

POLITICAL SCIENCE, BA

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext>) section of the Guide.

General Education	• Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
	• Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
	• Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
	• Communication Part A & Part B *
	• Ethnic Studies *
	• Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.

Language	• Complete the fourth unit of a language other than English; OR
	• Complete the third unit of a language and the second unit of an additional language other than English.

L&S Breadth	• 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and
	• 12 credits of Social Science; and
	• 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.

Liberal Arts and Science Coursework	Complete at least 108 credits.
Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.
Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
Total Credits	Complete at least 120 credits.
UW-Madison Experience	• 30 credits in residence, overall; and • 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.
Quality of Work	• 2.000 in all coursework at UW-Madison • 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW-Madison

NON-L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non-L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

30 credits are required in the following areas:

DISTRIBUTION ¹

Code	Title	Credits
Three courses and three areas required:		9-12
<i>International Relations</i>		
POLI SCI 140	Introduction to International Relations	
POLI SCI/CHICLA/HISTORY/LACIS 268	The U.S. & Latin America from the Colonial Era to the Present: A Critical Survey	
POLI SCI 340	The European Union: Politics and Political Economy	
POLI SCI 343	Theories of International Security	
POLI SCI 345	Conflict Resolution	
POLI SCI 346		
POLI SCI 347	Terrorism	
POLI SCI 348	Analysis of International Relations	
POLI SCI 350	International Political Economy	
POLI SCI/LEGAL ST 352	Transitional Justice in World Politics	
POLI SCI 354	International Institutions and World Order	
POLI SCI 356	Principles of International Law	

POLI SCI 359	American Foreign Policy
POLI SCI 377	Nuclear Weapons and World Politics
POLI SCI 390	Study Abroad Topics in Political Science: International Relations
POLI SCI/ECON/ ENVIR ST/ URB R PL 449	Government and Natural Resources
<i>American Government</i>	
POLI SCI 104	Introduction to American Politics and Government
POLI SCI 205	Introduction to State Government
POLI SCI 206	Introduction to Political Psychology
POLI SCI/ LEGAL ST 217	Law, Politics and Society
POLI SCI/ CHICLA 231	Politics in Multi-Cultural Societies
POLI SCI 272	Introduction to Public Policy
POLI SCI/ AFRICAN/ AFROAMER/ HISTORY 297	African and African-American Linkages: An Introduction
POLI SCI/ CHICLA 302	Mexican-American Politics
POLI SCI 304	The Political Economy of Race in the United States
POLI SCI 305	Elections and Voting Behavior
POLI SCI 306	American Political Parties
POLI SCI 311	United States Congress
POLI SCI 314	Criminal Law and Justice
POLI SCI 315	Legislative Internship
POLI SCI 402	Wisconsin in Washington Internship Course
POLI SCI 405	State Government and Public Policy
POLI SCI 408	The American Presidency
POLI SCI 411	The American Constitution : Powers and Structures of Government
POLI SCI 412	The American Constitution: Rights and Civil Liberties
POLI SCI 414	The Supreme Court as a Political Institution
POLI SCI 416	Community Power and Grass Roots Politics
POLI SCI 417	The American Judicial System
POLI SCI/ PUB AFFR 419	Administrative Law
POLI SCI 425	The Political Psychology of Polarization
POLI SCI/ LEGAL ST 445	Legal Writing, from Counselor to Advocate
POLI SCI 470	The First Amendment
POLI SCI 481	Honors Seminar on Race and Politics in the United States
POLI SCI 490	Study Abroad Topics in Political Science: American Government
POLI SCI 511	Campaign Finance

POLI SCI 515	Public Opinion
POLI SCI/ AFROAMER 519	African American Political Theory
POLI SCI 602	Wisconsin in Washington Advanced Public Policy Course
<i>Political Theory</i>	
POLI SCI 160	Introduction to Political Theory
POLI SCI 360	History of American Political Thought
POLI SCI 361	Contemporary American Political Thought
POLI SCI/ CLASSICS/ HISTORY 362	Athenian Democracy
POLI SCI/ILS 363	Literature and Politics
POLI SCI 364	Christian Political Thought
POLI SCI/ ILS/ITALIAN/ LITTRANS 365	Machiavelli and His World
POLI SCI 366	Continental Political Thought
POLI SCI 460	Topics in Political Philosophy
POLI SCI/ILS 463	Deception and Politics
POLI SCI/ GEN&WS 469	Women and Politics
POLI SCI/ AFROAMER 519	African American Political Theory
POLI SCI 590	Study Abroad Topics in Political Science: Political Theory
<i>Comparative Politics</i>	
POLI SCI 120	Introduction to Comparative Politics
POLI SCI 182	Introduction to Comparative Politics (Honors)
POLI SCI/ CHICLA 231	Politics in Multi-Cultural Societies
POLI SCI/ASIAN/ GEOG/HISTORY/ SOC 244	Introduction to Southeast Asia: Vietnam to the Philippines
POLI SCI/GEOG/ HISTORY/ SLAVIC 253	Russia: An Interdisciplinary Survey
POLI SCI/GEOG/ HISTORY/ SLAVIC 254	Eastern Europe: An Interdisciplinary Survey
POLI SCI/ASIAN/ HISTORY 255	Introduction to East Asian Civilizations
POLI SCI/ AFROAMER/ ANTHRO/ C&E SOC/ GEOG/HISTORY/ LACIS/SOC/ SPANISH 260	Latin America: An Introduction

