Political Science, B.A.

Most of the political science coursework 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.

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.

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 coursework 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. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core.

Credit earned in POLI:1000 First-Year Seminar, POLI:3124 Guided Political Science Internship, 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 coursework, 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 coursework 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 coursework.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Political Science Introductory Courses</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Additional Political Science Courses</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Political Science Introductory Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1100</td>
<td>Introduction to American Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And four of these:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1001</td>
<td>Introduction to Politics</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 Russian Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1410</td>
<td>Introduction to Asian International Relations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1445</td>
<td>Introduction to Asian Politics: China</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:1449</td>
<td>Introduction to European Politics</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

<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>21</td>
<td></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**

Students interested in teaching in elementary and/or secondary schools should seek admission to the Teacher Education Program (TEP) in the College of Education.

To qualify for licensure in secondary teaching, students in the TEP complete a degree in education as well as a related College of Liberal Arts and Sciences degree. See Teacher Education Program Application and Admission on the College of Education website for details on requirements and deadlines for applying to the College of Education and about TEP choices of majors leading to licensure.

**Combined Programs**

**B.A./M.S. in Business Analytics (Career Subprogram)**

Students majoring in political science who are interested in earning a master's degree in business analytics with a career subprogram may apply to the combined B.A./M.S. program offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Tippie College of Business. The program enables students to begin the study of business analytics before they complete their bachelor’s degree. Students are able to complete both degrees in five years rather than six.

Separate application to each degree program is required. Applicants must be admitted to both programs before they may be admitted to the combined degree program. For information about the business analytics program, see the M.S. in business analytics (career) in the Tippie College of Business section of the Catalog.

**B.A./M.S. in Finance**

Students majoring in political science who are interested in earning a master's degree in finance may apply to the combined B.A./M.S. program offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Tippie College of Business. The program enables students to complete their bachelor's degree. Students are able to complete both degrees in five years rather than six.

Separate application to each degree program is required. Applicants must be admitted to both programs before they may be admitted to the combined degree program. For information about the finance program, see the M.S. in finance (Tippie College of Business) section of the Catalog.

**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. of at least 3.33 and a major g.p.a. of at least 3.50. In addition to maintaining the minimum grade-point average requirements, students must complete 6-9 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 coursework for the major.

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

**Honors Seminar**

<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</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Experiential Learning**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI:3001</td>
<td>Hawkeye Poll</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:3113</td>
<td>Research in Judicial Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:3124</td>
<td>Guided Political Science Internship</td>
<td>1-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:3127</td>
<td>Legislative Policy Seminar</td>
<td>arr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:4701</td>
<td>Undergraduate Research Tutorial</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI:4900</td>
<td>Government and Politics Internship</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Another course or experience, such as POLI:3530, study abroad, internship credit, or research work (approved by the honors director)

**Final Honors Project**

<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>

Students who choose to write an honors thesis are required to schedule an oral discussion of their completed honors thesis, mainly to enrich the intellectual experience of its author. A student discusses the thesis with a faculty committee including the thesis director and the department’s honors director or a faculty member designated by that official. The committee may withhold approval of fundamentally inadequate theses, but directors are to schedule theses for discussion only when they are ready. The discussion typically concentrates on exploring thesis ideas from several perspectives rather than whether to approve a thesis.

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 3.3, have attained junior standing, and have completed 15 s.h. of coursework 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.

Career Advancement

A recent survey 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.

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 coursework 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
Rhett:1030 | Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature | 3 - 4
Ge CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course
Elective course c | 3
Csi:1600 | Success at Iowa | 2
**Hours** | 15-17
**Spring**
Engh:1200 | The Interpretation of Literature or Rhetoric | 3 - 4
Major: introductory-level course numbered Poli:1XXX a | 3
Ge CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion d | 3
Ge CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course b | 4 - 5
Elective course c | 3
**Hours** | 16-18
**Second Year**
**Fall**
Major: introductory-level course numbered Poli:1XXX a | 3
Ge CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab d | 4
Ge CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course b | 4 - 5
Elective course c | 3
Elective course c | 2 - 3
**Hours** | 16-17
**Spring**
Major: introductory-level course numbered Poli:1XXX a | 3
Major: upper-level course numbered Poli:2XXX or above e | 3
Ge CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning d | 3
Ge CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course b | 4 - 5
Elective course c | 3
**Hours** | 15
**Third Year**
**Fall**
Major: introductory-level course numbered Poli:1XXX a | 3
Major: upper-level course numbered Poli:2XXX or above e | 3
Ge CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts d | 3
Elective course c | 3
Elective course c | 3
**Hours** | 15
**Spring**
Major: upper-level course numbered Poli:2XXX or above e | 3
## Political Science, B.A.

### Major: upper-level course numbered POLI:2XXX or above

- **GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture**
- **Elective course**
- **Elective course**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
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</table>

### Fourth Year

#### Fall

- **Major: upper-level course numbered POLI:2XXX or above**
- **GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives**
- **GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab**
- **Elective course**
- **Elective course**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Spring

- **Major: upper-level course numbered POLI:2XXX or above**
- **Major: upper-level course numbered POLI:2XXX or above**
- **GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues**
- **Elective course**
- **Elective course**

**Degree Application:** apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Hours

- **123-130**

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**Notes:**

- **a** Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
- **b** Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.
- **c** Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
- **d** GE CLAS Core 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.
- **e** For the political science major upper-level is defined as those courses numbered 2000 or above, excluding POLI:3124 and POLI:4900.
- **f** Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Graduation Services.