BA in Political Science

Degree Program Description

Political science is concerned with government, politics and public policies. In political science students learn how government operates and how to analyze and evaluate public policies and political ideas. This training can help students be more effective as active citizens, as political leaders and as government administrators. The curriculum offers opportunities to link academic study with internships and study abroad. Political Science graduates pursue many careers, some related to politics, but many others pursue other paths in a wide variety of areas such as: law, business and finance, consulting, government, public relations, media, advertising, lobbying, and international relations.

Major Program Requirements

Students must complete the University of Missouri’s general education requirements, University graduation requirements (http://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegerequirements/universityrequirements) and the Departmental Requirements (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/politicalscience/#undergraduatetext), in addition to the degree requirements below.

All majors must take:

- POL_SC 1100 American Government
- POL_SC 3000W Introduction to Political Research - Writing Intensive

*Beginning in Spring 2020, students may take either POL_SC 2500 or POL_SC 3000W to meet the departmental research methods requirement

Comparative government (at least one course required)

- POL_SC 2600 Canadian Politics and Government
- POL_SC 2700 Comparative Political Systems
- POL_SC 2720 European Democracies
- POL_SC 4600 Latin American Politics
- POL_SC 4610 European Political Systems
- POL_SC 4630 The Politics of Modern Europe
- POL_SC 4640 African Politics
- POL_SC 4660 Canada in North America
- POL_SC 4670 The Political System of the European Union
- POL_SC 4680 Chinese Politics and Foreign Policy
- POL_SC 4690 North and South Korea
- POL_SC 4695 Understanding Korea Through Film
- POL_SC 4700 America's Wars in Asia/War and Peace in Asia
- POL_SC 4710 Terrorism: Religious, Ethnic and Ideological Politics
- POL_SC 4720 Politics of Development
- POL_SC 4730 Women and Politics
- POL_SC 4750 Power and Money
- POL_SC 4770 Comparative Political Behavior
- POL_SC 4780 Dictatorship and Democracy
- POL_SC 4790 The Age of Democratization?

International affairs (at least one course required)

- POL_SC 1400 International Relations

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>POL_SC 4410</td>
<td>Politics and War</td>
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<td>POL_SC 4411</td>
<td>Genocide, Terrorism and Civil War</td>
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<td>POL_SC 4412</td>
<td>Strategy and Warfare</td>
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<td>POL_SC 4413</td>
<td>Politics of Cyber-Security</td>
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<td>POL_SC 4415</td>
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<td>POL_SC 4420</td>
<td>Politics of International Economic Relations</td>
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<td>POL_SC 4430</td>
<td>Global Human Rights</td>
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<td>POL_SC 4440</td>
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<td>POL_SC 4540</td>
<td>American Foreign Policies</td>
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<tr>
<td>POL_SC 4540W</td>
<td>American Foreign Policies - Writing Intensive</td>
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Political theory/methodology (one course highly recommended, but not required)

- POL_SC 2800 Liberty, Justice and the Common Good
- POL_SC 4000 Introductory Statistics for Political Science
- POL_SC 4010 Computing Methods
- POL_SC 4800 Classical Political Theory
- POL_SC 4810 Modern Political Theory
- POL_SC 4840 Developing Dynamics of Democracy
- POL_SC 4850 Scots and the Making of America
- POL_SC 4850H Scots and the Making of America - Honors
- POL_SC 4900 Beltway History and Politics: American Constitutional Democracy in Theory and Practice

American politics/public policy (at least two courses required)

- POL_SC 2100 State Government
- POL_SC 2200 The Judicial Process
- POL_SC 2425 Race and the American Story
- POL_SC 2450 The Intellectual World of the American Founders
- POL_SC 2450H The Intellectual World of the American Founders - Honors
- POL_SC 2455 Constitutional Debates
- POL_SC 2455H Constitutional Debates - Honors
- POL_SC 2860 American Political Thought
- POL_SC 4100 Political Parties and Election Campaigns
- POL_SC 4110 Political Behavior
- POL_SC 4120 Politics and the Media
- POL_SC 4120W Politics and the Media - Writing Intensive
- POL_SC 4130 African-American Politics
- POL_SC 4131 Race and Politics
- POL_SC 4132 Race, Immigration, and Urban Politics
- POL_SC 4140 Congress and Legislative Policy
- POL_SC 4150 The American Presidency
- POL_SC 4150W The American Presidency - Writing Intensive
- POL_SC 4160 Interest Groups
- POL_SC 4160W Interest Groups - Writing Intensive
- POL_SC 4170 Politics of the American South
- POL_SC 4180 Politics and Hollywood
- POL_SC 4180W Politics and Hollywood - Writing Intensive
Options
For students who want to concentrate on a specific area, suggestions for a course of study are available from the academic advisor. These include:

• Government service for students who want to become government administrators
• Public information and reporting for students who plan to be governmental press secretaries, public information specialists, interest group lobbyists or government reporters
• International relations for students who want to work for multinational corporations or international agencies
• Graduate school preparation
• Law school preparation

Semester Plan
Below is a sample plan of study, semester by semester. A student's actual plan may vary based on course choices where options are available.

First Year
Fall | CR Spring | CR
--- | --- | ---
POL_SC 1100 | 3 Political Science | 3
ENGLISH 100 | 3 Foreign Language 1200 | 5
Behavioral Science | 3 Elective | 1
Elective | 1 Behavioral Science | 3
Foreign Language 1100 | 5 MATH 1050, 1100, or STAT 1200 | 3

Total Credits: 15

Second Year
Fall | CR Spring | CR
--- | --- | ---
Foreign Language 2100 | 3 POL_SC 3000 (WI) | 3
Elective | 3 Biological Science | 3
Political Science | 3 Humanities | 3
Social Science | 3 Social Science | 3
Social Science | 3 Elective - Diversity Intensive Course | 3

Total Credits: 15

Third Year
Fall | CR Spring | CR
--- | --- | ---
Political Science | 3 Political Science | 3
Humanities | 3 Humanities | 3
Physical Science (lab) | 3 Elective (WI) | 3
Elective | 3 Elective | 3
Elective | 3 Humanities | 3

Total Credits: 15

Fourth Year
Fall | CR Spring | CR
--- | --- | ---
Political Science | 3 Political Science | 3
Political Science | 3 Political Science | 3
Elective | 3 Elective | 3
Elective | 3 Elective | 3
Elective | 3 Elective | 3

Total Credits: 15

^ Course meets degree program requirements
• Course meets University general education and/or campus graduation requirements