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. In the broadest sense, political science is the study of governments and governmental procedures. Political Science is as old as civilization, because people always have been interested in their government and in their leaders. But political science as it is thought today, as one of the social sciences, is a comparatively new discipline.

It developed in the United States during the last century as political scientists developed an ability to make increasingly scientific observations of government. Political scientists are concerned with origins and sources of governmental organizations, their growth, and their decline, as well as with the processes and structure of government.

Ask yourself, Am I interested in public affairs? Am I a good analytical and critical thinker? Am I curious about the world and its workings? Do I communicate well orally and in writing? Do I want to be a knowledgeable citizen? Am I interested in the relationship between government and the people? Am I curious about how decisions and made and how conflicts are resolved?

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 Political Theory
- Introduction to Political Theory, Honors
- Political Science Methods of Inquiry

Political Science Required Distribution of Electives (6)

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

Political Philosophy & Empirical Theory
- Contemporary Political Thought
- History of Political Thought
- Politics in Literature
- Contemporary Feminist Political Theory
- American Political Ideas
- Democratic Theory
- Religion and Political Theory
- A Study of Political Thought in Antiquity
- Modern Political Theory
- Social Choice and Game Theory
- Topics in Political Theory
- Political Polling and Survey Research
- Justice and Public Policy in Democratic Societies
- International Relations in Political Philosophy
- U.S. Political Institutions & Processes

- The Judicial Process
- Latino Politics in the U.S.
- American Political Parties
- Public Opinion and American Democracy
- Political Communication
- Rhetoric, Politics and the Mass Media
- Social Welfare, Taxation, and the Citizen
- Constitutional Law: Governmental Powers
- Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties
- Psychology in Politics
- Comparative U.S. State Politics
- Urban Politics
- Campaigns and Elections
- Interest Group Politics
- The Congress
- The Presidency
- Topics in American Politics
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLS 620</td>
<td>Formulation of Public Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 630</td>
<td>Politics of Identity</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 645</td>
<td>Corruption, Crisis and Scandal</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 667</td>
<td>Islam and Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Policy &amp; Public Administration</td>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLS 528</td>
<td>Environmental Justice and Public Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 566</td>
<td>Social Welfare, Taxation, and the Citizen</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 620</td>
<td>Formulation of Public Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 621</td>
<td>Public Policy Analysis</td>
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<td>POLS 622</td>
<td>Government and the Economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 623</td>
<td>The Politics of Social Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 624</td>
<td>Environmental Politics and Policy</td>
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<td>POLS 625</td>
<td>Extremist Groups and Government Response</td>
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<td>POLS 628</td>
<td>The Politics of Public Health</td>
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<td>POLS 629</td>
<td>Topics in Public Policy: __________</td>
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<td>POLS 634</td>
<td>Bureaucratic Politics</td>
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<td>POLS 640</td>
<td>Politics of Reproductive Policy</td>
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<td>Foreign Governments &amp; Comparative Politics</td>
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<td>Comparative Environmental Politics</td>
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<td>POLS 561</td>
<td>Liberation in Southern Africa</td>
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<td>POLS 562</td>
<td>Women and Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 563</td>
<td>Comparative Political Economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 564</td>
<td>Elections and Political Parties Around the World</td>
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<td>POLS 565</td>
<td>Political Change in Asia</td>
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<td>POLS 600</td>
<td>Contemporary Feminist Political Theory: __________</td>
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<td>POLS 644</td>
<td>Justice and Public Policy in Democratic Societies</td>
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<td>POLS 650</td>
<td>Palestinians and Israelis</td>
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<td>POLS 652</td>
<td>Politics in Europe</td>
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<td>POLS 653</td>
<td>Gender, War, and Peace</td>
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<td>POLS 654</td>
<td>Politics and Government of Russia and the Central Eurasian States</td>
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<td>POLS 655</td>
<td>Politics of East-Central Europe</td>
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<td>POLS 656</td>
<td>Governments and Politics of East Asia</td>
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<td>POLS 657</td>
<td>Government and Politics of Southeast Asia</td>
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<td>POLS 658</td>
<td>Theories of Politics in Latin America</td>
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<td>POLS 659</td>
<td>Political Dynamics of Latin America</td>
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<td>POLS 660</td>
<td>The Politics and Problems of Developing Countries</td>
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<td>POLS 661</td>
<td>Politics of the Middle East: __________</td>
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<td>POLS 665</td>
<td>Politics in Africa</td>
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<td>POLS 666</td>
<td>Political Economy of East Asia</td>
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<td>POLS 667</td>
<td>Islam and Politics</td>
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<td>POLS 668</td>
<td>Reform in Contemporary China</td>
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<td>POLS 669</td>
<td>Topics in Comparative Politics: ________________</td>
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International Relations

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<tr>
<td>POLS 612</td>
<td>Psychology in Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 661</td>
<td>Politics of the Middle East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 670</td>
<td>United States Foreign Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 671</td>
<td>International Cooperation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

International Political Economy

POLS 672

International Organization

POLS 673

International Ethics

POLS 674

Russian Foreign Policy

POLS 675

International Relations of Asia

POLS 676

U.S. National Security Policy

POLS 677

Chinese Foreign Policy

POLS 678

International Conflict

POLS 679

International Relations in Political Philosophy

POLS 680

(These courses (listed in 2 fields) will count for completion of only one field requirement.)

Comparative Foreign Policy

POLS 681

International Law: The State and the Individual

POLS 684

International Law: Laws of Armed Conflicts

POLS 685

Topics in International Relations:

POLS 686

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

POLS 499

Capstone Research/Field Work Experience

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 here: Political Science (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/political-science/ba-bgs/bgs-in-political-science), or by 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 candidate'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)