Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of General Studies in Political Science

Why study political science?

Because political science advances our understanding of politics, power, governance, and public policy in the United States and across the globe.

Undergraduate Admission

Admission to KU

All students applying for admission must send high school and college transcripts to the Office of Admissions. Unless they are college transfer students with at least 24 hours of credit, prospective students must send ACT or SAT scores to the Office of Admissions. Prospective first-year students should be aware that KU has qualified admission requirements that all new first-year students must meet to be admitted. Consult the Office of Admissions (http://admissions.ku.edu) for application deadlines and specific admission requirements.

Visit the Office of International Student and Scholar Services (http://www.iss.ku.edu) for information about international admissions.

Students considering transferring to KU may see how their college-level course work will transfer on the Office of Admissions (http://credittransfer.ku.edu) website.

Admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Admission to the College is a different process from admission to a major field. Some CLAS departments have admission requirements. See individual department/program sections for departmental admission requirements.

Requirements for the B.A. or B.G.S. Major

Political Science Core Knowledge and Skills (12)

Majors must complete a course in each of the following areas:

Introduction to U.S. Politics. Satisfied by one of the following:
- POLS 110 Introduction to U.S. Politics 3
- or POLS 111 Introduction to U.S. Politics Honors

Introduction to Comparative or International Politics. Satisfied by one of the following:
- POLS 150 Introduction to Comparative Politics 3
- or POLS 151 Introduction to Comparative Politics Honors
- or POLS 170 Introduction to International Politics
- or POLS 171 Introduction to International Politics Honors

Introduction to Political Theory. Satisfied by one of the following:
- POLS 301 Introduction to Political Theory 3
- or POLS 302 Introduction to Political Theory, Honors

Political Science Methods of Inquiry. Satisfied by:
- POLS 306 Political Science Methods of Inquiry 3

Political Science Required Distribution of Electives (6)

Majors must complete an elective course from at least 2 different subfields below.

Political Philosophy & Empirical Theory

Satisfied by one of the following:
- POLS 501 Contemporary Political Thought
- POLS 502 History of Political Thought
- POLS 503 Politics in Literature
- POLS 600 Contemporary Feminist Political Theory
- POLS 602 American Political Ideas
- POLS 603 Democratic Theory
- POLS 604 Religion and Political Theory
- POLS 605 A Study of Political Thought in Antiquity
- POLS 607 Modern Political Theory
- POLS 608 Social Choice and Game Theory
- POLS 609 Topics in Political Theory: _____
- POLS 626 Political Polling and Survey Research
- POLS 644 Justice and Public Policy in Democratic Societies
- POLS 680 International Relations in Political Philosophy

U.S. Political Institutions & Processes

Satisfied by one of the following:
- POLS 511 The Judicial Process
- POLS 512 Latino Politics in the U.S.
- POLS 515 American Political Parties
- POLS 516 Public Opinion and American Democracy
- POLS 520 Political Communication
- POLS 521 Rhetoric, Politics and the Mass Media
- POLS 566 Social Welfare, Taxation, and the Citizen
- POLS 610 Constitutional Law: Governmental Powers
- POLS 611 Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties
- POLS 612 Psychology in Politics
- POLS 613 Comparative U.S. State Politics
- POLS 614 Urban Politics
- POLS 615 Campaigns and Elections
- POLS 616 Interest Group Politics
- POLS 617 The Congress
- POLS 618 The Presidency
- POLS 619 Topics in American Politics: _____
- POLS 620 Formulation of Public Policy
- POLS 630 Politics of Identity
- POLS 645 Corruption, Crisis and Scandal
- POLS 667 Islam and Politics

Public Policy & Public Administration

Satisfied by one of the following:
- POLS 528 Environmental Justice and Public Policy
- POLS 566 Social Welfare, Taxation, and the Citizen
- POLS 620 Formulation of Public Policy
- POLS 621 Public Policy Analysis
- POLS 622 Government and the Economy
- POLS 623 The Politics of Social Policy
- POLS 624 Environmental Politics and Policy
- POLS 625 Extremist Groups and Government Response
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POLS 628 The Politics of Public Health
POLS 629 Topics in Public Policy: __________.
POLS 634 Bureaucratic Politics
POLS 640 Politics of Reproductive Policy

