

**[CHED MEMORANDUM ORDER (CMO) NO. 32
SERIES OF 2011, November 16, 2011]**

**POLICIES, STANDARDS, AND GUIDELINES (PSG) FOR THE
GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

SUBJECT POLICIES, STANDARDS, AND GUIDELINES (PSG) FOR THE
: GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

In accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act (RA) No. 7722, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994," CHED Memorandum Order (CMO) No. 36, s. 1998 ("Policies and Standards on Graduate Education"), CMO No. 9, s. 2003 ("Addendum to CMO No. 36, s. 1998 Policies and Standards on Graduate Education"), and by virtue of CEB Resolution No. 196-2011, dated 08 August 2011 and for the purpose of rationalizing the graduate degree programs in political science in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the country, this set of Policies, Standards and Guidelines (PSG) is hereby adopted and promulgated by this Commission.

ARTICLE I

INTRODUCTION

SECTION 1. Rationale and Background.— The development of the political system requires a core of professionals who specialized in the conduct of political affairs and who can effectively mobilize the participation of citizens in governance processes. These professionals, referred to as political scientists, are developed through advanced degree programs that are offered by higher education institutions. To ensure that these programs conform to established standards in the discipline, these Policies and Standards are hereby promulgated.

ARTICLE II

AUTHORITY TO OPERATE

SEC. 2. Authority.— All Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), both private and public (State Universities and Colleges [SUCs] and Local Colleges and Universities [LCUs] intending to offer graduate programs in political science must first secure proper authority from the Commission on Higher Education in accordance with existing rules and regulations.

ARTICLE III

PROGRAM SPECIFICATIONS

SEC. 3. Degree Names

1. **Non-Thesis Master's Program.** Master in Political Science (MPS)

2. **Thesis Master's Program** : Master of Arts in Political Science (MA PS)

3. **Doctoral Program**: Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science (Ph.D. PS)

SEC. 4. Objectives.—The graduate programs in political science generally aim to develop a pool of scholars who could effectively probe into issues or concerns of politics, governance, international relations, and political change. By providing the students opportunities to update themselves in regards the methods and theories in the discipline and through the systematic study prolonged adjacently evolved political phenomena and concerns, the graduate programs should enable the students to develop assess interventions that could bring forth substantive democracy, improve the performance of political institutions, and reinforce the grounds for constructive intergovernmental and inter-non governmental relations.

SEC. 5. Specific Professions/Careers/ Occupations that Graduates of these Programs May Go Into.—Graduates of the MPS/MA PS could engage in teaching, research, and development work in the private (e.g., academic, corporate, media) and public (e.g., local and national government agencies, Congress) entities in the Philippines and abroad.

Those who complete the Ph.D. program are expected to take leading positions in academic, research, policy making, and media institutions as they have sharpened their capabilities for generating or translating knowledge into policy inputs that are critical in developing a larger constituency for the idealized democratic changes.

SEC. 6. Program Majors.—Institutions offering the graduate programs may direct their students in any one or a combination of specializations based on the recognized fields (e.g. International Relations, Public Administration and Policy Studies, Comparative Politics, Philippine government and politics, Political theory and methodology) in the discipline.

ARTICLE IV

COMPETENCY STANDARDS

SEC. 7. Graduates of advanced degrees in Political Science must exhibit the following competencies:

1. **Policy or Program Assessment Skills.** This necessitates a profound understanding of the process that bring forth or lead to the design of programs, as well as the steps and factors that affect policy or program implementation, from the definition of the policy or program concerned to the systems of continuous policy/ program monitoring and evaluation.
2. **Theory Building.** In systematically observing and analyzing political phenomena, the political scientist is expected to identity the variables that bring forth (causes) or result (consequence) from any given social, economic or political phenomenon. The theories that are either validated or developed from case or confined observations, are logically formulated and coherent and based on existing theories, models or frameworks.

ARTICLE V

CURRICULUM

SEC. 8. Curriculum description.—The curricula of graduate programs are designed to prepare scholars for the discipline. The following shows the distribution of course and other requirements per program.

SEC. 9. Curriculum outline

See CHED MEMORANDUM ORDER (CMO) NO. 32 OF 2011 : SEC. 9. Curriculum outline : 108 OG No. 32, 3960-3961 (August 6, 2012)

SEC. 10. Sample Program of Study.—For the MPS, MA PS and Ph.D. PS programs, the following are the prescribed program of study for full-time students:

TERM	MPS	MAPS
First term	All core courses	All core courses
Second Term	9 units of major courses	12 units of major courses
Third Term	9 units of major courses	Remaining 3 units of major courses and cognate courses
Fourth Term	9 units of major courses	Comprehensive Examination
Fifth Term	Comprehensive Examination	Thesis requirement

TERM	Ph.D. PS
First Term	All core courses
Second Term	12 units of major courses
Third Term	6 units of cognate courses
Fourth Term	Dissertation proposal
Fifth Term	Comprehensive Examination
Sixth Term	Dissertation defense

SEC. 11. Thesis/Dissertation/Project Requirements.—Students in the MA PS and Ph.D. PS programs shall be required to submit a thesis and dissertation, respectively, on topics that would be approved by the Thesis/Dissertation committee designated by the department/ division offering the program.