

The Ph.D. Pathway at CU

Program Dimensions	Time Frames	Details	Progress Markers
Credit Hours	Continual for duration of enrollment	42 credits coursework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 35 credits in Political Science ○ 39 credits at 7000 level or above ○ maximum 6 credits Independent Study 30 dissertation credits	Maintain "B" average or better
Concentrations	Continual for duration of enrollment	Choose 2 fields: Major and Minor. Complete a minimum of 3 seminars in each field.	
Courses	Continual for duration of enrollment	Required courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PSCI 7075 – Scope/Methods ○ PSCI 7085 – Intro. to Data Analysis ○ PSCI 7008 - Teaching PSCI At least 3 courses each in Major & Minor fields At least 3 courses outside of Major & Minor fields	
Research Expertise: Methodology or Language	Continual for duration of enrollment	Complete at least two advanced methodology courses beyond PSCI 7085. Note: If Empirical Theory and Methodology is chosen as the Minor field, take at least three additional courses beyond PSCI 7085. Language competence in lieu of methodology: demonstrated proficiency equivalent to 5th semester college level course.	Maintain "B" average or better
Qualifying Paper	April 1st of 4th semester	Written paper and oral defense	Committee of 3 faculty establish whether successful.
Comprehensive Exams	January of 6th semester	Written and oral examinations Major field: 2 day written exam Minor field: 1 day written exam	Two committees comprised of 3 faculty each establish whether successful by field.
Dissertation Prospectus	Within 9 months of passing comprehensive exam	Determined on an individual basis by candidate and committee	Committee comprised of at least 3 faculty including at least 2 from PSCI
Dissertation Defense		Determined on an individual basis by candidate and committee	Committee comprised of at least 5 faculty