Political Science, B.A.

Learning Outcomes
Graduates will:

• possess a basic understanding of American and world politics,
• be able to apply a theoretical approach in political science to understand American or world politics,
• have effective written and oral communication skills, and
• be able to conceptualize problems and apply analytical tools to solve them.

Overview
Most of the political science course work required for the major is the same for B.A. and B.S. students, but the major for the B.S. includes a political science research component. The major for the B.S. also requires a set of mathematics/statistics courses, while the major for the B.A. does not.

The B.A. degree with a major in political science offers an option for an on campus or an online program of study. See Requirements [p. 1] in this section of the Catalog.

Requirements
The Bachelor of Arts with a major in political science requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 36 s.h. of work for the major (all in political science courses). At least 18 s.h. of course work for the major must be taken at the University of Iowa. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. In addition, they must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all political science courses taken at the University of Iowa, and in all political science courses taken at other institutions and at the University combined. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core.

Credit earned in POLI:1000 First-Year Seminar, POLI:3124 Political Science Des Moines Internship Program, and POLI:4900 Government and Politics Internship does not count toward the major, but grades in these courses become part of a student’s grade-point average.

In planning course work, students should be guided by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences maximum hours rule: students earning a B.A. may apply a maximum of 56 s.h. earned in one department to the minimum 120 s.h. required for graduation, whether or not the course work is accepted toward requirements for the major; students who earn more than 56 s.h. from one department may use the additional semester hours to satisfy requirements for the major (if the department accepts them), and the grades they earn become part of their grade-point average; but they cannot apply the additional semester hours to the minimum 120 s.h. required for graduation.

The B.A. with a major in political science requires the following course work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1000</td>
<td>Introduction to American Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1001</td>
<td>Introduction to Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1002</td>
<td>Lawyers in the American Political System</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1050</td>
<td>Big Ideas: Introduction to Information, Society, and Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1200</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1300</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Thought and Action</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1400</td>
<td>Introduction to Comparative Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1401</td>
<td>Introduction to the Politics of Russia and Eurasia</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1403</td>
<td>Introduction to Politics in the Muslim World</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1445</td>
<td>Introduction to Asian Politics: China</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1500</td>
<td>Introduction to International Relations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1501</td>
<td>Introduction to American Foreign Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1600</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1601</td>
<td>Introduction to Social Media and Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1700</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1800</td>
<td>Introduction to the Politics of Class and Inequality</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1900</td>
<td>Introduction to the Politics of Race</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1950</td>
<td>Introduction to the Politics of Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Political Science Courses

It is strongly recommended that students not pursuing the major through online education take at least 12 s.h. in regularly scheduled classroom courses, with a maximum of 3 s.h. of online course work taken at the 2000 level or above.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All of these:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least seven additional political science courses numbered 2000 or above, excluding POLI:3124 and POLI:4900</td>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Emphases in Political Science

Students may elect to complete one or two emphases while fulfilling the requirements for the major. The emphasis is indicated on the transcript at graduation if a student completes the emphasis and requests recognition from the department.

Each emphasis consists of four courses. Emphases are available in American institutions, identity politics, international relations, political behavior, political communication, political theory, and politics of foreign countries. For lists of courses approved in each area, contact the Department of Political Science.

Online B.A.

The Department of Political Science offers an online B.A. degree with a major in political science intended for students who are not able to attend courses that meet on campus. The online program enables students to complete their B.A. degree from anywhere in the world. For more information, see Online Political Science B.A. on the Department of Political Science website.

Teacher Licensure

Political science majors interested in earning licensure to teach in elementary and/or secondary schools must complete the College of Education's Teacher Education Program (TEP) in addition to the requirements for the major and all requirements for graduation. The TEP requires several College of Education courses and student teaching. Contact the Office of Student Services for details.

Students must satisfy all degree requirements and complete TEP licensure before degree conferral.

