Twin Cities Campus

Political Science B.A.

Political Science Department

College of Liberal Arts

- Program Type: Baccalaureate
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2016
- Required credits to graduate with this degree: 120
- Required credits within the major: 32
- Degree: Bachelor of Arts

Political scientists study topics, such as the exercise of power and influence; sources and resolution of conflicts; the relation of politics to the economy, culture, and other aspects of society; the adoption and implementation of public policies; and the development of political systems. These topics are studied at all levels, from local communities to the global community.

The scope of the discipline is reflected in the main areas of specialization that make up the undergraduate curriculum: political theory, comparative government and politics, international relations, and American governmental systems and processes. In addition, undergraduates may choose from several optional concentrations: business and politics, campaigns and elections, citizenship and civic action, global politics, law and politics, democratization and development, political psychology, beliefs, and behavior, and public affairs.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Admission Requirements

It is strongly recommended that students complete one POL 1xxx course prior to admission to the major. See "Preparatory Courses" under program requirements for suggested courses.

For information about University of Minnesota admission requirements, visit the Office of Admissions website.

General Requirements

All students are required to complete general University and college requirements including writing and liberal education courses. For more information about University-wide requirements, see the liberal education requirements.Required courses for the major or minor in which a student receives a D grade (with or without plus or minus) do not count toward the major or minor (including transfer courses).

Program Requirements

Students are required to take 4 semester(s) of any second language.

The political science BA consists of a minimum of 32 credits, at least 24 of which must be upper division (POL 3xxx-4xxx). Choosing a sub-plan concentration is optional.

Students may earn a BA or a minor in political science, but not both.

All incoming CLA freshmen must complete the First Year Experience course sequence.

CLA BA degrees require 4 semesters or the equivalent of a second language.

CLA degrees require that students complete 48 credits of upper division coursework taken at the 3xxx,4xxx, or 5xxx level. For a BA at least 18 of the 48 upper division credits must be outside of the major. For some specific majors, there are exceptions to this requirement.

This program requires 18 upper division credits outside the major. See your advisor for a list of courses that can or cannot be used to meet this requirement.

Preparatory Courses

It is strongly recommended, but not required, that majors complete lower-division POL coursework. No more than 8 credits of POL 1xxx may count toward the B.A.

Take 0 - 8 credit(s) from the following:

- POL 1054 - Politics Around the World [SOCS, GP] (3.0 cr)

© 2005 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
Information current as of March 28, 2024

•POL 1054H *{Inactive}*[SOCS, GP] (3.0 cr)
•POL 1201 - Political Ideas [HIS, CIV] (3.0 cr)
•POL 1234 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 1903 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 1905 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 1942 *{Inactive}*[TS] (3.0 cr)
•POL 1001 - American Democracy in a Changing World [SOCS] (3.0 cr)
or POL 1001H *{Inactive}*[SOCS] (3.0 cr)
•POL 1019 - Indigenous Peoples in Global Perspective [GP] (3.0 cr)
or AMIN 1002 - Indigenous Peoples in Global Perspective [GP] (3.0 cr)
•POL 1025 - Global Politics [SOCS, GP] (3.0 cr)
or POL 1025H *{Inactive}*[SOCS, GP] (4.0 cr)

Upper-division Courses

Take at least one course from three of the four subfields: political theory, comparative government, international relations, and American government. Students who do not choose to complete an optional sub-plan should take remaining upper-division coursework from these course lists to reach the 24-credit minimum.

Take 3 or more course(s) including 3 or more sub-requirements(s) from the following:

Political Theory

Take 0 or more course(s) from the following:
•POL 3210 - Topics in Political Theory (3.0 cr)
•POL 3225 - American Political Thought [CIV] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3235W - Democracy and Citizenship [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3237 *{Inactive}*(1.0 cr)
•POL 3251W - Power, Virtue, and Vice: Ancient and Early Modern Political Theory [WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3252W - Revolution, Democracy, and Empire: Modern Political Thought [AH, CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3265 - Ideas and Protest in French Postwar Thought [AH, CIV] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4210 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 4253 *{Inactive}*(3.0 - 4.0 cr)
•POL 4275 - Domination, Exclusion, and Justice: Contemporary Political Thought [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4280 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)

