



Political Science - B.S.

College of Arts and Sciences

The undergraduate program in Political Science allows students to pursue course work in four disciplinary fields:

- American Politics – study of the institutions, behavioral patterns, and public policies that define the American political system;
Comparative Politics – study of the institutions, policies, and mass behaviors observed in political systems outside the United States, usually explored through comparison within or across regions of the world;
International Relations – study of the international system as a whole, as well as of the actors (such as nation-states, corporations, and international organizations) who participate in shaping diplomatic, military, and economic outcomes within that system;
and
Theory/Methodology – study of the values, concepts, and analytical methods that shape how people evaluate political life.

Degree recipients take introductory course work in each of these four areas, then pursue advanced studies in one or more of the fields as determined by their interests and/or career goals.

In addition to conveying information about politics and government – necessary background for pursuing graduate work in political science and related fields – Political Science courses at UK are designed to provide students with a broad liberal arts education. Graduates leave the program having cultivated their analytical abilities and having exercised their written and spoken communication skills. Such disciplinary training is particularly helpful in preparing students for careers such as law, policy analysis, governmental administration, diplomatic service, journalism, lobbying, and other sorts of political activity.

Currently the department offers two degrees: a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science. Most majors choose to pursue the B.A. The primary difference is that B.A. students must complete a minimum of 39 hours at the 300+ level, a requirement that students can fulfill using courses already needed for the major. Earning the B.S. degree, on the other hand, requires completing a minimum of 60 hours in natural, physical, mathematical, and computer sciences. Little of that course work fulfills other degree requirements.

120 hours (minimum)

Any student earning a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree must complete a minimum of 60 hours in natural, physical, mathematical, and computer science. Please note: courses with a PS prefix are not accepted towards fulfilling this 60-hour requirement. Therefore, be sure to keep this requirement in mind as you choose your course work for the major. A complete description of College requirements for a Bachelor of Science degree, including a specific listing of courses applicable to the 60-hour requirement, can be found on page 106 of the 2008-2009 UK Bulletin.

University Studies Program Requirements

- I. Math 0-3
II. Foreign Language (placement exam recommended) 0-8
III. Inference–Logic 3-6
IV. Written Communication 0-4
VI. Natural Sciences 6
VII. Social Sciences (partially completed by Premajor Requirement) 3
VIII. Humanities 6
IX. Cross-Cultural (may be completed by Major Requirements)

- X. Electives (choose one Natural Science course and one Humanities course) 6

USP hours: 27-45

Graduation Writing Requirement

After attaining sophomore status, students must complete a Graduation Writing Requirement course. See "University Writing Requirement" on page 75 of the 2008-2009 UK Bulletin.

Graduation Writing Requirement Hours: 3

College Requirements

- I. Foreign Language (placement exam recommended) 0-8
II. Disciplinary Requirements
a. Natural Science (completed by USP Elective requirement)
b. Social Science (completed by Premajor Requirements)
c. Humanities (completed by USP Elective requirement) 3
III. Laboratory or Field Work (completed by PS 372)
IV. Electives 6

College Requirement hours: 6-14

Premajor/Introductory Requirements

Field One – American Politics

PS 101 American Government 3

Field Two – Comparative Politics

PS 210 Introduction to Comparative Politics
or
PS 212 Culture and Politics in the Third World 3

Field Three – International Relations

PS 235 World Politics 3

Field Four – Theory/Methodology

PS 240 Introduction to Political Theory
or
PS 372 Introduction to Political Analysis 3

Premajor/Intro hours: 12

Major/Core Requirements

After being introduced to each undergraduate field, Political Science majors must take an additional 39 hours of course work that combines both (1) courses within the discipline and (2) courses covering topics related to the discipline but offered by other programs. These 39 hours, of which 24 must be at the 300+ level, are divided as follows.

Disciplinary Courses

Students must take 18 additional credit hours of political science course work, of which at least 15 hours must be at the 300+ level. Note that PS 399 may not be counted toward this requirement. Eligible courses span all four undergraduate fields:

Field One – American Politics

General American Politics Courses

PS 456G, 458, 470G, 471, 472G, 473G, 474G, 475G, 476G, 479, 480G, 484G, 489G, 557, 580

Courses on American Law and Courts

PS 360, 461G, 463G, 465G, 566

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Field Two – Comparative Politics

PS 210 or 212, 410, 415G, 417G, 419G, 420G, 427G, 428G, 429G, 538

Field Three – International Relations

PS 430G, 431G, 433G, 436G, 437G, 439G, 538

Field Four – Theory/Methodology

PS 240 or 372, 441G, 442G, 545, 572

Note: PS 391, 395, 490, and 492 also meet this disciplinary requirement, although the fields will vary depending on the topic.

Other Courses

Choose six hours of PS courses (including 1-6 hours of PS 399) or approved courses from outside political science (see list below) 6

From Outside the Major Department

Choose 15 hours outside political science from the list below. You must take at least 6 hours from one department and 6 hours from another department. Special topics courses and other offerings related to the concentration may be substituted, subject to the approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies 15

AAS 200, 420 (also acceptable are AAS courses cross-listed with courses eligible to serve as Major Requirements)

ACC 407

AEC 324, 471, 479, 510, 532

AI 328, 330

ANT – 220, 221, 323, 324, 327, 340, 375, 401, 431G, 433, 435, 532, 534

APP 200

BSC – all 200+ level courses

COM 249, 449, 453

DIS 300

ECO – all 200+ level courses

EDC 326, 346

EDL 401

ENG 204

EPE – all 200+ level courses

FAM 509, 544, 563

FIN 423

FR 350, 550

GEO – 222, 240, 260, all 300+ level courses

GER 264, 317, 319

GWS 200, 350, 416

HIS – all 200+ level courses

HJS 324, 325

HON – all 200+ level courses (except independent work)

HSM 354

JOU 204, 531, 535

JPN 320, 321, 334, 451G, 461G

LAS 201

MGT 340, 341

MKT 310, 340, 450

NRC – all 300+ level courses

PHI – all 200+ level courses

PSY – all 200+ level courses

RUS 270, 271

SOC – all 200+ level courses

SPA 312, 314

ST 500

STA – all 200+ level courses

SW 222, 320, 420, 430, 505, 523, 571

TEL 310, 319, 453, 510, 520

Major/Core hours: 39

Electives

Choose electives to lead to the minimum total of 120 hours required for graduation.

Total Minimum Hours Required for Degree 120

**Course used towards completion of a USP or College Requirement.*