

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

In addition to University (<http://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegree/requirements/universityrequirements/>), general education (<http://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegree/requirements/generaleducationrequirements/>), and College of Arts and Science (<http://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofartsandscience/#undergraduatetext>) requirements, students must also meet the following major program requirements. All major requirements in the College of Arts and Science must be completed with grades of C- or higher unless otherwise indicated.

All majors must take:

POL_SC 1100	American Government
or POL_SC 1100H	American Government - Honors
POL_SC 2500	The Science of Politics
or 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
or POL_SC 2700H	Comparative Political Systems - Honors
POL_SC 2710	Politics and the Military
POL_SC 2720	European Democracies
POL_SC 2745	The Politics of Sport
POL_SC 4600	Latin American Politics
POL_SC 4605	Latin American Politics through Film
POL_SC 4610	European Political Systems
POL_SC 4630	The Politics of Modern Europe
POL_SC 4640	African Politics
POL_SC 4650	Middle East Politics
POL_SC 4660	Canada in North America
POL_SC 4670	Policies and Institutions of the European Union
POL_SC 4680	Chinese Politics and Foreign Policy
POL_SC 4690	Korean Politics: 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 4740	Comparative Political Culture
POL_SC 4750	Power and Money
POL_SC 4760	Comparative Political Parties
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
or POL_SC 1400H	International Relations - Honors
POL_SC 2293	Globalization, Identity and Citizenship
or POL_SC 2293W	Globalization, Identity and Citizenship - Writing Intensive
POL_SC 2410	The Politics of International Law
POL_SC 3164	Nation Building through a Barrel of a Gun
POL_SC 3165	"Chasing Ghost", The History of Irregular Warfare
POL_SC 4400	Theories of International Relations
POL_SC 4410	Politics and War
POL_SC 4411	Genocide, Terrorism and Civil War
POL_SC 4412	Strategy and Warfare
POL_SC 4413	Politics of Cyber-Security
POL_SC 4415	Peacekeeping and Intervention
POL_SC 4420	Politics of International Economic Relations
or POL_SC 4420H	Politics of International Economic Relations - Honors
POL_SC 4430	Global Human Rights
POL_SC 4435	Nationalism and Democracy
POL_SC 4440	International Organization
POL_SC 4540	American Foreign Policies
or POL_SC 4540W	American Foreign Policies - Writing Intensive
POL_SC 4500	The European Union in the Global System
POL_SC 4550	Environmental Conflict

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 4820	Contemporary Political Theory
POL_SC 4840	Developing Dynamics of Democracy
POL_SC 4850	Scots and the Making of America
or 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 1704	Introduction to Black Politics
POL_SC 2100	State Government
POL_SC 2150	How Government Affects You
POL_SC 2250	Missouri Politics
or POL_SC 2250H	Missouri Politics - Honors

POL_SC 2200	The Judicial Process
POL_SC 2425	Race and the American Story
POL_SC 2445	American Constitutional Democracy
POL_SC 2450	The Intellectual World of the American Founders
or POL_SC 2450H	The Intellectual World of the American Founders - Honors
POL_SC 2455	Constitutional Debates
or 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
or 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 4141	The History of American Legislatures
POL_SC 4150	The American Presidency
or POL_SC 4150W	The American Presidency - Writing Intensive
POL_SC 4160	Interest Groups
or POL_SC 4160W	Interest Groups - Writing Intensive
POL_SC 4170	Politics of the American South
POL_SC 4180	Politics and Hollywood
or POL_SC 4180W	Politics and Hollywood - Writing Intensive
POL_SC 4190	Elections and Democracy in the United States
POL_SC 4200	The American Constitution
or POL_SC 4200W	The American Constitution - Writing Intensive
POL_SC 4210	Constitutional Rights
or POL_SC 4210W	Constitutional Rights - Writing Intensive
POL_SC 4220	The United States Supreme Court
or POL_SC 4220W	The United States Supreme Court - Writing Intensive
POL_SC 4230	Constitution and Civil Liberties
POL_SC 4231	Constitutional Litigation
POL_SC 4310	Comparative State Politics
POL_SC 4320	Public Policy
or POL_SC 4320W	Public Policy - Writing Intensive
POL_SC 4330	Policy Analysis
POL_SC 4350	Issues in Public Policy
POL_SC 4370	Law, Policy, and Regulation
or POL_SC 4370H	Law, Policy, and Regulation - Honors
POL_SC 4380	Politics of Criminal Justice
POL_SC 4390	United States Health Politics and Policy
POL_SC 4830	Democracy in America (and Elsewhere)
PUB_AF 4430	Public Policy Analysis

