

Political Science, B.S.

Most of the political science coursework 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.

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 Science with a major in political science requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 46 s.h. of work for the major (36 s.h. in political science courses and 10-11 s.h. of approved mathematics/statistics 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, POLI:3710 Law School Readiness Seminar, 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.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 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.S. with a major in political science requires the following coursework.

Code	Title	Hours
	Political Science Introductory Courses	15
	Additional Political Science Courses	21
	Mathematics/Statistics Courses	10-11
	Total Hours	46-47

Political Science Introductory Courses

Code	Title	Hours
This course:		
POLI:1100	Introduction to American Politics	3
And four of these:		
POLI:1001	Introduction to Politics	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 Russian Politics	3
POLI:1410	Introduction to Asian International Relations	3
POLI:1445	Introduction to Asian Politics: China	3
POLI:1449	Introduction to European Politics	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
POLI:1950	Introduction to the Politics of Religion	3

Additional Political Science Courses

Code	Title	Hours
Advanced Courses		
These:		
	Political science courses numbered 2000 or above, excluding POLI:3124, POLI:3710, 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

Mathematics/Statistics Courses

Students complete one of the following sets of mathematics/statistics courses 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

Code	Title	Hours
MATH:1380	Calculus and Matrix Algebra for Business	4
or MATH:1550	Engineering Mathematics I: Single Variable Calculus	
or MATH:1850	Calculus I	
STAT:4143/ PSQF:4143	Introduction to Statistical Methods	3
STAT:6513	Intermediate Statistical Methods	3

Set 2

Code	Title	Hours
MATH:1850	Calculus I	4
or MATH:1550	Engineering Mathematics I: Single Variable Calculus	
MATH:1860	Calculus II	4
or MATH:1560	Engineering Mathematics II: Multivariable Calculus	
STAT:4143/ PSQF:4143	Introduction to Statistical Methods	3

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 the 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.

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 Apply 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.S./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.S./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.S./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.S./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 finance 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 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 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

Code	Title	Hours
This course:		
POLI:4000	Honors Seminar on the Study of Politics	3

Experiential Learning

Code	Title	Hours
One of these:		
POLI:3001	Hawkeye Poll	3
POLI:3113	Research in Judicial Politics	3
POLI:3124	Guided Political Science Internship	1-9
POLI:3127	Legislative Policy Seminar	arr.
POLI:4701	Undergraduate Research Tutorial	3
POLI:4900	Government and Politics Internship	1-3

Another course or experience, such as POLI:3530, study abroad, internship credit, or research work (approved by the honors director) 0-3

Final Honors Project

Code	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.

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 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 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.

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:4600 Honors Research Project or POLI:4701 Undergraduate Research Tutorial.

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.

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Course	Title	Hours
First Year		
Fall		
POLI:1100	Introduction to American Politics ^a	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 ^b		4 - 5
Elective course ^c		3
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	2
Hours		15-17
Spring		
Major: introductory-level course numbered POLI:1XXX		3
RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200	Rhetoric or The Interpretation of Literature	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^b		4 - 5
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion ^d		3
Elective course ^c		3
Hours		16-18
Second Year		
Fall		
Major: introductory-level course numbered POLI:1XXX		3
Major: calculus course ^{a, e, f}		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		16-18

Spring

POLI:3000 Analyzing Political Data	3
Major: calculus or statistics course ^e	3 - 4
Major: introductory-level course numbered POLI:1XXX	3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course ^b	4 - 5
Elective course ^c	3
Hours	16-18

Third Year

Fall

Major: introductory-level course numbered POLI:1XXX	3
Major: upper-level course numbered POLI:2XXX or above ^g	3
Major: statistics course ^e	3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture ^d	3
Elective course ^c	3
Hours	15

Spring

Major: upper-level course numbered POLI:2XXX or above ^g	3
Major: upper-level course numbered POLI:2XXX or above ^g	3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts ^d	3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ^d	4
Elective course ^c	2 - 3
Hours	15-16

Fourth Year

Fall

POLI:4701 Undergraduate Research Tutorial or POLI:4600 or Honors Research Project	3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives ^d	3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab ^d	3
Elective course ^c	3
Elective course ^c	3
Hours	15

Spring

Major: upper-level course numbered POLI:2XXX or above ^g	3
Major: upper-level course numbered POLI:2XXX or above ^g	3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^d	3
Elective course ^c	3
Elective course ^c	3

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

Hours	15
Total Hours	123-132

- 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 Students complete an approved set of mathematics/statistics courses (10-11 s.h.).
- f Enrollment in math courses requires completion of a placement exam.
- g For the political science major upper-level is defined as those courses numbered 2000 or above, excluding POLI:3124, POLI:4900, and POLI:3710.
- h 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.

- 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.