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/academicdegreerequirements/universityrequirements/), general education (http://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/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** or **POL_SC 1100H**
  - American Government

- **POL_SC 2500** or **POL_SC 3000W**
  - The Science of Politics

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

Comparative government (at least one course required)

- **POL_SC 2600**
  - Canadian Politics and Government

- **POL_SC 2700** or **POL_SC 2700H**
  - Comparative Political Systems

- **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

International affairs (at least one course required)

- **POL_SC 1400** or **POL_SC 1400H**
  - International Relations

- **POL_SC 2293** or **POL_SC 2293W**
  - Globalization, Identity and Citizenship

- **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** or **POL_SC 4540W**
  - American Foreign Policies

- **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** or **POL_SC 4850H**
  - Scots and the Making of America

- **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** or **POL_SC 2250H**
  - Missouri Politics - Honors
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
- Law school preparation
- Graduates school preparation
- International relations for students who want to work for multinational corporations or international agencies
- Public information and reporting for students who plan to be governmental press secretaries, public information specialists, interest group lobbyists or government reporters

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

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<th>Fall</th>
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## Second Year

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## Fourth Year

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Total Credits: 120-123

1 Course meets degree program requirements

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