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 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: ______

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

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POLS 618 The Presidency
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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
POLS 628  The Politics of Public Health
POLS 629  Topics in Public Policy: __________
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
(Please note that these courses (listed in 2 fields) will count for completion of only one field requirement.)
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
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, 494, 495, 496, 497, or 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)