POLI SCI/ AFRICAN/ AFROAMER/ ANTHRO/ GEOG/HISTORY/ SOC 277	Africa: An Introductory Survey
POLI SCI/ AFRICAN/ AFROAMER/ HISTORY 297	African and African-American Linkages: An Introduction
POLI SCI 320	Governments and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa
POLI SCI 324	Chinese Politics
POLI SCI/ INTL ST 325	Social Movements and Revolutions in Latin America
POLI SCI 328	Politics of East and Southeast Asia
POLI SCI 329	African Politics
POLI SCI 330	Political Economy of Development
POLI SCI 332	German Politics
POLI SCI 334	Russian Politics
POLI SCI 335	Social Identities
POLI SCI 336	Democracy (and Its Uncertain Future)
POLI SCI 338	The Civil-Military Paradox in U.S. Politics and Society
POLI SCI 339	Non-Democracies
POLI SCI/ JEWISH 341	Israeli Politics and Society
POLI SCI 344	The Russian War on Ukraine: Causes and Consequences
POLI SCI 349	Global Access to Justice
POLI SCI/ CHICLA/ HISTORY/ LACIS 355	Labor in the Americas: US & Mexico in Comparative & Historical Perspective
POLI SCI 358	States in the World: Comparative Foreign Policy
POLI SCI 370	Islam and Politics
POLI SCI/ CHICLA/ HISTORY 422	Latino History and Politics
POLI SCI/ GEN&WS 429	Gender and Politics in Comparative Perspective
POLI SCI/ INTL ST 431	Contentious Politics
POLI SCI/ RELIG ST 433	Religion and Politics
POLI SCI/ INTL ST 434	The Politics of Human Rights
POLI SCI/ GEN&WS 435	Politics of Gender and Women's Rights in the Middle East
POLI SCI 437	Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict
POLI SCI/ INTL ST 439	The Comparative Study of Genocide

POLI SCI 342	State-Building: How States Are Formed, Function, and Influence Society
POLI SCI 442	Honors Seminar on State-Building
POLI SCI 529	Arab-Israeli Conflict
POLI SCI 538	
POLI SCI 635	Comparative Politics of Sport
POLI SCI 690	Study Abroad Topics in Political Science: Comparative Politics
Total Credits	
9-12	

RESEARCH METHODS

Code	Title	Credits
Complete one course from:		3-4
POLI SCI 170	Research Methods in Political Science	
POLI SCI 270	Understanding Political Numbers	
POLI SCI 274	Political Choice and Strategy	
POLI SCI 348	Analysis of International Relations	
POLI SCI/ JOURN/ URB R PL 373	Introduction to Survey Research	
Total Credits		3-4

ELECTIVES

Additional POLI SCI courses to attain 30 credits in the major.²

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all POLI SCI courses and courses that count toward the major
- 2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level credits in the major, taken in residence³
- 15 credits in POLI SCI, taken on campus

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

To declare Honors in the Major, students must have at least one POLI SCI course for Honors, at least a 3.300 University GPA, and meet with the major advisor to discuss the requirements.

To earn Honors in the Major, students must satisfy the requirements for the major (above) *and* these additional requirements:

- Earn a 3.300 or higher University GPA
- Earn 3.500 GPA or higher in all POLI SCI courses
- Complete at least 15 credits in POLI SCI for Honors to include:⁴

Code	Title	Credits
Complete one of these Thesis sequences:		6
POLI SCI 681 & POLI SCI 682	Senior Honors Thesis and Senior Honors Thesis	
POLI SCI 683 & POLI SCI 684	Senior Honors Thesis Seminar and Senior Honors Thesis Seminar	
Additional POLI SCI courses taken for Honors ⁴		9
Total Credits		15

FOOTNOTES

- ¹ Courses may only meet one Distribution area. A course may meet both a Distribution and the Research Methods requirement, but will only be applied once toward the 30 credits required in the major.
- ² No more than 6 total credits of Directed Study (POLI SCI 199, POLI SCI 698, POLI SCI 699) and Internship (POLI SCI 315) may count in the major.
- ³ POLI SCI courses numbered 300 and higher count as upper-level in the major.
- ⁴ A grade of B or higher is required to earn Honors credit.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree	To receive a bachelor's degree from UW-Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.
Residency	Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW-Madison. "In residence" means on the UW-Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW-Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW-Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.
Quality of Work	Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.