

**The University of Alabama**  
**Department of Political Science, Graduate Programs**  
**RECOMMENDATION FORM**

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*NOTE: Letters from professors are strongly encouraged, including at least one letter from a Political Science professor, if possible. The applicant should complete the top section of this form, make copies, and give them to the individuals who will complete the forms.*

**Name of Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Degree Sought:** \_\_\_\_\_

OPTIONAL: I agree that this recommendation will remain confidential, and I knowingly and freely waive my right to view it.

Signature of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS TO THE RECOMMENDER:** The person named above is applying for admission to a Political Science graduate degree program at the University of Alabama. If the applicant has signed the above waiver, the information given in this recommendation will not be available to the applicant. Please send your letter directly to the Department to Ms. Jan Pugh, Department of Political Science, Box 870213, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487, or return it to the applicant in a sealed envelope, with your signature across the seal.

I have known the applicant for \_\_\_\_ years as \_\_\_\_ instructor; \_\_\_\_ advisor; \_\_\_\_ department chair; \_\_\_\_ employer or \_\_\_\_ other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_.

On the following page, please rate the applicant on the dimensions provided, in comparison with others you have known at similar stages in their careers.

In a **separate letter** attached to this form, please comment on the applicant's strengths and weaknesses for graduate study.

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	<i>Exceptional highest 5%</i>	<i>Outstanding next 10%</i>	<i>Very Good Upper 25%</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Below Average</i>	<i>No basis for judgment</i>
Foundation/preparation for graduate study in political science						
Ability to comprehend abstract academic material						
Clarity of academic writing						
Preparation for class reflected in participation						
Capacity for analytic thinking						
Effectiveness of oral communication						
Thoroughness in documenting academic work (e.g., exams and term papers)						
Ability to synthesize a large body of material (e.g., for passing comps)						
Predisposition to react constructively to the pressures of graduate school						
Aptitude for developing graduate level research skills						
Discipline to work independently on a long-term research project						
Ability to work well with others						

	Doctoral Program	Master's Program	Other (Please Specify)
I strongly recommend for			
I recommend for			
I recommend with reservations for			
I do not recommend for			

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF RECOMMENDER

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF RECOMMENDER (Please print or type) TITLE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DEPARTMENT