

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. 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.

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	
Political Science Methods of Inquiry. Satisfied by:		
POLS 306	Political Science Methods of Inquiry	3
Junior/Senior Level Requirement: Theory, Identity, and Social Justice. Satisfied by one of the following:		
POLS 301	Introduction to Political Theory	3
or POLS 304	Contemporary Political Thought	
or POLS 308	Topics in Social Justice: _____	
or POLS 362	Women and Politics	
or POLS 363	Populism and Nationalism	
or POLS 413	Psychology in Politics	
or POLS 430	Politics of Identity	
or POLS 444	Justice and Public Policy in Democratic Societies	
or POLS 474	Global Justice and Foreign Policy	

Political Science Required Distribution of Electives

Majors must complete an elective course from at least 2 different subfields below. 6

Political Philosophy & Empirical Theory

Satisfied by one of the following:

POLS 301	Introduction to Political Theory
POLS 304	Contemporary Political Thought
POLS 308	Topics in Social Justice: _____
POLS 360	Ancient Roots of Modern Politics
POLS 400	Contemporary Feminist Political Theory
POLS 403	Politics in Literature
POLS 407	Modern Political Theory
POLS 409	Topics in Political Theory: _____
POLS 426	Political Polling and Survey Research
POLS 444	Justice and Public Policy in Democratic Societies

U.S. Political Institutions & Processes

Satisfied by one of the following:

POLS 312	Latinx Politics in the U.S.
POLS 313	Comparative U.S. State Politics
POLS 315	Campaigns and Elections
POLS 316	Public Opinion and American Democracy
POLS 317	The U.S. Congress
POLS 318	The Presidency
POLS 410	Constitutional Law: Governmental Powers
POLS 411	Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties
POLS 413	Psychology in Politics
POLS 414	Urban Politics
POLS 415	American Political Parties
POLS 416	Interest Group Politics
POLS 419	Topics in American Politics: _____
POLS 420	Formulation of Public Policy
POLS 430	Politics of Identity
POLS 520	Political Campaigns
POLS 521	Mass Media and Politics

Public Policy

Satisfied by one of the following:

POLS 320	Introduction to Public Policy
POLS 321	Public Policy Analysis

POLS 323	The Politics of Social Policy
POLS 390	Introduction to Public Administration
POLS 420	Formulation of Public Policy
POLS 425	Extremist Groups and Government Response
POLS 429	Topics in Public Policy: _____
POLS 444	Justice and Public Policy in Democratic Societies
POLS 517	Policing the Womb
POLS 528	Environmental Justice and Public Policy
POLS 624	Environmental Politics and Policy
POLS 628	The Politics of Public Health
Foreign Governments & Comparative Politics	
Satisfied by one of the following:	
POLS 348	Politics of Western Europe
POLS 354	Politics of Russia and Post-Soviet States
POLS 355	Politics of East-Central Europe
POLS 356	Politics of East Asia
POLS 359	Latin American Politics
POLS 361	Politics of the Middle East
POLS 362	Women and Politics
POLS 363	Populism and Nationalism
POLS 364	Elections and Political Parties around the World
POLS 365	Politics in Africa
POLS 366	Political Economy of East Asia
POLS 368	Political Representation in Comparative Perspective
POLS 369	Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: An Introduction
POLS 400	Contemporary Feminist Political Theory
POLS 433	Iran, Turkey, and the Kurds
POLS 443	The European Union
POLS 444	Justice and Public Policy in Democratic Societies
POLS 445	Corruption, Crisis and Scandal
POLS 452	Politics in Europe
POLS 453	Gender, War, and Peace
POLS 458	Democracy and Human Rights in Latin America
POLS 460	Politics of Development: Latin America, Africa, and Asia
POLS 463	Comparative Political Economy
POLS 467	Islam and Politics
POLS 468	Politics and Society in China
POLS 469	Topics in Comparative Politics: _____
POLS 480	Politics and Government in Israel
POLS 561	Liberation in Southern Africa
International Relations	
Satisfied by one of the following:	
POLS 371	United States Foreign Policy
POLS 373	International Organization
POLS 375	Russian Foreign Policy
POLS 378	Chinese Foreign Policy
POLS 379	International Conflict
POLS 471	Politics of Human Trafficking
POLS 472	International Political Economy
POLS 475	International Cooperation

POLS 476	International Relations of Asia
POLS 477	U.S. National Security Policy
POLS 479	East Asian Security
POLS 482	Transnational Terrorism
POLS 484	International Law: The State and the Individual
POLS 485	International Law: Laws of Armed Conflicts
POLS 486	International Human Rights
POLS 489	Topics in International Relations: _____
POLS 692	International Security and Migration Policy

Capstone Experience

Satisfied by 3 credit hours of the following: 3

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
POLS 607	Modern Political Theory
POLS 617	The U.S. Congress
POLS 668	Politics and Society in China
POLS 667	Islam and Politics
POLS 674	Global Justice and Foreign Policy
POLS 678	Chinese Foreign Policy
POLS 679	International Conflict

Political Science Required Electives

Majors must complete 3 elective courses (9 hours), of which 2 courses (6 hours) must be upper-level courses (300+) in POLS. 9

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 (300+) Hours

Satisfied by a minimum of 21 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) 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 (<https://degreeprogress.ku.edu/gpa/>).

A sample 4-year plan for the BA degree in Political Science can be found here: Political Science (<https://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 (<https://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.