

## Request for Graduate Addition, Deletion, or Change of a Major or Degree

NOTE: Before you submit a request for a new Major or Degree, you must submit an INTENT TO PLAN form. Only after the INTENT TO PLAN goes through the approval process are you ready to submit this request for a new Major or Degree. For detailed information on new programs please see: <http://wvhepcdoc.wvnet.edu/resources/133-11.pdf>.

1. Prepare one paper copy with all signatures and supporting material and forward to the Graduate Council Chair.
2. E-mail one PDF copy without signatures to the Graduate Council Chair.
3. **The Graduate Council cannot process this application until it has received both the PDF copy and the signed hard copy.**

College: COLA

Dept/Division: Political Science (PSC)

Contact Person: George Davis

Phone: 314 696 2766

Degree Program Political Science MA

Check action requested:  Addition  Deletion  Change

Effective Term/Year

Fall 20

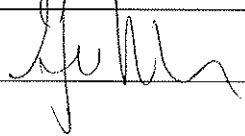
17

Spring 20

Summer 20

**Information on the following pages must be completed before signatures are obtained.**

Signatures: if disapproved at any level, do not sign. Return to previous signer with recommendation attached.

Dept. Chair/Division Head 	Date 3/7/2017
College Curriculum Chair _____	Date _____
College Dean _____	Date _____
Graduate Council Chair _____	Date _____
Provost/VP Academic Affairs _____	Date _____
Presidential Approval _____	Date _____
Board of Governors Approval _____	Date _____

## Request for Graduate Addition, Deletion, or Change of a Major or Degree-Page 2

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Please provide a rationale for addition, deletion, change: (May attach separate page if needed)

This change address a number of interrelated limitations with our current thesis only option. First, although the thesis is an appropriate culminating project for students interested in pursuing a PhD., it is not useful for students on a professional track. Second, for professionally tracked students, the thesis only option has proven an obstacle to timely completion of the Political Science MA program. Third, the thesis only option is a factor in our decreased enrollment numbers and has limited our ability to attract new (professionally tracked) students into our program. The Department of Political Science concludes that the addition of a rigorous, comprehensive examination option addresses these limitations and better serves students on a professional rather than academic track.

Please describe any changes in curriculum:

List course number, title, credit hours. Note whether each course is required or optional. Enter NONE if no change. (May attach separate page if needed)

Changes consist of the addition of a comprehensive exam option for PSC and a change of thesis from required to optional. Specific changes include:

1. The following courses are no longer required but optional: PSC 680 Master's Thesis Workshop (3 hrs.); PSC 681 Thesis (6 hrs.)
2. The addition of a comprehensive exam options as specified in the new program description (attached)
3. Clarifying language regarding available rotaion of PSC 600-level seminars

**1. ADDITIONAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:** If your program requires additional faculty, equipment or specialized materials to ADD or CHANGE this major or degree, attach an estimate of the time and money required to secure these items.

NOTE: Approval of this form does not imply approval for additional resources. Enter NONE if not applicable.

none

**2. NON-DUPLICATION:** If a question of possible duplication occurs, attach a copy of the correspondence sent to the appropriate department(s) describing the request and any response received from them. Enter NONE if not applicable.

none

***For catalog changes as a result of the above actions, please fill in the following pages.***

# Request for Graduate Addition, Deletion, or Change of a Major or Degree-Page 3

### 3. *Current Catalog Description*

Insert the *Current Catalog Description* and page number from the latest catalog for entries you would like to change.  
(May attach separate page if needed)

pp. 175-176 (See Attached)

### 4. *Edits to the Current Description*

Attach a PDF copy of the current catalog description prepared in MS WORD with strikethroughs to mark proposed deletions and use the highlight function to indicate proposed new text.