•Comparative Government

Take 0 or more course(s) from the following:
•POL 3410 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 3431 - Politics of India [GP] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3451W - Politics and Society in the New Europe [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3464 - The Politics of Economic Inequality [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4474W - Russian Politics: From Soviet Empire to Post-Soviet State [WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3475 - Islamist Politics (3.0 cr)
•POL 3477 - Political Economy of Development [SOCS, GP] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3479 - Latin American Politics [GP] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3481H - Comparative Political Economy: Governments and Markets (3.0 cr)
•POL 3489W - Citizens, Consumers, and Corporations [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4403W - Constitutions, Democracy, and Rights: Comparative Perspectives [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4410 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 4461W - European Government and Politics [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4463 - The Cuban Revolution Through the Words of Cuban Revolutionaries [GP] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4465 - Democracy and Dictatorship in Southeast Asia [GP] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4473W *{Inactive}*[GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4477 *{Inactive}*(4.0 cr)
•POL 3478W - Contemporary Politics in Africa and the Colonial Legacy [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4481 - Comparative Political Economy: Governments and Markets (3.0 cr)
•POL 4485 *{Inactive}*[CIV] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4487 - The Struggle for Democratization and Citizenship (3.0 cr)
•POL 4492 - Law and (In)Justice in Latin America (3.0 cr)
•POL 4494W *{Inactive}*[WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4495 *{Inactive}*[DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4497W - Patronage & Corruption [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)

•International Relations

Take 0 or more course(s) from the following:
•POL 3810 - Topics in International Relations and Foreign Policy (3.0 cr)
•POL 3833 - The United States and the Global Economy (3.0 cr)
•POL 3835 - International Relations [SOCS, GP] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3872W *{Inactive}*[WI] (4.0 cr)
•POL 3873W *{Inactive}*[CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4810 - Topics in International Politics and Foreign Policy (3.0 cr)

© 2005 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

- POL 4867W *{Inactive}*[GP, WI] (4.0 cr)
- POL 4878W *{Inactive}*[GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4883W *{Inactive}*[WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4885W - International Conflict and Security [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4887 - Thinking Strategically in International Politics [MATH] (3.0 cr)

•American Government

Take 0 or more course(s) from the following:

- POL 3308 - Congressional Politics and Institutions [SOCS] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3309 - U.S. Supreme Court Decision-Making, Process, and Politics (3.0 cr)
- POL 3310 - Topics in American Politics (3.0 cr)
- POL 3310H - Topics in American Politics (3.0 cr)
- POL 3317 *{Inactive}*[SOCS] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3319 - Education and the American Dream [SOCS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3321 - Issues in American Public Policy (3.0 cr)
- POL 3323 - Political Tolerance in the United States (3.0 cr)
- POL 3325 - U.S. Campaigns and Elections (3.0 cr)
- POL 3327 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- POL 3365 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- POL 3701 - Indigenous Tribal Governments and Politics [HIS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3733 - From Suffragettes to Senators: Gender, Politics & Policy in the U.S. [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3462 - The Politics of Race, Class, and Ethnicity in the United States, South Africa and Cuba (3.0 cr)
- POL 3766 - Political Psychology of Mass Behavior [SOCS] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3767 - Political Psychology of Elite Behavior [CIV] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3769 - Public Opinion and Voting Behavior [SOCS] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4310 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- POL 4315W - State Governments: Laboratories of Democracy [WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4317 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- POL 4322 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- POL 4501W - The Supreme Court and Constitutional Interpretation [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4502W - The Supreme Court, Civil Liberties, and Civil Rights [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4737 - American Political Parties (3.0 cr)
- POL 4766 *{Inactive}*[CIV] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4771 - Race and Politics in America: Making Sense of Racial Attitudes in the United States [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4773W - Advocacy Organizations, Social Movements, and the Politics of Identity [DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3752 - Chicana/o Politics [SOCS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)

  or CHIC 3852 - Chicana/o Politics [SOCS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3785 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)

  or POL 3785H *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- POL 4507 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)

  or AMIN 4501 - Law, Sovereignty, and Treaty Rights (3.0 cr)
- POL 4525W - Federal Indian Policy [WI] (3.0 cr)

  or AMIN 4525W - Federal Indian Policy [WI] (3.0 cr)

Additional Courses

Take 0 or more course(s) from the following:

- POL 3065 - Political Engagement Careers: Planning and Preparing For Your Future [CIV] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3994 - Directed Research: Distinguished Undergraduate Research Program (2.0 cr)
- POL 3108H - Honors Tutorial: Thesis Preparation and Political Science Inquiry (3.0 cr)
- POL 3110H *{Inactive}*(1.0 - 4.0 cr)
- POL 4010 *{Inactive}*(4.0 cr)
- POL 4993 - Honors Thesis: Directed Studies (1.0 - 6.0 cr)
- POL 4994 - Directed Research: Individual (1.0 - 4.0 cr)
- POL 3085 - Quantitative Analysis in Political Science [MATH] (4.0 cr)

  or POL 3085H *{Inactive}*[MATH] (4.0 cr)
- Take at most 6 credit(s) from the following:
  - POL 3080 - Internship in Politics or Government (3.0 - 13.0 cr)

Senior Project

The senior project is fulfilled by taking any POL 4xxx course as part of the 24-credit upper-division requirement. Honors students must take POL 4900V or POL 3110H to complete the senior thesis requirement, also a part of the 24-credit upper-division requirement.

