Political Science, B.A.

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). 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 General Education Program.

Students must earn at least 18 s.h. of the political science credit required for the major (36 s.h.) at the University of Iowa. 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.

| Political Science Introductory Courses | 15 |
| Total Hours | 36 |

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.

At least seven additional political science courses numbered 2000 or above, excluding POLI:3124 and POLI:4900

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.
B.A. with 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 Teacher Education Program 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 in order to graduate with departmental honors, 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. For more information about honors in the political science major, contact the Department of Political Science honors advisor.

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

This course:
POLI:4000 Honors Seminar on the Study of Politics (preferably taken during the second year) 3

Additional Honors Seminar
At least one honors seminar from these:
POLI:4100 Honors Seminar on American Politics 3
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:
POLI:4600 Honors Research Project 3
POLI:4601 Honors Senior Thesis 3

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 General Education courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

Sample Plan of Study

Political Science (B.A.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1100</td>
<td>Introduction to American Politics (also GE: Social Sciences)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHET:1030</td>
<td>Rhetoric (GE: Rhetoric or other General Education course) ¹</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE: World Languages or elective course ²</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective course ³</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSI:1600</td>
<td>Success at Iowa</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Hours | 15-17 |

Spring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL:1200</td>
<td>The Interpretation of Literature (GE: Interpretation of Literature)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Major: introductory-level course numbered
POLI:1XXX
GE: Diversity and Inclusion 3
GE: World Languages or elective course 3-5
Elective course 3

| Hours | 15-17 |
## Political Science, B.A.

### Second Year

#### Fall
- Major: introductory-level course numbered POLI:1XXX 3
- GE: Natural Sciences with a lab 4
- GE: World Languages or elective course 3-5
- Elective course 3
- Elective course 2-3
- **Hours** 15

#### Spring
- Major: introductory-level course numbered POLI:1XXX 3
- Major: upper-level course numbered POLI:2XXX 3
- GE: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning 3
- GE: World Languages or elective course 3-5
- Elective course 3
- **Hours** 15

### Third Year

#### Fall
- Major: introductory-level course numbered POLI:1XXX 3
- Major: upper-level course numbered POLI:2XXX or above 3
- GE: 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
- Major: upper-level course numbered POLI:2XXX or above 3
- GE: 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: Historical Perspectives 3
- GE: Natural Sciences without a lab 3
- Elective course 3
- Elective course 3
- **Hours** 15

#### Spring
- Major: upper-level course numbered POLI:2XXX or above 3
- Major: upper-level course numbered POLI:2XXX or above 3
- GE: International and Global Issues 3
- Elective course 3
- Elective course 3
- **Hours** 15

**Total Hours** 120-129

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1. General Education (GE) courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses. For more information, view the General Education Program.
2. Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE: World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.
3. Students may use their elective courses to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
4. For the political science major, upper-level is defined as those courses numbered 2000 or above.

### 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.