



Political Science - B.A.

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;
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.

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.

120 hours (minimum)

Any student earning a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree must complete a minimum of 39 hours at the 300+ level. These hours are generally completed by the major requirements. However, keep this hour requirement in mind as you choose your course work for the requirements in the major.

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 two Natural Science courses) 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 2009-2010 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 (choose 300+ level courses) 6
III. Laboratory or Field Work (completed by PS 372)
IV. Electives 6

College Requirement hours: 12-20

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.

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

Field Two – Comparative Politics

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

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## 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

**AIS** 328, 330

**ANT** – 220, 221, 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.*