

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 are 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 International Support 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

Code	Title	Hours
Political Science Core Knowledge and Skills		
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	
Diversity and Social Justice. Satisfied by one of the following:		
POLS 301	Introduction to Political Theory	3
	or POLS 302 Introduction to Political Theory, Honors	
	or POLS 308 Topics in Social Justice: _____	
	or POLS 501 Contemporary Political Thought	
	or POLS 612 Psychology in Politics	
	or POLS 630 Politics of Identity	
	or POLS 640 Politics of Reproductive Policy	
	or POLS 644 Justice and Public Policy in Democratic Societies	
	or POLS 674 Ethics in International Relations	
	or POLS 680 International Relations in Political Philosophy	
	or POLS 686 International Human Rights	
Political Science Methods of Inquiry. Satisfied by:		
POLS 306	Political Science Methods of Inquiry	3
Political Science Required Distribution of Electives		
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	
	or POLS 301 Introduction to Political Theory	
	or POLS 302 Introduction to Political Theory, Honors	
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 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 ¹	
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 Campaigns
POLS 521	Mass Media and Politics
POLS 566	Social Welfare, Taxation, and the Citizen ¹
POLS 610	Constitutional Law: Governmental Powers
POLS 611	Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties
POLS 612	Psychology in Politics ¹
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 ¹
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 ¹
POLS 620	Formulation of Public Policy ¹
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 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 643	The European Union
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	Government 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	Ethics in International Relations
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 (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

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

Capstone Experience

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 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.