

Ph.D. in War, Statecraft, and Strategy
CIP 45.0902
University of Florida

Board of Governors' Staff Analysis
November 2025





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Program Description and Overview

The University of Florida (UF) proposes a Ph.D. in War, Statecraft, and Strategy to be housed within the Hamilton School for Classical and Civic Education (Hamilton Center). This proposed doctoral program fulfills the legislative mandate in section 1004.6496, Florida Statutes, which directs the Hamilton Center to support teaching and research based on the foundations of Western and American civilization. The proposed program will prepare students with a practical and theoretical understanding of intelligence, diplomacy, international relations, military strategy, defense policy, and homeland security.

Prospective students may be admitted to the proposed program following successful completion of a master's degree in War, Statecraft, and Strategy. The master's degree requires 30 credit hours, and the Ph.D. requires an additional 60 credit hours for a total of 90 credit hours. Doctoral students must qualify for candidacy by passing general examinations and the oral examination of the dissertation prospectus. After qualification, the Ph.D. candidate must successfully research, write, and defend an original dissertation before a faculty committee.

Program graduates will be prepared for academic careers as postsecondary faculty in political science. The program will also prepare graduates for a career as political scientists and policy analysts.

The University of Florida's Board of Trustees approved the proposed program on June 5, 2025. If approved by the Board of Governors, this will be the first Ph.D. program in the State University System in CIP 45.0902. Table 1 provides a summary overview of the proposed Ph.D. in War, Statecraft, and Strategy.

Table 1: Proposed Program Summary

Ph.D. in War, Statecraft, and Strategy	
Tuition per Credit Hour	Standard approved graduate tuition rates for resident & non-resident students
Delivery Mode	Traditional
Location	Main Campus
Graduation Requirements	90 Graduate Credit Hours
Effective Date	Fall 2026

Source: University of Florida Ph.D. in War, Statecraft, and Strategy program proposal

Need for Graduates in the Labor Market

The proposed program will provide students with a practical and theoretical understanding of intelligence, diplomacy, international relations, military strategy, defense policy, and homeland security. Students will also gain advanced knowledge of the related tools of statecraft for national defense policy formulation and power projection. Program graduates will be prepared for academic careers at the university level in political science and history. Graduates will also be positioned for careers in political science and policy analysis.

The program proposal included evidence of the Hamilton Center's faculty's extensive experience teaching, conducting research, and mentoring graduate students. These faculty contribute expertise in national security policy, and several faculty have served in positions at the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Treasury Department, and the National Security Council.

Workforce Demand

The proposed Ph.D. program in War, Statecraft, and Strategy will prepare graduates for careers in academia, government, and the private sector, where demand is projected to grow both in Florida and nationally. Table 2 provides details on workforce demand for these occupations.

Table 2: Labor Market Demand, CIP Code 45.0902

Occupations	% Change in Job Openings		Annual Average Job Openings		Total # of New Jobs		Education Level Needed for Entry
	FL 2024-32	U.S. 2023-33	FL 2024-32	U.S. 2023-33	FL 2024-32	U.S. 2023-33	
Political Science Teachers, Postsecondary 25-1065	5.1%	3.3%	67	1,700	40	700	Doctoral or Professional Degree
History Teachers, Postsecondary 25-1125	4.3%	0.9%	65	1,900	33	200	Doctoral or professional degree
Management Analyst 13-1111	7.3%	10.6%	7,131	95,700	5,607	107,900	Bachelor's Degree
Political Scientist 19-3094	6.5%	2.6%	4	500	3	200	Master's Degree

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Florida Department of Commerce, retrieved: 8/29/2025.

Graduates of the program will be prepared for academic careers as postsecondary faculty in political science and history. In Florida, faculty positions are expected to grow by over four to over five percent through 2032, and nationally by about one to more than three percent through 2033. The current median salary in Florida for postsecondary faculty in these fields ranges from \$49,142 to \$59,395, and the national median salary ranges from \$81,500 to \$94,680.

Graduates will also be prepared for advanced positions as management analysts. The demand for management analysts is expected to grow in Florida by over 7% through 2032, with an average median salary of \$82,389. Nationally, it is expected to grow by over 10% through 2033, with an average median salary of \$101,190.

Graduates of the program will be prepared for a career as a political scientist, which is projected to grow by over six percent in Florida and by almost three percent nationally. The median salary for this position in Florida is not available. The current national median salary for a political scientist is \$139,380.

Graduates will be well-positioned for roles in government agencies, intelligence, policy institutes, and international organizations that require advanced expertise. Graduates may be prepared for a variety of areas within these industries, such as policy research and national security.

