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/academicdegreerequirements/universityrequirements/) and the Departmental Requirements (http://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofartsandscience/politicalscience/universityrequirements/), in addition to the degree requirements below.

All majors must take:

- POL_SC 1100 American Government
- POL_SC 2500 The Science of Politics
- 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 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 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

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
- 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 4550 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 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 2450H The Intellectual World of the American Founders - Honors
- POL_SC 2455 Constitutional Debates
or POL_SC 2455H  Constitutional Debates - Honors
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
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
POL_SC 4380  Politics of Criminal Justice
POL_SC 4390  United States Health Politics and Policy
POL_SC 4830  Democracy in America (and Elsewhere)

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 to MPA Option

Degree Program Description
Political science is concerned with government, politics and public policies. In the BA program 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.

Students completing the MPA program at the Truman School are prepared for leadership in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors. Students gain competencies through the core and specialization courses that build a strong theoretical foundation in public affairs, policy, and management. Students develop rigorous analytic skills and have opportunities to apply knowledge, skills, and competencies to public policy and management issues. Through their coursework, students build knowledge of policy processes and management principles and develop critical thinking and analytic skills that enable them to advance in careers in a rapidly changing public service.

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

(Note: eligible for the accelerated program after completing 90 credit hours at the undergraduate level, with at least a 3.0 GPA.)

During years 1 through 3 students complete undergraduate general education and program requirements of at least 90 hours with a 3.0 GPA. Students may then be admitted as provisional graduate students and may take up to 15 hours of shared credit. The BA is conferred at the end of year 4. In year 5, the student completes 21 hours of MPA coursework and the MPA is conferred.

Total Credits for graduation: 156
Undergraduate credits: 120
Dual credits: 15
Graduate credits: 21

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.

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<th>First Year</th>
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<td>Fall</td>
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<td>POL_SC 1100¹</td>
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<td>ENGLISH 1001</td>
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<td>Behavioral Science²</td>
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<td>Social Science outside of major²</td>
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<th>Second Year</th>
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<td>Political Science¹</td>
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<td>Course</td>
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<td>Second Language 1200</td>
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<td>Humanities</td>
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<td>Social Science outside of major</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
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<td><strong>Third Year</strong></td>
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<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political Science 4000+ (WI if needed)¹</td>
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<td>Biological or Physical Science with lab²</td>
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<td>Fall</td>
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<td><strong>Total Credits: 120-123</strong></td>
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¹ Course meets degree program requirements
* Course meets University general education and/or campus graduation requirements