Requirements for a Field in Political Methodology and Formal Theory

Students who want to specialize in the field of Political Methodology and Formal Theory must complete the course and exam requirements as specified below.

Courses

Students must complete the following course requirements:

- GVPT 622: Quantitative Methods for Political Science (with a B+ or better)
- GVPT 722: Advanced Quantitative Methods for Political Science (with a B+ or better).
- GVPT 831: Formal Theories of Politics (with a B+ or better)
- And 3 additional courses (with a B+ or better) according to one of the following sets of concentrations:
  - Formal Theory: 3 formal theory courses beyond GVPT 831
  - Quantitative Methods: 3 quantitative courses beyond GVPT 722
  - Mixed Methods I: 1 formal theory course beyond GVPT 831 and 2 quantitative methods courses beyond 722
  - Mixed Methods II: 1 research design course and 2 quantitative courses beyond GVPT 722
  - Mixed Methods III: 1 research design course and 2 formal theory courses beyond GVPT 831
  - Note that the Field Chair must approve courses outside of the standard field offerings (this is best done before taking the courses) as well as any proposed deviations from the above

Comprehensive Exam

- To pass the comprehensive exam students must complete an original research paper with an oral exam component that consists of a defense of the paper and general examination of knowledge in the field. The expectation is that a passing paper can credibly be submitted for review at a major journal. The exam will presume basic proficiency in calculus.
- Process for completing the exam requirements:
  - Identify a topic and create a committee consisting of an exam chair from the field, and 2 other faculty members from the field
  - Prepare an abstract for the proposed paper that provides details on the proposed topic with special attention to the features that relate to the methodological aspects of the paper (i.e. it must be clear what makes the paper a fit with the Political Methodology and Formal Theory field)
  - Circulate the abstract to the committee and obtain sign off from each member of the committee indicating that they approve the topic and are available to serve on the committee
  - Complete the GVPT application for the comprehensive exam and return it to Ann Marie
  - In writing the paper students can and should consult with the committee for guidance, including advice on readiness for the oral exam
  - Schedule a two-hour block for the comprehensive exam
  - Note that after the oral exam the committee may recommend further revisions to the paper before granting a grade of pass at the Ph.D. level