Foreign Governments & Comparative Politics
Satisfied by one of the following:
POLS 553 Comparative Environmental Politics
POLS 561 Liberation in Southern Africa
POLS 562 Women and Politics
POLS 563 Comparative Political Economy
POLS 564 Elections and Political Parties Around the World
POLS 565 Political Change in Asia
POLS 600 Contemporary Feminist Political Theory
POLS 644 Justice and Public Policy in Democratic Societies
POLS 650 Palestinians and Israelis
POLS 652 Politics in Europe
POLS 653 Gender, War, and Peace
POLS 654 Politics and Government of Russia and the Central Eurasian States
POLS 655 Politics of East-Central Europe
POLS 656 Governments and Politics of East Asia
POLS 657 Government and Politics of Southeast Asia
POLS 658 Theories of Politics in Latin America
POLS 659 Political Dynamics of Latin America
POLS 660 The Politics and Problems of Developing Countries
POLS 661 Politics of the Middle East
POLS 665 Politics in Africa
POLS 666 Political Economy of East Asia
POLS 667 Islam and Politics
POLS 668 Reform in Contemporary China
POLS 669 Topics in Comparative Politics: ________

International Relations
Satisfied by one of the following:
POLS 612 Psychology in Politics
POLS 661 Politics of the Middle East
POLS 670 United States Foreign Policy
POLS 671 International Cooperation
POLS 672 International Political Economy
POLS 673 International Organization
POLS 674 International Ethics
POLS 675 Russian Foreign Policy
POLS 676 International Relations of Asia
POLS 677 U.S. National Security Policy
POLS 678 Chinese Foreign Policy
POLS 679 International Conflict
POLS 680 International Relations in Political Philosophy
POLS 681 Comparative Foreign Policy
POLS 684 International Law: The State and the Individual
POLS 685 International Law: Laws of Armed Conflicts
POLS 689 Topics in International Relations:

Political Science Required Electives (12)
Majors must complete 4 elective courses (12 hours), of which 3 courses (9 hours) must be upper-level courses.

Capstone Experience (0)
Recommended for majors but not required:
POLS 493 Directed Readings
POLS 494 Washington Semester Intern Seminar
POLS 495 Topeka Semester Intern Seminar
POLS 496 Washington Semester Field Work
POLS 497 Topeka Semester Field Work
POLS 498 Honors Thesis

Honors Experience
Recommended for students with a minimum grade point average of 3.5 in Political Science coursework and 3.25 overall. These averages must be achieved before the final semester.

Major Hours & Major GPA
While completing all required courses, majors must also meet each of the following hour and grade-point average minimum standards:

Major Hours
Satisfied by 30 hours of major courses. A student may count no more than 6 hours toward the major from the following courses combined: POLS 493, POLS 494, POLS 495, POLS 496, POLS 497, or POLS 498.

Major Hours in Residence
Satisfied by a minimum of 15 hours of KU resident credit in the major.

Major Junior/Senior Hours
Satisfied by a minimum of 21 hours, of which 15 hours must be courses (400+) in the major.

Major Junior/Senior Graduation GPA
Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in junior/senior courses (300+) in the major. GPA calculations include all junior/senior courses in the field of study including F’s and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator (http://www.collegesas.ku.edu/GPAcalculator.shtml).

A sample 4-year plan for the BA degree in Political Science can be found here: Political Science (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/political-science/ba-bgs/ba-political-science), or by using the left-side navigation.

A sample 4-year plan for the BGS degree in Political Science can be found using the left-side navigation.

Departmental Honors

1. Eligibility:
Undergraduate majors in the department with senior standing, a minimum 3.5 GPA in Political Science and a minimum 3.25 overall GPA are eligible to enroll in departmental honors work. These GPA levels also must be achieved at the end of the candidates’s final semester for both in-residence and combined work.

2. Procedures:
Majors wishing to pursue the honors program must file a declaration of intent form with the department's Undergraduate Studies Coordinator no later than at enrollment for the final semester of undergraduate study.
Normally students will be expected to enroll at the beginning of their senior year of study, for two consecutive semesters.

Students pursuing honors will enroll in POLS 498, Honors Thesis, with an individual faculty member who has agreed to serve as thesis adviser, thus accepting responsibility for directing the honors research project. Enrollment for 3 hours for two consecutive semesters in POLS 498 is usually expected. In unusual cases students may enroll for 6 hours in one semester, doing all the thesis work in that period.

3. Requirements for graduation with honors:

Completion of a written research project which has been read and approved by a committee of at least three members of the College faculty (of whom at least two must be political science faculty, including thesis advisor). The committee will then certify successful completion of the honors thesis enrollment. Work considered by the project director to be less than "A" quality will not be considered for honors and will not be presented to the committee for approval. The written report is expected to be more than an extended term paper, while something less than a graduate-level thesis. It must reflect analysis and perceptive understanding of the subject matter being studied.

4. Research timetable:

It is strongly recommended that students follow a relatively strict schedule in completing their research studies, in order to avoid having the honors oral examination come very late in the final semester. The following timetable is recommended:

1. A research design should be submitted by the middle of the first semester of enrollment.
   a. At the latest, the first draft of the written report should be completed approximately 2 months before the end of the semester in which honors are to be awarded (e.g., March 15, or October 15)
   b. At the latest, the final draft of the written report should be completed 1 month before the end of the semester in which honors are to be awarded.