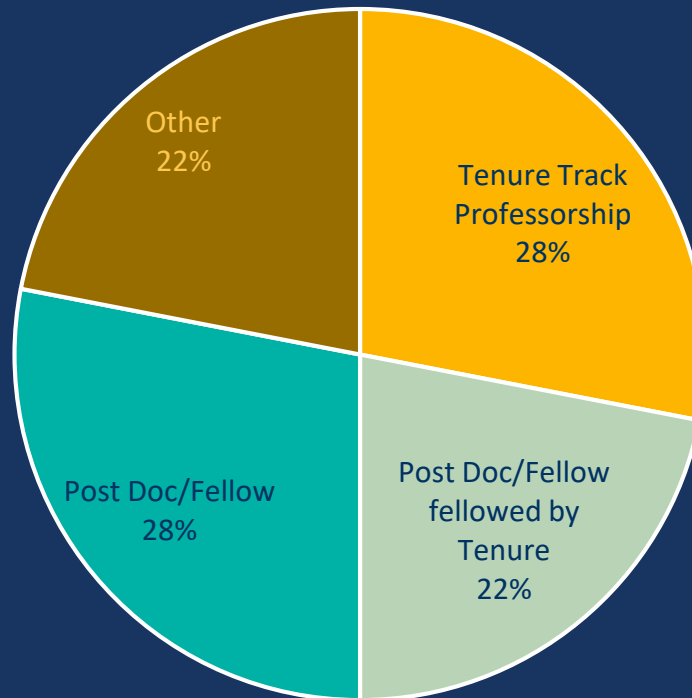
Ph.D. Completion Data

❖ **83 Ph.D.s awarded (Total)**



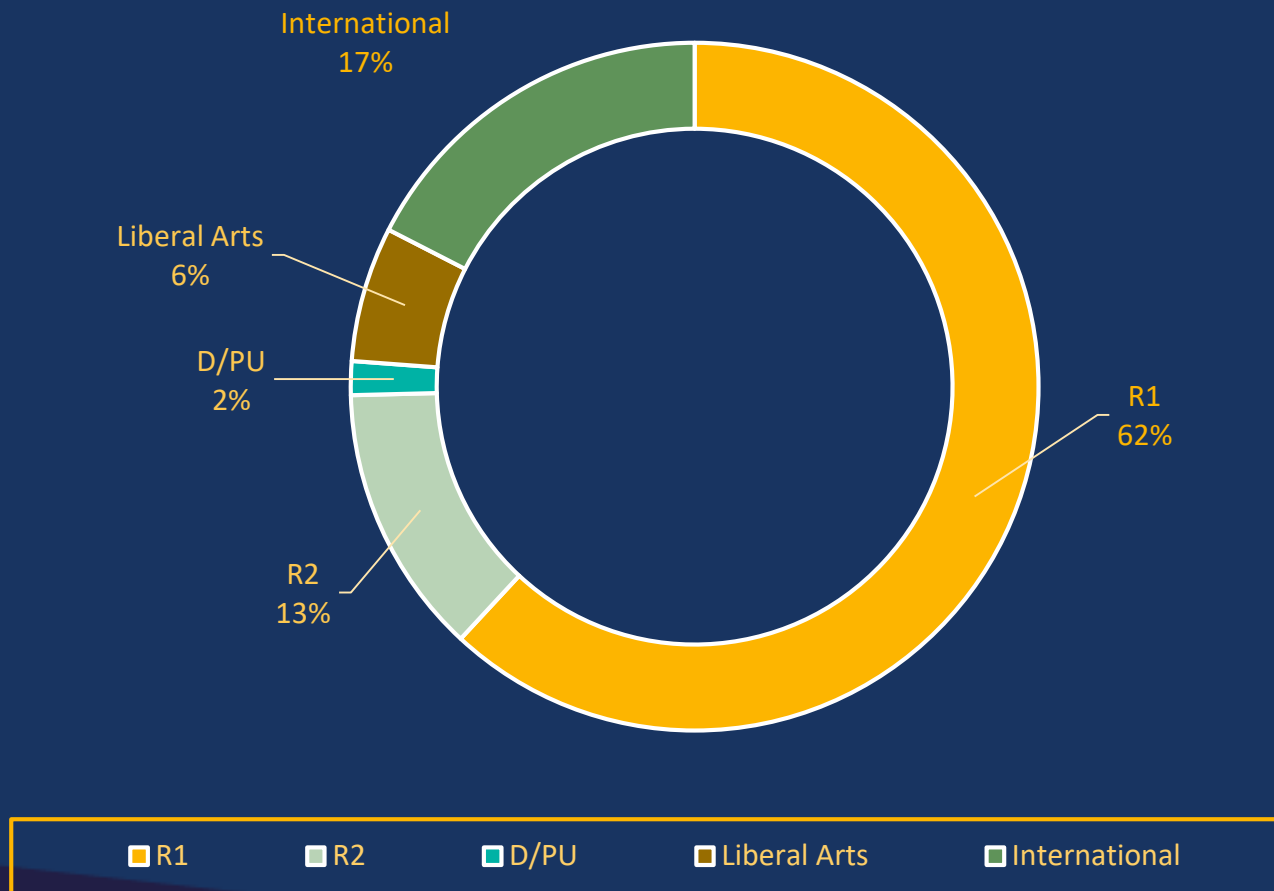
****Data from the past 5 years**

Job Placement Data (Position Type)



*****Data from the past 5 years***

Job Placement Data (Institution Type)



*****Data from the past 5 years***

Helpful Links and Contact Information

- **Political Science Department Webpages:**
 - <https://polisci.berkeley.edu>
 - <https://polisci.berkeley.edu/graduate-program>
 - <https://polisci.berkeley.edu/graduate-program/applying>
 - <https://polisci.berkeley.edu/graduate-program/applying/frequently-asked-questions>
- **Job Placement Website:**
 - <https://polisci.berkeley.edu/graduate-program/job-placement>
- **Contact Information:**
 - Email: pscadmit@Berkeley.edu
 - Virtual advising is available by appointment

Faculty Research



Prof. Martha Wilfahrt



Prof. Desmond Jagmohan

Faculty Research



Prof. Marika Landau-Wells



Prof. Ryan Brutger

Graduate Student Experience



Questions?



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