

GRADUATE PROGRAM IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Completion of Language or Cognate Skill Requirement

Part A: Request for Approval of Plan for Completion of Language or Cognate Skill Requirement

Part A must be completed and submitted to the Graduate Program office at the time of submitting the Dissertation proposal or earlier. A dissertation defence cannot be scheduled until the GDP has approved the completion of the student's language or cognate skill requirement.

Students should familiarize themselves with rules regarding the language or cognate skill requirement in the [Graduate Program in Political Science Rules and Procedures](#) and appended to this form. In making their selection, students must consult closely with their supervisors.

To be completed by the student:

Student Name: _____ Student Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Major Field: _____ Proposed Language or Cognate Skill: _____

Dissertation Title: _____

Dissertation Supervisor: _____

How will the language or cognate skill selected equip you for your proposed dissertation research and meet any stipulations of your major field?

How will you demonstrate the required knowledge of the language or cognate skill?

Date: _____ Student Signature: _____

To be completed by the supervisor:

Supervisor's comments:

Date: _____ **Supervisor Signature:** _____

Date: _____ **Graduate Program Director Name:** _____

Graduate Program Director Signature: _____

**Part B: Request for Approval of Completion of
Language or Cognate Skill Requirement**

Part B must be completed and submitted to the Graduate Program Office with the required supporting documentation well in advance of requesting the scheduling of the dissertation defence. A dissertation defence cannot be scheduled until the GPD has approved completion of the student's language or cognate skill requirement.

Students should familiarize themselves with rules regarding the language or cognate skill requirement in the [Graduate Program in Political Science Rules and Procedures](#) and appended to this form. In making their selection, students must consult closely with their supervisors.

To be completed by the student:

Student Name: _____ **Student Number:** _____

Email Address: _____

Major Field: _____ **Proposed Language or Cognate Skill:** _____

Dissertation Title: _____

Dissertation Supervisor: _____

How does the language or cognate skill selected equip you for your dissertation research and meet any stipulations of your major field? (Explain any changes that have occurred since completing Part A.)

How are you demonstrating the required knowledge of the language or cognate skill? (Explain any changes that have occurred since completing Part A.)

If the student's choice of language or cognate skill or their dissertation topic has changed since completing Part A, the supervisor's comments and signature are required.

Supervisor's comments:

Date: _____ Supervisor Signature: _____

To be completed by the examiner, where demonstration of the language skill is by special examination:

Having examined the student on _____ (insert date) according to the procedure specified in the Graduate Program in Political Science Rules and Procedures (see attached), I attest that:

- ☐ The student HAS demonstrated skill in the language or cognate area at least equivalent to a B+ or better earned in completing a second-year undergraduate level course; or
- ☐ The student HAS NOT demonstrated skill in the language or cognate area at least equivalent to a B+ or better earned in completing a second-year undergraduate level course.

Examiner's comments:

Date: _____ **Examiner Name:** _____

Examiner Signature: _____

Completion of Degree Requirement Approved by Graduate Program Director:

Graduate Program Director Name:

Date: _____ **Graduate Program Director Signature:** _____

Language or Cognate Skill Requirement

While completing the course work, students should also be preparing to meet the program's requirement to demonstrate skill in a language (other than English) or a cognate area (such as statistics). In selecting a skill student should be seeking to equip themselves for their proposed area of dissertation research. At the same time, they should meet any stipulations of their major field of study. For instance, students majoring in Canadian Politics must select French, demonstrating at least a reading knowledge. Comparative Politics majors who have an area of specialization must demonstrate at least a reading knowledge of a language (other than English) relevant to their area. (Non-area specialists may offer a cognate skill.) In making their selection, students should consult closely with their supervisors.

The language or cognate skill requirements may be fulfilled by formal course work or by special examination arranged with a member of the Political Science graduate program. With respect to course work, the Program will consider as strong evidence the completion of a course at the second-year undergraduate level or above with a grade of B+ or better. However, approval of such course is not automatic. In the case of skill in a language, a student may also offer evidence that proficiency was successfully demonstrated in an accredited graduate program elsewhere, or may offer the Graduate Foreign Language Test of the Educational Testing Service. In the special examination, the student will be asked to read a text in Political Science of no more than ten pages in length; to prepare a translation into English of a designated paragraph from the text; and to discuss the text as a whole with the examiner, in English or in the language of the text, at the option of the student. The student may bring dictionaries and similar aids to the examination. The examination will extend for a maximum of three hours.

Courses taken to fulfill the language or cognate skills requirements **may not** be used to fulfill other requirements.

**From the Graduate Program in Political
Science Rules and Procedures**