

## Typical Action Plan for a Graduate Career

This is a general example of a typical course outline. For more specific details, please refer to the [Field Requirements](#) and the [Ph.D. Rules and Guidelines](#).

\*Skills courses refer to game theory/formal modeling, econometrics, foreign languages, or electives (lower division foreign language courses do not count toward PhD credits)

### First Year

- |               |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Fall</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 200A - Foundations in Political Science</li><li>• 204B - Quantitative Methods I</li><li>• Field Requirement or Skills Course*</li></ul> |
| <b>Winter</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 200B - Democracy</li><li>• 204A - Research Design</li><li>• Field Requirement or Skills Course*</li></ul>                               |
| <b>Spring</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 200C - States and Markets</li><li>• 204C - Game Theory I</li><li>• Field Requirement or Skills Course*</li></ul>                        |

*Key Objectives:* Complete nine courses and to start writing a seminar paper.

### Second Year

- |               |                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Fall</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Field Requirement</li><li>• Skills Course*</li><li>• Substantive Course</li></ul>                  |
| <b>Winter</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Field Requirement</li><li>• Skills Course*</li><li>• Substantive Course</li></ul>                  |
| <b>Spring</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Field Requirement</li><li>• Skills Course*</li><li>• Substantive Course/Directed Reading</li></ul> |

*Key Objectives:* Complete eighteen courses, finish SEMINAR PAPER, and pass GENERAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

### Third Year

- |             |                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Fall</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Third-Year Field Workshop</li><li>• Substantive Course</li><li>• Skills Course*</li></ul> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

- Winter**
- Third-Year Field Workshop
  - Substantive Course
  - Skills Course\*

- Spring**
- Third-Year Field Workshop
  - Substantive Course
  - Skills Course\*

*Key Objectives:* Select a Prospectus Advisor (at the start of the year), organize a Dissertation Committee, defend the prospectus, and advance to candidacy by year's end. Students are strongly encouraged to continue taking substantive and skills courses.

## **Fourth Year**

- Fall**
- Independent Research on Dissertation
  - Apply for grants/research funding
  - Defend Prospectus (if haven't already done so)

- Winter**
- Independent Research on Dissertation

- Spring**
- Independent Research on Dissertation

*Key Objectives:* Advance to candidacy (if have not already), conduct research for dissertation. Some students may do field research or run experiments. Students must advance to candidacy by the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> year!

## **Fifth/Sixth Year**

- Dissertation Research/Field Work
- Write and Defend Dissertation
- Job Search

*Key Objectives:* Complete their dissertation, defend it before your committee, and enter the job market.