The Department’s Ph.D. program’s primary objective is to prepare a select group of highly qualified doctoral students for careers in academic teaching and research. The requirements include:

- Complete a total of 66 degree credit hours (12 semester courses) to obtain the Ph.D. degree (i.e., 36 credit hours at the doctoral level beyond the MA degree).
- Complete one seminar on quantitative methods and one seminar on qualitative methods in the social sciences.
- Complete a sequence of two core seminars in two of the Program’s three major fields of study:
  - International Relations;
  - Comparative Politics; and
  - International and Comparative Political Economy.
- Pass
  a. written MA exam in one of the Program’s three fields of study and
  b. written and oral examinations in two of the Program’s three fields of study.
- Complete at least one of the basic core seminars in the third (non-examination) field.
- Complete the Doctoral Workshop.
- Successfully defend a dissertation proposal/prospectus.
- Pass a foreign language examination.
- Complete 12 dissertation credit hours.
- Research, write and orally defend a dissertation that makes an original contribution to knowledge.

See the INS Graduate Student Handbook for a complete description of the requirements for the Ph.D. degree.