

SIDP Policy Starting in Fall 2023

SIDP applicants are students from a PhD program outside of LSA Political Science who want to combine their home program with a Political Science PhD, independent of situations where no formal dual-degree program is already established (e.g. Public Policy). Students are admitted to one program first, and, after completing at least one term of coursework, can then request a modification of their original degree plan.

SIDP applications are reviewed by the Graduate Affairs Committee in Political Science – comprised of the Director of Graduate Studies (chair), the Graduate Admissions Director, and the Graduate Placement Directory – separately from the first-year-entry applicant pool.

Application Requirements

1. Provide a Statement of Purpose (no longer than 2 pages) explaining your motivation for applying to the SIDP program.
2. Provide a letter from a tenured/tenure-track professor in the Department of Political Science in support of your SIDP application. A list of current eligible Political Science faculty members can be obtained from the Graduate Program Coordinator (psgradinfo@umich.edu).
3. Fulfill the standard requirements for PhD students in Political Science to become candidates.
 - A. 18 credits at the 500-level or above. Course grades must all be B or better.
 - B. 4 credits of cognates – the Graduate Program Coordinator and DGS can explain which courses will meet this requirement.
 - C. Submit a graduate-level writing sample (e.g. produced as part of the student’s coursework in Political Science) that has been approved by your Political Science faculty advisor.
4. Applicants to the SIDP must pass the preliminary examination in their chosen Political Science major subfield with a result of “Pass” or “Pass with Distinction” in the Fall semester after completing the required course work. Students who fail are entitled to be examined a second time according to the retake criteria stated in the Political Science Graduate Program Guide.
5. Complete the official Rackham SIDP application with an official signature and letter of support from the home department.
6. A tenured/tenure-track professor from the Department of Political Science must co-chair the student’s dissertation committee. We encourage discussion of the composition of your committee with the DGS in Political Science and your home department.

Please submit this packet of application materials to the Graduate Program Coordinator (psgradinfo@umich.edu) *only after all items, including the preliminary examination, have been completed.* The application will then go to the Graduate Affairs Committee for review. The Graduate Affairs Committee will review all materials and provide a final decision no later than 30 business days after submission. This decision is final, and no appeals are possible.