## Request for Graduate Addition, Deletion, or Change of a Major or Degree-Page 4

### 5. **New Catalog Description**

Insert a 'clean' copy of your proposed description, i.e., no strikethroughs or highlighting included. This should be what you are proposing for the new description. (May attach separate page if needed)

see attached

## Request for Graduate Addition, Deletion, or Change of a Major or Degree-Page 5

Please insert in the text box below your change summary information for the Graduate Council agenda. Please enter the information exactly in this way (including headings):

Department:

Major or Degree:

Type of Change: (*addition, deletion, change*)

Rationale:

Department:

Political Science (PSC)

Major or Degree:

MA

Type of Change:

Change

Rational:

This change address a number of interrelated limitations with our current thesis only option. First, although the thesis is an appropriate culminating project for students interested in pursuing a PhD., it is not useful for students on a professional track. Second, for professionally tracked students, the thesis only option has proven an obstacle to timely completion of the Political Science MA program. Third, the thesis only option is a factor in our decreased enrollment numbers and has limited our ability to attract new (professionally tracked) students into our program. The Department of Political Science concludes that the addition of a rigorous, comprehensive examination option addresses these limitations.

### **3. CURRENT CATALOG DESCRIPTION pp. 175-176**

The Department of Political Science is committed to those items enumerated in the mission statements of Marshall University and its College of Liberal Arts. First and foremost, the Department of Political Science strives to prepare future leaders by providing undergraduate and graduate students with a quality liberal arts political science education. This education includes critical thinking skills, problem solving skills, research skills, language/communication skills, and development of students' intellectual capabilities. The Department of Political Science is committed to (1) applied and basic research; (2) leadership and public service to the community; and (3) developing insight into multicultural and global issues.

#### **Admission Requirements**

Applicants should follow the admissions process outlined in the Graduate Catalog or at the Graduate College website at [www.marshall.edu/graduate/admissions/how-to-apply-for-admission](http://www.marshall.edu/graduate/admissions/how-to-apply-for-admission). Although applicants will be considered according to university application deadlines, the program strongly recommends that students plan to start in the Fall semester if they wish to complete the degree within four semesters.

To apply, students must submit the following items directly to Graduate Admissions:

- An application for admission (and pay the appropriate application fee);
- Official bachelor's degree transcript; applicants must have completed 12 hours of undergraduate social science coursework and have an undergraduate Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale;
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test or GRE Revised General Test, no older than five years at time of application (requirement may be waived if applicant has an undergraduate Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.3 or higher on a 4.0 scale, and/or holds an advanced post-graduate degree from a regionally accredited college/university);
- TOEFL scores (if relevant);
- A personal statement (1-2 page essay discussing the applicant's interest in political science and how the M.A. degree will benefit him or her);
- Two letters of recommendation that discuss the applicant's abilities (college instructors strongly preferred).

#### **Conditional Admission**

The Political Science program may admit applicants conditionally, for one term, pending receipt of final official undergraduate transcripts (and GRE scores if their current undergraduate GPA is above 3.3)

#### **Provisional Admission**

The Political Science program may admit applicants provisionally, for one term, who have an undergraduate GPA between 2.50 and 2.99 on a 4.0 scale.

## **Degree Requirements**

Students must complete 36 hours of credit, which includes nine thesis hours.

### **Required Core Curriculum and Suggested Sequence (15 Hrs.)**

- PSC 600 Research Design (3 hrs) - First Semester
- PSC 604 Data Analysis(3 hrs) - Second Semester
- PSC 680 Master's Thesis Workshop (3 hrs) - Third Semester
- PSC 681 Thesis (6 hrs) - Fourth Semester

### **Electives (21 Hrs.)**

These electives must be selected with approval of the Director of Graduate Studies and may be a mixture of any 5XX and 6XX political science courses.

A *minimum* of six elective hours must be seminars from the following list: PSC 606, 609, 611, 612, 614, 622, 629, 648, 650-1, 652, 660, 675 (may count for a maximum of three hours toward this requirement), and others with the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies.

A *maximum* of six elective hours from graduate courses taken outside of the political science department may be counted toward the degree with the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies.

### **Thesis**

The written thesis (and subsequent oral defense) serves as the culminating project for the M.A. degree in Political Science.

