

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 – define the American political system, including the high-demand subfield of judicial politics and legal studies; 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 leads to a wide variety of careers, many of which have no direct political or governmental connection, but 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 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. See the complete description of College requirements for a Bachelor of Arts degree in the *Arts and Sciences* section of the 2024-2025 Undergraduate Catalog.

UK Core Requirements

See the *UK Core* section of the 2024-2025 Undergraduate Catalog for the complete UK Core requirements. The courses listed below are (a) recommended by the college, or (b) required courses that also fulfill UK Core areas. Students should work closely with their advisor to complete the UK Core requirements.

I. Intellectual Inquiry in Arts and Creativity

Choose one course from approved list.....3

II. Intellectual Inquiry in the Humanities

Choose one course from approved list.....3

III. Intellectual Inquiry in the Social Sciences

PS 230 Introduction to International Relations.....3

IV. Intellectual Inquiry in the Natural, Physical, and Mathematical Sciences

Choose one course from approved list.....3

V. Composition and Communication I

CIS/WRD 110 Composition and Communication I3

VI. Composition and Communication II

CIS/WRD 111 Composition and Communication II3

VII. Quantitative Foundations

Choose one course from approved list.....3

VIII. Statistical Inferential Reasoning

Choose one course from approved list.....3

IX. Community, Culture and Citizenship in the USA

PS 101 American Government.....3

X. Global Dynamics

Choose one course from approved list.....3

UK Core hours 30

Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement (GCCR)

WRD 304 Writing in the Social Sciences3

Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement hours (GCCR)..... 3

College Requirements

I. Foreign Language (*placement exam recommended*) 0-14

II. Disciplinary Requirements

a. Natural Science.....6

b. Social Science (*completed by Premajor Requirements*)

c. Humanities (*choose 300+ level courses*).....6

III. Laboratory or Field Work (*completed by PS 372*)

IV. Race and Ethnicity Requirement..... 0-3

V. Electives.....6

College Requirement hours: 18-35

Premajor/Introductory Requirements

Field One – American Politics

PS 101 American Government.....3

Field Two – Comparative Politics

PS 210 Introduction to Comparative Politics.....3

Field Three – International Relations

*PS 230 Introduction to International Relations.....3

Field Four – Theory/Methodology

PS 240 Introduction to Political Theory

or

PS 372 Introduction to Political Analysis3

Premajor/Intro hours:..... 12

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The University of Kentucky is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate, baccalaureate, masters, educational specialist, and doctorate degrees. The University of Kentucky also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of the University of Kentucky may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org).

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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

PS 458, 470G, 471, 472G, 473G, 474G, 475G, 476G, 479, 484G, 489G, 557, 580

Courses on American Law and Courts

PS 360, 363, 461G, 463G, 465G, 566

Field Two – Comparative Politics

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

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. Other course offerings may be substituted, subject to the approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies..... 15

Any course numbered 200 or above from the following prefixes: AAS, ANT, APP, CLD, ECO, ENS, GWS, GEO, HIS, IS, LAS, MAS, PCE, PHI, PSY, SOC, STA, and WRD.

Any course numbered 300 or above from the following prefixes: AEC, AIS, CHI, CLA, EPE, FR, GER, SPA, INT, IT, HJS, JPN, MCL, and RUS.

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 UK Core Requirement.*