Board staff conducted an independent search on Indeed.com and LinkedIn for job postings that either required or preferred a Ph.D., using keywords such as political science, national security, strategic studies, defense analyst, policy researcher, international relations, and intelligence analyst. The search identified more than 20 current job openings in Florida, including positions such as management analyst, security analyst, research analyst, and legislative analyst. Typical employers include Helios Defense Systems, Naval Systems Inc., People Technology and Processes LLC, Northrup Grumman, and universities in Florida.

Graduates from similar Ph.D. programs in security studies have pursued careers in academia, federal and state government, intelligence and defense agencies, and policy research institutes. Alumni in these programs have secured roles with titles such as special operations subject matter expert, risk management analyst, national security fellow, defense analyst, and professors of political science and international relations.

Support from Academic Scholars

The proposed program was reviewed by experienced and reputable faculty in institutions offering related programs of study. The consultants' reports for the proposed Ph.D. program in War, Statecraft, and Strategy highlight its role in addressing the need for intellectually rigorous and policy-relevant scholarship that contributes to security and strategy programs, as well as the study of peace and war. Four external consultants reviewed the proposal, provided feedback, and all expressed support for the program.

Student Demand and Projected Enrollment

The University of Florida projects student interest in the proposed program based on the experience of Hamilton Center faculty during their time teaching in peer programs and the enrollment in UF's humanities and social sciences programs. Additionally, the university looked at enrollments in similar graduate programs at Duke University, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Missouri, and the University of Pittsburgh. The University of Florida reported that these factors together informed the enrollment estimates for the proposed program.

The anticipated total student enrollment is five in Year 1, with a projected enrollment of 25 students in Year 5, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Projected Total Student Enrollment

Implementation Year	Proposed Student Headcount
Year 1	5
Year 2	10
Year 3	15
Year 4	20
Year 5	25

Source: University of Florida Ph.D. in War, Statecraft, and Strategy program proposal

Alignment with Institutional and System Strategic Priorities

The proposed program aligns with UF's mission to educate students in areas of national and state strategic interest and to prepare students for leadership roles that shape societal outcomes, fostering responsible citizenship and informed leadership. The Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education advances this mission by supporting teaching and research on the foundations of Western and American civilization and incorporating these foundations into the curriculum coursework in politics, defense, history, economics, technology, and strategic decision-making.

As part of SUS 30, each state university is elevating areas of expertise and prioritizing resources to become the very best in those areas. The University of Florida has identified the Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education as an area of expertise. The proposed Ph.D. aims to advance academic excellence with top-caliber faculty and students.

Faculty and Resources

There are 16 faculty members in the Hamilton School for Classical and Civic Education who will participate in the proposed program. The university reported that two new faculty members will be hired for the program in fall 2026.

The University of Florida reported that there are available resources to implement and sustain the program through Year 5, including classrooms to support instruction and mentoring, faculty offices, conference rooms, and graduate student workspaces. The university also highlighted the AI Civilization Lab, which is a collaboration with UF Research Computing, and provides students with opportunities to explore the intersection of technology, humanities, and the social sciences.

The Hamilton Center is actively fundraising to provide fellowships and stipends for graduate students enrolled in the program. Graduate students will be supported through assistantships and fellowship opportunities as resources become available, with additional support anticipated from philanthropic contributions and external grants.

Estimate of Investment

The proposed program will be funded through Education and General funds. The institution intends to expend \$564,340 in Year 1 and \$442,010 in Year 5. The greatest cost is incurred in the first year of the program, due to the initial expenses of hiring faculty and lower student enrollment. The program costs decrease with growing enrollment. The program will charge students the standard approved graduate tuition rates for resident and non-resident students.

Support from the Florida Legislature

Section 1004.6496, Florida Statutes, directs the Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education to support teaching and research on the ideas and texts that form the foundations of Western and American civilization, and to educate students in the principles and institutions of the American political order. As part of the statutory requirement, the Hamilton Center is to establish degree programs that meet the goals of the center, which align with the proposed Ph.D. in War, Statecraft, and Strategy.

Conclusion and Board Staff Comments

If approved, the proposed Ph.D. in War, Statecraft, and Strategy will be the first program in the System offered in CIP 45.0902. There is sufficient evidence to demonstrate the need for program graduates as faculty in higher education, with additional career opportunities available outside of academia. Additionally, the university has the faculty, physical resources, and funding in place to implement and sustain the program for five years. Board staff have no concerns regarding the proposed program



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