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

Accelerated BA in Political Science to Masters of Public Affairs (MPA) Program

The MPA (<http://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofartsandscience/publicaffairs/mpa-public-affairs/>) is a professional degree combining rigorous coursework and experiential learning opportunities to prepare students for ethical leadership in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. The Truman School of Government and Public Affairs offers a 4+1 program that allows undergraduate students in Political Science (BA) (p. 1), Public Administration and Policy (BA) (<http://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofartsandscience/publicadministrationpolicy/ba-public-administration-policy/>), and Economics (BS) (<http://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofartsandscience/economics/bs-economics/>) majors to earn their undergraduate degree and a Master of Public Affairs (MPA) in five total years. Students accepted into the program will begin taking graduate-level coursework during their fourth year of study that counts towards both their undergraduate and graduate program requirements.

Undergraduate students must complete 90 credit hours with a GPA of 3.0 or higher and have been accepted into the accelerated program prior to being admitted as provisional graduate students. Upon successful completion of program requirements, the undergraduate degree is conferred at the end of year 4 and the MPA is conferred at the end of year 5.

Total credits for graduation: 141

- Undergraduate credits: 105
- Dual credits: 15 (taken at the graduate level during fourth year of study for credit toward both undergraduate and MPA degrees)
- Graduate credits: 21

PUB_AF 7175	Early Childhood Policy
PUB_AF 7340	Regional and Economic Development Policy
PUB_AF 7540	Local Government Management
PUB_AF 7810	Comparative and Global Governance
PUB_AF 8150	Collaborative Governance
PUB_AF 8170	Public Policy Processes and Strategies
PUB_AF 8180	Research Methods and Inquiry in Public Affairs I
PUB_AF 8210	Public Service and Democracy
PUB_AF 8860	International Comparative Rural Policy
PUB_AF 8864	Administrative Law

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 ^{*1}		3 Political Science ¹	3
ENGLSH 1000 [*]		3 MATH 1050, 1100, or STAT 1200 [*]	3
Behavioral Science [*]		3 Behavioral Science [*]	3
Social Science outside of major [*]		3 Second Language 1100 [*]	4-5
Elective		3 Elective	1
		15	14-15

Second Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
Political Science ¹		3 POL_SC 2500 or 3000W ¹	3
Second Language 1200 [*]		4-5 Biological/Physical/Math Science [*]	3
Humanities [*]		3 Second Language 2100 [*]	3-4
Social Science outside of major [*]		3 Humanities [*]	3
Elective		3 Elective- Diversity Intensive Course [*]	3
		16-17	15-16

Third Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
Political Science 4000+ (WI if needed) ¹		3 Political Science 4000+ ¹	3
Biological or Physical Science with lab [*]		5 Biological/Physical/Math Science [*]	3
Humanities [*]		3 Humanities [*]	3
Social Science outside of major [*]		3 Elective (WI) [*]	3
Elective 3000+		3 Elective 3000+	3
		17	15

Fourth Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
Political Science 4000+ ¹		3 Political Science 4000+ ¹	3
Political Science 4000+ ¹		3 Political Science ¹	3
Elective 3000+		3 Elective 3000+	3
Elective 3000+		3 Elective	3
Elective		1 Elective	3
		13	15

Total Credits: 120-123

¹ Course meets degree program requirements

* Course meets University general education and/or campus graduation requirements