

## Political Science MA Degree-Level Expectations and Learning Objectives

	<p><b>Degree-Level Expectation</b> This degree is awarded to students who have demonstrated the following</p>	<p><b>Program Learning Objectives</b> By the end of this program, students will be able to:</p>	<p><b>Appropriate Degree Requirement &amp; Assessment</b></p>
<p>1. Depth and breadth of knowledge</p>	<p>A systematic understanding of knowledge, including, where appropriate, relevant knowledge, outside the field and/or discipline, and a critical awareness of current problems, and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study, or area of professional practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop a critical understanding of key areas of scholarship in the discipline of Political Science as constituted by the program’s five fields: Canadian Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political Theory, Women and Politics</li> <li>• recognize and offer critical assessments of key theoretical and methodological issues and debates in the defining scholarship of the discipline with respect to historical, social, cultural, political, and economic contexts and implications</li> <li>• demonstrate knowledge of diversities such as race, class, gender, sexuality, ability as applied to topics taught in political science courses and to democratic governance</li> <li>• demonstrate an ability to link academic knowledge to political and social issues locally and globally</li> <li>• demonstrate an ability to critically assess their own assumptions and to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• courses (assignments, presentations and participation)</li> <li>• program seminars</li> <li>• MA colloquium/professional development</li> <li>• graduate assistantships</li> <li>• MRP/Thesis proposal</li> <li>• MRP/Thesis</li> <li>• MRP/Thesis Oral Defense</li> </ul>

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		engage in constructive critiques of the views of others in written work and seminar discussions.	
2. Research & scholarship	<p>A conceptual understanding and methodological competence that:</p> <p>a) Enables a working comprehension of how established techniques of research and inquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline;</p> <p>b) Enables a critical evaluation of current research and scholarship in the discipline or area of professional competence;</p> <p>c) Enables a treatment of complex issues and judgments based on established principles and techniques; and</p> <p>On the basis of that competence has shown at least one of the following</p> <p>a)The development and support of a sustained argument in written form; or a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• assess the appropriateness of the research and reasoning employed in specific texts or analyze the exposition of an argument or arguments in specific text(s), bringing out underlying theoretical assumptions</li> <li>• differentiate levels of analysis—ontological, epistemology, paradigm, concept—and recognize different levels of debate</li> <li>• identify the research question in someone else’s work and evaluate the methodological framework/design articulate an appropriate research question and assess the relevant methodologies framework/design</li> <li>• <i>for MRP students:</i> develop and support a sustained exploration of theoretical, historical or empirical questions by means of a review of literature in the field, an exploration or synthesis of various points of view in a subject area or a pilot study for a larger project; additionally, the MRP may be a research project narrower in scope, less sophisticated in methodology or less complete in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• courses (assignments, presentations and participation)</li> <li>• program seminars</li> <li>• MA colloquium</li> <li>• graduate assistantships</li> <li>• MRP/Thesis proposal</li> <li>• MRP/Thesis</li> <li>• MRP/Thesis Oral Defense</li> </ul>

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	b)Originality in the application of knowledge	<p>data gathering than what is required for the thesis option</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>for Thesis students:</i> develop and conduct an original research project, involving either empirical analysis or advanced theoretical analysis, which demonstrate independence of thought</li> </ul>	
3. Level of application of knowledge	Competence in the research process by applying an existing body of knowledge in the critical analysis of a new question or a specific problem or issues in a new setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contribute to the analysis of political and social issues, locally and globally</li> <li>• identify key concepts in existing literature on specific issues or topics relevant to Political Science</li> <li>• identify how paradigms and concepts, and debates about them, are actualized in concrete historical and contemporary examples/cases</li> <li>• assess competing arguments and evidence</li> <li>• know how to organize and synthesize findings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• courses (assignments, presentations and participation)</li> <li>• program seminars</li> <li>• MA colloquium</li> <li>• graduate assistantships</li> <li>• MRP/Thesis proposal</li> <li>• MRP/Thesis</li> <li>• MRP/Thesis Oral Defense</li> </ul>
4. Professional capacity/ autonomy	<p>a) The qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:</p> <p>i) The exercise of initiative and of personal responsibility and accountability; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• acquire time management skills within graduate courses in order to complete readings and assignments</li> <li>• present references and bibliographical information in a standardized format</li> <li>• select a supervisory committee for an MRP/Thesis project</li> <li>• demonstrate familiarity with</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• courses (assignments, presentations and participation)</li> <li>• program seminars</li> <li>• MA colloquium</li> <li>• graduate assistantships</li> <li>• MRP/Thesis proposal</li> <li>• MRP/Thesis</li> </ul>

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	<p>ii) Decision making in complex situations;</p> <p>b) The intellectual independence required for continuing professional development;</p> <p>c) The ethical behaviour consistent with academic integrity and the use of appropriate guidelines and procedures for responsible research; and</p> <p>d) The ability to appreciate the broader implications of applying knowledge to particular contexts</p>	<p>appropriate professional practices—meeting deadlines, timely responses to professional communications, long term planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• demonstrate an ability to work independently and in teams</li> <li>• demonstrate an ability to design and carry out a substantial project with the guidance of a supervisory committee</li> <li>• abide by principles of academic honesty</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MRP/Thesis Oral Defense</li> </ul>
<p>5. Level of communication skills</p>	<p>The ability to communicate complex and/ or ambiguous ideas, issues and conclusions clearly.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• write clearly for an appropriate audience</li> <li>• critically analyse, compare and present orally and in writing theoretical arguments from a range of academic texts with respect to the fields of specialization of the program</li> <li>• ability to define and to conduct a research project</li> <li>• ability to extract major findings out of one's own research project and presenting these findings within</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• courses (assignments, presentations and participation)</li> <li>• program seminars</li> <li>• MA colloquium</li> <li>• graduate assistantships</li> <li>• MRP/Thesis proposal</li> <li>• MRP/Thesis</li> <li>• MRP/Thesis Oral Defense</li> </ul>

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		<p>graduate seminars and at the Master's oral defense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• participate in advanced oral discussion/debate with peers in a seminar setting</li> <li>• present an advanced seminar discussion/debate on a specified topic</li> <li>• receive, give and respond to feedback constructively, including resolving conflicting feedback</li> <li>• <i><u>begin to develop a sense of the public impact of research and its communication</u></i></li> </ul>	
<p>6. Awareness of limits of knowledge</p>	<p>Cognizance of the complexity of knowledge and of the potential contributions of other interpretations, methods, and disciplines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recognize the strengths and weaknesses of a perspective, framework or argument</li> <li>• know how to ask appropriate questions to reveal assumptions embedded in competing discourses</li> <li>• examine issues of democratic governance and democratic citizenship and leadership in related disciplines</li> <li>• show an attentiveness to the global aspects of questions and problems in politics</li> <li>• integrate, where applicable, an interdisciplinary perspective in terms of fundamental questions, epistemologies, paradigms, and concepts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• courses (assignments, presentations and participation)</li> <li>• program seminars</li> <li>• MA colloquium</li> <li>• graduate assistantships</li> <li>• MRP/Thesis proposal</li> <li>• MRP/Thesis</li> <li>• MRP/Thesis Oral Defense</li> </ul>

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