In cooperation with the Director of Graduate Studies, a student should form a thesis committee. The thesis committee assists in selecting and developing the research problem and evaluates the student's work on that problem. The student should also determine the graduate faculty member of the department who will serve as chair of the student's thesis committee.

Students will develop a written thesis prospectus, approved by their thesis committee, in PSC 680. The remaining thesis credit hours (PSC 681) will usually be taken in the subsequent semester. In addition to writing the thesis, all students must pass an oral defense.

### **Advising**

Each new graduate student must meet with the Director of Graduate Studies before his or her first semester as a graduate student. Continued advising throughout a student's tenure at Marshall University is strongly encouraged.

### **Plan of Study**

A Plan of Study approved by the Director of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Dean must be filed in the Graduate College office before the student registers for the 12th semester hour.

**Two-C Rule**

A student who earns more than two grades of C or lower in any graduate courses may be withdrawn from the program.

**Accelerated Master's Degree**

An Accelerated Master's Degree is available for qualified undergraduate political science majors. See the Accelerated Master's Degree section in this catalog for details.



#### **4. Edits to the CURRENT CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

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## Degree Requirements

Students must complete 36 hours of credit, which includes ~~nine-thesis~~ the required hours below.

### Required Core Curriculum and Suggested Sequence ~~(15 Hrs.)~~ (18 Hrs.)

- PSC 600 Research Design (3 hrs) - First Semester
- PSC 604 Data Analysis(3 hrs) - Second Semester
- Four Core 600-level Seminars (12 Hrs.)— 1 per Semester. Seminars are taken from a rotation of PSC 606, 609, 611, 612, 614, 629 and 648. Students with Legislative Internship hours can substitute PSC 675 as a Core Seminar course. All other course substitutions by permission of Director of Graduate Studies only.
- ~~PSC 680 Master's Thesis Workshop (3 hrs) – Third Semester~~
- ~~PSC 681 Thesis (6 hrs) – Fourth Semester~~

### Electives ~~(21 Hrs.)~~ (18 Hrs.)

These electives must be selected with approval of the Director of Graduate Studies and may be a mixture of any 5XX and 6XX political science courses.

~~A minimum of six elective hours must be seminars from the following list: PSC 606, 609, 611, 612, 614, 622, 629, 648, 650-1, 652, 660, 675 (may count for a maximum of three hours toward this requirement), and others with the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies.~~

A maximum of six elective hours from graduate courses taken outside of the political science department may be counted toward the degree with the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies. Students in a dual degree program (e.g., PSC MA/MPA) may count up to 9 hours of outside credit as electives. Thesis hours (PSC 681) can count toward elective credit with approval of the Director of Graduate Studies

### Thesis Option

Students can choose the written thesis (and subsequent oral defense) as a culminating project for the Political Science M.A. degree.

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~~Students will develop a written thesis prospectus, approved by their thesis committee, in PSC 680. The remaining thesis credit hours (PSC 681) will usually be taken in the subsequent semester. In addition to writing the thesis, all students must pass an oral defense.~~

### **Comprehensive Exam Option**

Students can choose the comprehensive exam as their culminating project for the Political Science M.A. degree. Over a two-week period in their fourth semester, students will work with core seminar instructors to develop a portfolio of written responses evaluating their competency in the core fields of Political Science. For students admitted prior to Fall 2017, additional classes can be substituted for core seminars with approval of the graduate instructor.

Evaluation of student competency is based on written responses and an oral defense.

### **Advising**

Each new graduate student must meet with the Director of Graduate Studies before his or her first semester as a graduate student. Continued advising throughout a student's tenure at Marshall University is strongly encouraged.

### **Plan of Study**

A Plan of Study approved by the Director of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Dean must be filed in the Graduate College office before the student registers for the 12th semester hour.

### **Two-C Rule**

A student who earns more than two grades of C or lower in any graduate courses may be withdrawn from the program.

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## **5. NEW PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

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