

B.A. in Political Science – for students declaring in FALL 2017 & thereafter

For a major in political science, the student must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 39 credit hours, including:

- A 17-hour core introducing students to the conduct of political inquiry in the major areas of the discipline, an awareness of global issues and cultural diversity, and the techniques of original research.
- A 18-hour depth requirement in which students take at least one course from each of the four major areas of political inquiry and acquire additional experience in the application of research techniques.
- A 4-hour capstone experience designed to bring together knowledge gained in different courses into a coherent whole, to foster a capacity for lifelong learning, to connect the major to experiences outside the university and to provide the opportunity to work individually with a faculty member.

Degree and Major Requirements

Degree Requirements

Required Courses	Credit Hours
General Education ¹	41
Foreign Language classes (intermediate level required) ²	0-14
Philosophy course (in addition to General Education courses)	3
University electives	28-39
Major requirements (listed below)	39
	120

¹ The [General Education](#) program contains a set of requirements each student must fulfill. The number of credit hours necessary to fulfill these requirements may vary.

² The foreign language requirement may be satisfied by successful completion of the second semester of the intermediate level of the student's chosen language (typically 232) or by placing out of that language through the [Department of Foreign Language's placement test](#).

Major Requirements

Core Requirements	Credit Hours
POSC 201 . Introduction to Western Political Theory	3
POSC 225 . U.S. Government	4
POSC 230 . International Relations	3
POSC 240 . Comparative Politics	3
POSC 295 . Political Research Methods ¹	4

¹ [MATH 220](#) is a prerequisite for [POSC 295](#).

Electives

In addition to the core requirements, political science majors must elect 18 hours of approved courses from the 300 level or above and at least one from each of the four major areas of political inquiry. Students are encouraged to complete the core requirements before taking any course above the level of [POSC 301](#).

Elective Courses	Credit Hours
Choose one course from each of the following four areas:	12
<u>Comparative Politics</u>	-
POSC 337 . Politics of Russia and the Former Soviet Union	
POSC 340 . Political Development in the Third World	
POSC 344 . Politics of European Union	
POSC 345 . Politics of Western Europe	
POSC 346 . Politics of Central and Eastern Europe	
POSC 347 . Comparative Public Policy	
POSC 348 . The Politics of Cultural Pluralism	
POSC 349 . Comparative Political Behavior	
POSC 350 . Latin American Politics	
POSC 353 . African Politics	
POSC 354 . Politics of the Middle East	
POSC 355 . East Asian Politics	
POSC 356 . Politics of China	
POSC 371 . Topics in Comparative Politics	
POSC/WGS 383 . Women in Politics in Comparative Perspective	
POSC 440 . Post-Conflict Societies	
POSC/HIST 457 . Comparative Empires	
<u>International Relations</u>	-
POSC/JUST 331 . Human Rights in Theory and Practice	
POSC 361 . Topics in International Relations	
POSC 370 . U.S. Foreign Policy	
POSC/JUST 372 . Ethics and International Politics	

POSC/JUST 392. Peace Studies	
POSC 393. Human Security	
POSC 394. International Conflict	
POSC 395. International Law	
POSC 396. International Organizations	
POSC 397. Politics of International Economic Relations	
POSC 430. International Security and Conflict Management	
POSC 435. International Terrorism	
POSC 458. International Political Analysis	
<u>Political Theory</u>	
POSC 310. Political Theory: Ancient to Early Modern	-
POSC 315. Political Theory: Early Modern to the 19th Century	
POSC 316. Contemporary Political Theory	
POSC 321. Political Theory and Ideology	
POSC 330. American Political Thought	
POSC 381. Topics in Political Theory	
<u>American Government</u>	
POSC 302. State and Local Government	-
POSC 325. Constitutional Law	
POSC 326. Civil Rights	
POSC 351. Topics in American Politics	
POSC 362. Political Behavior	
POSC 365. American Political Campaigning	
POSC 367. U.S. Immigration Politics and Policy	
POSC 368. Interest Groups and Public Policy	
POSC 369. Political Parties and Elections	
POSC 380. The U.S. Presidency	
POSC 382. The Role of Religion in American Politics	
POSC 384. Minority Group Politics	
POSC 385. The U.S. Congress	
POSC 386. The U.S. Judiciary	
POSC 387. The Appellate Process and Practice	
POSC 472. Media and Politics	
<i>Two additional electives chosen from the 300 or 400 level courses listed above</i>	6
<u>For three of these credit hours, students may also take one of the following courses:</u>	-
PPA 200. Public Policy	
PPA 265. Public Administration	
POSC 200. Global Politics	
POSC 300. Politics and Film	
POSC 301W. The Washington Semester Experience	
POSC 391. Topics in Public Policy	
POSC 398. Simulations	
POSC 493. Political Communication Internship	
POSC 493W. Political Communication Internship in Washington	
POSC 495. Internship in Political Science	
POSC 495W. Washington Semester Internship in Political Science	
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Senior Capstone	Credit Hours
POSC 492. Senior Seminar in Political Science ²	4

1 Students should fulfill the senior capstone requirement for each major and minor separately. This means that senior experiences completed for one major or minor cannot normally be counted for another. Students who have questions about a particular situation should see the academic unit head or appropriate academic unit coordinator for clarification.

2 This course fulfills the College of Arts and Letters writing-intensive requirement for the major.

Senior Honors Projects

A POSC major may seek permission to count a completed Senior Honors Project as a 3-credit elective within the POSC major. Students must consult with the POSC program coordinator PRIOR to conducting an honors project to clarify the specific nature of its potential applicability to the major's elective options.