The Department of Political Science course POLI:1100 Introduction to American Politics is approved for teacher education requirements.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students majoring in political science have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Departmental honors students must maintain a UI g.p.a. and major g.p.a. of at least 3.50. In addition to maintaining the minimum grade-point average requirements, students must complete 9 s.h. in specific departmental honors courses with a grade of B or higher in each course. They also are encouraged to enroll in honors sections of introductory courses whenever available. The required honors courses are included in the minimum 36 s.h. of political science course work for the major.

Students earning departmental honors must include the following courses in their major course work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI:4000</td>
<td>Honors Seminar on the Study of Politics (preferably taken during the second year)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Honors Seminar

At least one honors seminar from these:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI:4100</td>
<td>Honors Seminar on American Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POLI:4300 Honors Seminar on Political Theory 3
POLI:4400 Honors Seminar on Comparative Politics 3
POLI:4500 Honors Seminar on International Politics 3
One course numbered 5000 or above, with the instructor's consent

Final Honors Project

One of these:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI:4600</td>
<td>Honors Research Project</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:4601</td>
<td>Honors Senior Thesis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information about honors in the political science major, contact the Department of Political Science honors advisor.

National Honor Society

The department sponsors a chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. Students who have a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.30, have attained junior standing, and have completed 15 s.h. of course work in political science are considered for membership. Contact the Department of Political Science honors advisor for more information.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University's honors program. Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the political science major.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University's Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.

In addition to the following checkpoints, honors students must complete POLI:4000 Honors Seminar on the Study of Politics and one additional honors seminar before the seventh semester begins.

Before the fifth semester begins: two courses in the major
Before the seventh semester begins: six courses in the major and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree
Before the eighth semester begins: eight courses in the major
During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.
### Political Science, B.A.

**Course** | **Title** | **Hours**
--- | --- | ---
**First Year** |  |
**Fall** |  |  
POLI:1100 | Introduction to American Politics | 3  
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200 | Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature | 3 - 4  
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level | Proficiency or elective course | 4 - 5  
Elective course |  | 3  
CSI:1600 | Success at Iowa | 2  
**Hours** | 15-17  
**Spring** |  |  
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200 | Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature | 3 - 4  
Major: introductory-level course numbered POLI:1XXX |  | 3  
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion |  | 3  
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level | Proficiency or elective course | 4 - 5  
Elective course |  | 3  
**Hours** | 16-18  
**Second Year** |  |  
**Fall** |  |  
Major: introductory-level course numbered POLI:1XXX |  | 3  
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab |  | 4  
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level | Proficiency or elective course | 4 - 5  
Elective course |  | 3  
Elective course |  | 2 - 3  
**Hours** | 16-18  
**Spring** |  |  
Major: introductory-level course numbered POLI:1XXX |  | 3  
Major: upper-level course numbered POLI:2XXX or above |  | 3  
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning |  | 3  
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level | Proficiency or elective course | 4 - 5  
Elective course |  | 3  
**Hours** | 16-17  
**Third Year** |  |  
**Fall** |  |  
Major: introductory-level course numbered POLI:1XXX |  | 3  
Major: upper-level course numbered POLI:2XXX or above |  | 3  
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts |  | 3  
Elective course |  | 3  
Elective course |  | 3  
**Hours** | 15  
**Spring** |  |  
Major: upper-level course numbered POLI:2XXX or above |  | 3  
GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture |  | 3  
Elective course |  | 3  
Elective course |  | 3  
**Hours** | 15  
**Fourth Year** |  |  
**Fall** |  |  
Major: upper-level course numbered POLI:2XXX or above |  | 3  
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives |  | 3  
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab |  | 3  
Elective course |  | 3  
Elective course |  | 3  
**Hours** | 15  
**Total Hours** | 123-130  

---

**Career Advancement**

A recent surveyed showed that graduates with political science degrees have higher average salaries than graduates in all other social sciences, excluding students with economics degrees. The Department of Political Science organizes career workshops for its students throughout the year. The workshops are led by former political science students who have achieved distinction in business, law, campaign operations, local government, elected office, or other fields. The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.