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. 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 (B.S.) 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 110 of the 2009-2010 UK Bulletin.

University Studies Program Requirements

- Math ................................................................. 0-3
- Foreign Language (placement exam recommended) ........... 0-8
- Inference–Logic .................................................. 3-6
- Written Communication ........................................... 0-4
- Natural Sciences ................................................. 6
- Social Sciences (partially completed by Premajor Requirement) ......................... 3
- Humanities ......................................................... 6
- 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 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 (completed by USP Elective requirement) ......... 3
- III. Laboratory or Field Work (completed by PS 372) ........... 6
- 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

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)
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.