Political Science, B.S.

Most of the political science course work required for the major is the same for B.S. and B.A. 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.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Science with a major in political science requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 47 s.h. of work for the major (36 s.h. in political science courses and 11 s.h. of approved mathematics/statistics 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.S. 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.S. with a major in political science requires the following course work.

Political Science Introductory Courses 15
Additional Political Science Courses 21
Mathematics/Statistics Courses 11
Total Hours 47

Political Science Introductory Courses

This course:
Poli:1100 Introduction to American Politics 3

And four of these:
Poli:1001 Introduction to Politics 3
Poli:1002 Lawyers in the American Political System 3
Poli:1050 Big Ideas: Introduction to Information, Society, and Culture 3
Poli:1200 Introduction to Political Behavior 3
Poli:1300 Introduction to Political Thought and Action 3
Poli:1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics 3
Poli:1401 Introduction to the Politics of Russia and Eurasia 3
Poli:1403 Introduction to Politics in the Muslim World 3
Poli:1445 Introduction to Asian Politics: China 3
Poli:1500 Introduction to International Relations 3
Poli:1501 Introduction to American Foreign Policy 3
Poli:1600 Introduction to Political Communication 3
Poli:1601 Introduction to Social Media and Politics 3
Poli:1700 Introduction to Political Analysis 3
Poli:1800 Introduction to the Politics of Class and Inequality 3
Poli:1900 Introduction to the Politics of Race 3

Additional Political Science Courses

Advanced courses: Political science courses numbered 2000 or above, excluding Poli:3124 and Poli:4900 15
This course:
Poli:3000 Analyzing Political Data 3
One of these:
Poli:4600 Honors Research Project 3
Poli:4701 Undergraduate Research Tutorial 3
Recommended but not required:
Poli:4702 Senior Research Project/Paper 3

Mathematics/Statistics Courses

Students complete one of the following sets of mathematics/statistics courses (11 s.h.) with a g.p.a. of at least 2.00. Other sets of courses may be used with written approval of the B.S. program advisor.

Set 1
Math:1380 Calculus and Matrix Algebra for Business 4
or Math:1550 Engineering Mathematics I: Single Variable Calculus 4
or Math:1850 Calculus I 4
Stat:4143/PSQF:4143 Introduction to Statistical Methods 3
Stat:6513 Intermediate Statistical Methods 4

Set 2
Econ:2800 Statistics for Strategy Problems 3
Math:1380 Calculus and Matrix Algebra for Business 4
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.

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

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: eight courses in the major, including two of the three required mathematics/statistics courses and POLI:3000 Analyzing Political Data; and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree

Before the eighth semester begins: 11 courses in the major, including POLI:4701 Undergraduate Research Tutorial

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.S.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1100</td>
<td>Introduction to American Politics (also GE: Social Sciences)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RHET:1030</td>
<td>Rhetoric (GE: Rhetoric or other General Education course)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE: World Languages or elective course</td>
<td>3-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSI:1600</td>
<td>Success at Iowa</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>15-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL:1200</td>
<td>The Interpretation of Literature (GE: Interpretation of Literature)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major: introductory-level course numbered</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1XXX</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE: World Languages or elective course</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE: Diversity and Inclusion</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>15-17</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Second Year</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: introductory-level course numbered</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1XXX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: calculus or statistics course</td>
<td>3-4</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major: introductory-level course numbered</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1XXX</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE: World Languages or elective course</td>
<td>3-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
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<td>2-3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>15-18</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI:3000</td>
<td>Analyzing Political Data</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major: calculus or statistics course</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major: introductory-level course numbered</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1XXX</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE: World Languages or elective course</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>15-18</td>
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<td><strong>Third Year</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Major: introductory-level course numbered</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1XXX</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major: statistics course</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major: upper-level course numbered POLI:2XXX or above</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GE: Values and Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>15-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major: upper-level course numbered POLI:2XXX or above</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major: upper-level course numbered POLI:2XXX or above</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE: Natural Sciences with a lab</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Elective course | 2-3     |
| **Hours**       | 15-16   |

### Fourth Year

| **Fall** |                                             |       |
| POLI:4701 | Undergraduate Research Tutorial (major)     | 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** 120-132

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 Upper-level courses for the political science major are 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 economics. 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.