UC Berkeley Graduate Diversity Admissions Fair
Political Science PhD Program Presentation

October 22nd, 2020

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
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.
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**

- Comparative: 44%
- American: 25%
- International Relations: 13%
- Theory: 17%
- Public Law: 1%

**Berkeley University of California**
Job Placement Data (Position Type)

- **Tenure Track Professorship**: 28%
- **Post Doc/Fellow**: 28%
- **Post Doc/Fellow fellowed by Tenure**: 22%
- **Other**: 22%

**Data from the past 5 years**
Job Placement Data (Institution Type)

**Data from the past 5 years**

- **R1** (62%)
- **R2** (13%)
- **D/PU** (2%)
- **Liberal Arts** (6%)
- **International** (17%)

**Legend**
- Orange: R1
- Green: R2
- Red: D/PU
- Brown: Liberal Arts
- Light Green: International
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

Pictures: https://gallery.berkeley.edu/ and https://polisci.berkeley.edu/
Questions?
• **Political Science Department Webpages:**
  – https://polisci.berkeley.edu

• **Contact Information:**
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