Upper Division Writing Intensive within the major

Students are required to take one upper division writing intensive course within the major. If that requirement has not been satisfied within the core major requirements, students must choose one course from the following list. Some of these courses may also fulfill other major requirements.

Take 0 - 1 course(s) from the following:

- POL 3235W - Democracy and Citizenship [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)

© 2005 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

•POL 3251W - Power, Virtue, and Vice: Ancient and Early Modern Political Theory [WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3252W - Revolution, Democracy, and Empire: Modern Political Thought [AH, CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3451W - Politics and Society in the New Europe [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3489W - Citizens, Consumers, and Corporations [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4403W - Constitutions, Democracy, and Rights: Comparative Perspectives [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4461W - European Government and Politics [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4473W *{Inactive}*[GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3478W - Contemporary Politics in Africa and the Colonial Legacy [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4494W *{Inactive}*[WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3872W *{Inactive}*[WI] (4.0 cr)
•POL 3873W *{Inactive}*[CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4867W *{Inactive}*[GP, WI] (4.0 cr)
•POL 4878W *{Inactive}*[GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4883W *{Inactive}*[WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4885W - International Conflict and Security [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4315W - State Governments: Laboratories of Democracy [WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4501W - The Supreme Court and Constitutional Interpretation [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4502W - The Supreme Court, Civil Liberties, and Civil Rights [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4737 - American Political Parties (3.0 cr)
•POL 4773W - Advocacy Organizations, Social Movements, and the Politics of Identity [DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4993 - Honors Thesis: Directed Studies (1.0 - 6.0 cr)
•POL 4525W - Federal Indian Policy [WI] (3.0 cr)
or AMIN 4525W - Federal Indian Policy [WI] (3.0 cr)

Program Sub-plans

A sub-plan is not required for this program.

Business and Politics

Business and Politics

Take 4 or more course(s) from the following:
•POL 3085 - Quantitative Analysis in Political Science [MATH] (4.0 cr)
•POL 4315W - State Governments: Laboratories of Democracy [WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3327 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 4481 - Comparative Political Economy: Governments and Markets (3.0 cr)
•POL 3833 - The United States and the Global Economy (3.0 cr)

Campaigns and Elections

Campaigns and Elections

Take 4 or more course(s) from the following:
•POL 3085 - Quantitative Analysis in Political Science [MATH] (4.0 cr)
•POL 3210 - Topics in Political Theory (3.0 cr)
•POL 3225 - American Political Thought [CIV] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3766 - Political Psychology of Mass Behavior [SOCS] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4461W - European Government and Politics [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4737 - American Political Parties (3.0 cr)
•POL 3769 - Public Opinion and Voting Behavior [SOCS] (3.0 cr)

Citizenship and Civic Action

Citizenship and Civic Action

Take 4 or more course(s) from the following:
•POL 3210 - Topics in Political Theory (3.0 cr)
•POL 3225 - American Political Thought [CIV] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3235W - Democracy and Citizenship [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3251W - Power, Virtue, and Vice: Ancient and Early Modern Political Theory [WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3252W - Revolution, Democracy, and Empire: Modern Political Thought [AH, CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3462 - The Politics of Race, Class, and Ethnicity in the United States, South Africa and Cuba (3.0 cr)
•POL 3873W *{Inactive}*[CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4210 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 4253 *{Inactive}*(3.0 - 4.0 cr)
•POL 4275 - Domination, Exclusion, and Justice: Contemporary Political Thought [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4322 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 4485 *{Inactive}*[CIV] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4487 - The Struggle for Democratization and Citizenship (3.0 cr)
•POL 4502W - The Supreme Court, Civil Liberties, and Civil Rights [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)

© 2005 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

•POL 4766 *{Inactive}*[CIV] (3.0 cr)

Democratization and Development

Democratization and Development

Take 4 or more course(s) from the following:

•POL 3210 - Topics in Political Theory (3.0 cr)
•POL 3235W - Democracy and Citizenship [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3477 - Political Economy of Development [SOCS, GP] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3462 - The Politics of Race, Class, and Ethnicity in the United States, South Africa and Cuba (3.0 cr)
•POL 4210 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 4253 *{Inactive}*(3.0 - 4.0 cr)
•POL 4275 - Domination, Exclusion, and Justice: Contemporary Political Thought [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4322 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•POL 4477 *{Inactive}*(4.0 cr)
•POL 3478W - Contemporary Politics in Africa and the Colonial Legacy [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3479 - Latin American Politics [GP] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4487 - The Struggle for Democratization and Citizenship (3.0 cr)
•POL 4766 *{Inactive}*[CIV] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4885W - International Conflict and Security [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)

