Political Science
**Professional Development and Ethics Goals**
Graduates from the Doctoral Program in Political Science will demonstrate that they have achieved the program’s professional development and ethics goals as measured by the following:

**Professional Development:**
*Linked Program Learning Goal:* The Program’s Professional Development goals are designed to socialize into the discipline with an emphasis on the following skills: teaching political science, grant writing, conference presentation, getting published, giving job talks, writing CVs and job letters.

Assessment: The Political Science Program organizes a Professional Development workshop that runs throughout each academic year. Our assessment measures relies on the following:

1) **Teaching Evaluations:** The Political Science Program offers a course, “Teaching Political Science,” which provides a setting for new GTFs and lecturers to develop their syllabi, introductory courses, and practice exams. Grades and evaluations of their performance in this course provide a measure with which to assess their progress. The program also collects and analyzes teaching observations of our students who are at the campuses. This allows us to monitor their success at communication in the classroom.

2) **Travel Funds:** The Program’s Rustow fund allows the Program to support conference travel for students whose work is selected for presentation at either the American Political Science Association meetings or the International Studies Association meetings. Supporting student travel to these two prominent conferences provides faculty an opportunity to see their students in action in a professional setting, and, subsequently, to offer advice and critique of their performance.

3) **Job Talks:** Students who are preparing for the job market are encouraged to hold mock job talks in the program lounge. These are regularly attended by other students and faculty thereby providing a forum for further developing and assessing the students’ interview skills.

4) **Professional Development Workshop Attendance:** The Program records the number of students who attend each workshop and follows up with them on the development of grant proposals, submitted manuscripts, and provides opportunities for mock job talks.

5) **The Program hosts a graduate student conference each spring semester.** Attendance and participation at this conference have been particularly high over the past few years and provide an excellent venue for students to hone their presentation skills.

**Ethics Goals:**
*Linked Program Learning Goals:* All students who are not specializing in Political Theory must take one course in that field. All students are required to take a course in either qualitative or quantitative methods.

Assessment: The Political Science Program assesses students’ grounding in professional ethics in two ways.

1) Projects and final grades in the Political Theory and methods classes allow faculty to assess students’ understanding of the major ethical issues related to doing political research;

2) Students must complete IRB training and certification, when appropriate, as they design and implement research strategies in preparation for their second exam (dissertation proposal defense).

**Findings:** The Program’s professional development activities have been highly successful for the past few years. Attendance is high, students have been successful at applying for and acquiring external funding, conference participation is high, and our recent graduates are getting jobs. In sum, the program’s efforts are highly successful.