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 pages 103-104 of the 2007-2008 UK Bulletin.
Major/Core Requirements

After being introduced to each undergraduate field, Political Science majors must take an additional 39 hours of coursework 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 coursework, 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
- Courses on American Law and Courts

**Field Two – Comparative Politics**


**Field Three – International Relations**


**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)**

**APP 200**

**BSC – all 200+ level courses**

**COM 249 (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 – (GEO 222), 240 (GEO 240), 260 (GEO 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 (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 (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*