

Political Science, BS

Requirements

The Bachelor of Science with a major in political science requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 39 s.h. of work for the major. At least 18 s.h. of political science coursework for the major must be taken at the University of Iowa. Students must maintain a grade-point average (GPA) of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They must also 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, POLI:3711 Law School Readiness Seminar II, POLI:3993 Political Science Undergraduate Research Projects, and POLI:4900 Government and Politics Internship does not count toward major credit requirements. Coursework in the major may not be taken pass/nonpass. Courses graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis may not count toward major requirements.

In planning coursework, students should be guided by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences maximum hours rules: students earning a BS 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.

Students who are earning two majors from the same department (e.g. a BS in political science and a BS in international relations), two degrees from the same department (e.g. a BS in political science and a BA in international relations), or a major and a minor from the same department (e.g. a BS in political science and a minor in international relations) may apply more than 56 s.h. from their home department toward their degree, but they must earn at least 56 s.h. of credit in courses outside their home department in order to graduate.

The BS with a major in political science requires the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Political Science Introductory Courses	15
Additional Political Science Courses	15
Statistics/Research/Experiential Courses	9

Political Science Introductory Courses

Course #	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:1120	Introduction to Lawyers in the American Political System	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:1449	Introduction to European Politics	3
POLI:1500	Introduction to International Relations	3
POLI:1501	Introduction to American Foreign Policy	3
POLI:1510	International Politics of Environmental Issues	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

Students must complete at least 15 s.h. (typically five courses) in additional political science courses (prefix POLI) numbered 2000 or above, excluding POLI:3124, POLI:3710, POLI:3711, POLI:3993, and POLI:4900.

Statistics/Research/Experiential Courses

Students receive further exposure to statistical methods, research processes, and experiential learning courses. Students are allowed to customize the courses to fit their interests and academic goals.

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
POLI:3000	Analyzing Political Data	3
One of these (minimum 3 s.h.):		
POLI:3001	Hawkeye Poll	3
POLI:3020	Project Vote Smart: Research and Engagement on Elections	3
POLI:3127	Legislative Policy Seminar	arr.
POLI:3160	Applied Research in Political Science	1-3
POLI:3525	Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab	3

POLI:3527	Civil War Research Lab	3
POLI:3528	Disasters, Migration, and Violence Lab	arr.
POLI:3530	Diplomacy Lab	arr.
POLI:3994	Political Science Undergraduate Research Projects	3-4
POLI:4700	Independent Study	arr.
POLI:4701	Undergraduate Research Tutorial	3
One of these (minimum 3 s.h.):		
POLI:3002	Data Visualization	3
POLI:3050	Problems in Methods	arr.
CS:1210	Computer Science I: Fundamentals	4
CS:2110	Programming for Informatics	4
ECON:3300	Introduction to Econometrics: Causal Inference With Data	3
ECON:4800	Econometric Analysis: Advanced Causal Inference With Data	3
SEES:2050	Foundations of GIS	4
SEES:3500/ IGPI:3500	Introduction to Environmental Remote Sensing	3
SEES:4150/ GHS:4150/ IGPI:4150	Health and Environment: GIS Applications	3
SOC:3880	The Sociology of Networks	3

Statistics courses (prefix STAT) numbered 3000 and above

Additional courses may be approved by exception; contact the director of undergraduate studies

Emphasis Areas in Political Science

Students may elect to complete one or two emphasis areas while fulfilling the requirements for the major. Emphasis areas are indicated on the transcript at graduation if students complete the emphasis and request recognition from the department.

Each emphasis consists of four courses. Emphasis areas are available in American institutions, identity politics, international relations, political behavior, political communication, political theory, politics of foreign countries, and public policy. For 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.