Global Politics

Global Politics

Take 4 or more course(s) from the following:

•POL 3235W - Democracy and Citizenship [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3451W - Politics and Society in the New Europe [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3477 - Political Economy of Development [SOCS, GP] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3835 - International Relations [SOCS, GP] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3872W *{Inactive}*[WI] (4.0 cr)
•POL 3873W *{Inactive}*[CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4461W - European Government and Politics [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4473W *{Inactive}*[GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4477 *{Inactive}*(4.0 cr)
•POL 3478W - Contemporary Politics in Africa and the Colonial Legacy [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3479 - Latin American Politics [GP] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4485 *{Inactive}*[CIV] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3833 - The United States and the Global Economy (3.0 cr)
•POL 4883W *{Inactive}*[WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4885W - International Conflict and Security [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4887 - Thinking Strategically in International Politics [MATH] (3.0 cr)

Law and Politics

Law and Politics

Take 4 or more course(s) from the following:

•POL 3225 - American Political Thought [CIV] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3252W - Revolution, Democracy, and Empire: Modern Political Thought [AH, CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 3872W *{Inactive}*[WI] (4.0 cr)
•POL 4253 *{Inactive}*(3.0 - 4.0 cr)
•POL 4275 - Domination, Exclusion, and Justice: Contemporary Political Thought [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4501W - The Supreme Court and Constitutional Interpretation [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4502W - The Supreme Court, Civil Liberties, and Civil Rights [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4883W *{Inactive}*[WI] (3.0 cr)

Political Psychology, Beliefs, and Behavior

Political Psychology, Beliefs, and Behavior

Take 4 or more course(s) from the following:

•POL 3085 - Quantitative Analysis in Political Science [MATH] (4.0 cr)
•POL 3462 - The Politics of Race, Class, and Ethnicity in the United States, South Africa and Cuba (3.0 cr)
•POL 3766 - Political Psychology of Mass Behavior [SOCS] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4253 *{Inactive}*(3.0 - 4.0 cr)
•POL 4275 - Domination, Exclusion, and Justice: Contemporary Political Thought [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4485 *{Inactive}*[CIV] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4766 *{Inactive}*[CIV] (3.0 cr)
•POL 4887 - Thinking Strategically in International Politics [MATH] (3.0 cr)

Public Affairs

Public Affairs

© 2005 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Take 4 or more course(s) from the following:
- POL 3085 - Quantitative Analysis in Political Science [MATH] (4.0 cr)
- POL 3235W - Democracy and Citizenship [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3321 - Issues in American Public Policy (3.0 cr)
- POL 4315W - State Governments: Laboratories of Democracy [WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 4322 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- POL 3327 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
- POL 4481 - Comparative Political Economy: Governments and Markets (3.0 cr)
- POL 4501W - The Supreme Court and Constitutional Interpretation [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
- POL 3833 - The United States and the Global Economy (3.0 cr)

BA/MPP in Political Engagement

The College of Liberal Arts and the Humphrey School of Public Affairs offer an early-admission opportunity for eligible University of Minnesota Political Science BA students also interested in completing the master's in public policy (M.P.P.). The M.P.P.'s political engagement sub-plan enables political science majors to take 13 M.P.P. credits during their senior (fourth) year, and to complete the M.P.P. after a fifth year of full-time graduate study plus one summer.

Interested political science undergraduates should contact the Department of Political Science advisor for more information. The M.P.P./political engagement sub-plan application deadline is December 15th of the student's junior year, and admission to the M.P.P./political engagement sub-plan is contingent on a formal admissions process.

Students admitted to the M.P.P./political engagement sub-plan must maintain timely degree progress to ensure all undergraduate degree requirements are completed by the end of their fourth year.

The M.P.P.'s political engagement sub-plan is open to political science undergraduates only. Double majors may apply, but only if they choose to complete the senior project requirement in Political Science.

BA/MPP in Political Engagement
- PA 5002 - Introduction to Policy Analysis (1.5 cr)
- PA 5003 - Introduction to Financial Analysis and Management (1.5 cr)
- PA 5011 - Dynamics of Public Affairs Organizations (3.0 cr)
- PA 5021 - Microeconomics for Policy Analysis (3.0 cr)
- PA 5031 - Statistics for Public Affairs (4.0 cr)

© 2005 by the Regents of the University of Minnesota
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
Information current as of March 28, 2024