

Political Science, BA

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 grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.33 and a major GPA of at least 3.50. In addition to maintaining the minimum GPA requirements and minimum major requirements, honors students must complete a final honors project.

Final Honors Project

| Course # | Title | Hours |
|---------------|-------------------------|-------|
| One of these: | | |
| POLI:4600 | Honors Research Project | 3 |
| POLI:4601 | Honors Senior Thesis | 3 |

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.

It is expected that students wishing to pursue the honors thesis (POLI:4601) begin discussing the thesis with their thesis director one full semester prior to the semester in which they want to write the thesis and consider enrolling in POLI:4700 Independent Study for 1 s.h. the semester before enrolling in the thesis seminar.

National Honor Society

The department sponsors a chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. Students who have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.30, 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.