

Political Science, B.A.

Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Arts

Nature of the Program

The undergraduate curriculum in the Department of Political Science has five main objectives:

- To acquaint students with the nature and role of government in modern society, thus contributing to the general education of political science majors. In order to achieve this objective, the department offers the general political science emphasis. This emphasis is open to any student who has an interest in political science but who has not yet focused on a specific career goal.
- To impart a broad understanding of the American political system. Courses are offered on national institutions, political actors, and political behavior. Other courses focus on the policy making process and on various substantive policy issue-areas. Students who seek to work in politics and/or government should enroll in the American politics and policy area of emphasis.
- To provide a broad foundation of relevant courses for students who plan careers in law.
- To prepare students who wish to pursue future careers in international relations, comparative politics, and national security area.
- To provide pre-professional training for students who intend to pursue political science as a career. Those who intend to be teachers, researchers, or administrators should plan to enroll in graduate school after completing their bachelor's degrees, and our major is designed to provide a strong foundation for that.

Students who earn a degree in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences must complete the University requirements, the College requirements for their specific degree program, and their major requirements.

Honors Program

The Department of Political Science, in cooperation with the University Honors College, offers courses that are open exclusively to honors students. These courses are listed in the University's Schedule of Courses each semester. Students who meet the standards of the University Honors Program may enroll in these courses.

3+3 Program

The Department of Political Science participates in the WVU College of Law 3+3 Program at WVU, which is an opportunity for qualified undergraduate students to earn their **bachelor's degree and law degree in six years** instead of seven years. Students accepted into the 3+3 program begin taking classes at WVU Law in what would be their senior year of college. Students participating in this program must meet certain eligibility criteria and progress benchmarks. For questions regarding your eligibility, please contact your department advisor.

Minors

All students have the possibility of earning one or more minors; view a list of all available minors and their requirements (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/minors/>) here. Please note that students may not earn a minor in their major field.

FACULTY

CHAIR

- John C. Kilwein - Ph.D. (Ohio State University)

DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

- John C. Kilwein - Ph.D. (Ohio State University)

DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES

- William Franko - Ph.D. (University of Iowa)

DIRECTOR INSTITUTE FOR POLICY RESEARCH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- Samuel Workman - Ph.D. (University of Washington)

PROFESSORS

- Joe D. Hagan - Ph.D. (University of Kentucky)
Regular Graduate Faculty, Barnette Professor in Political Science, International Relations and World Politics, Comparative Foreign Policy Analysis

- Erik Herron - Ph.D. (Michigan State University)
Regular Graduate Faculty, Eberly Family Professor, Political Institutions, Elections, Post-Communist Europe and Eurasia
- Samuel Workman - Ph.D. (University of Washington)
Regular Graduate Faculty, Director Institute for Policy Research and Public Affairs John D. "Jay" Rockefeller School of Policy & Politics

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

- R. Scott Crichlow - Ph.D. (Louisiana State University)
Regular Graduate Faculty, International Relations, Foreign Policy Decision-making, Middle East Politics
- Christina Fattore - Ph.D. (Florida State University)
Regular Graduate Faculty, International Political Economy, International Organization, European Union Politics
- William Franko - Ph.D. (University of Iowa)
Regular Graduate Faculty, American Politics, State and Local Politics, Public Policy
- Matthew Jacobsmeier - Ph.D. (University of Rochester)
Regular Graduate Faculty, American Politics, Political Behavior, Public Opinion, Research Methods
- John C. Kilwein - Ph.D. (Ohio State University)
Regular Graduate Faculty, Public Law, Judicial Politics, Public Policy, Public Administration
- Jason MacDonald - Ph.D. (The George Washington University)
Regular Graduate Faculty, American Politics, Congress, Research Methods
- Philip Michelbach - Ph.D. (University of California)
Regular Graduate Faculty, Political Theory, American Political Thought, German Political Thought, Comparative Democratic Theory
- Mason Moseley - Ph.D. (Vanderbilt University)
Regular Graduate Faculty, Comparative Politics, Latin American Politics, Comparative Political Institutions
- Trisha Phillips - Ph.D. (Rice University)
Regular Graduate Faculty, Social and Political Philosophy, Moral Philosophy, Research Ethics

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

- Samantha Godbey - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
Director of Debate, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Public Policy
- Jay Krehbiel - Ph.D. (Washington University)
Regular Graduate Faculty, Comparative Politics, Judicial Politics, Comparative Political Institutions
- Herschel Thomas - Ph.D. (University of Texas)
Regular Graduate Faculty, Public Policy, Interest Groups

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

- Clarissa Estep - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
International Relations
- David Hauser - Ph.D. (University of Pittsburgh)
International Conflict, National Security Analysis

PROFESSORS EMERITI

- Robert E. DiClerico - Ph.D. (Indiana University)
- Richard Brisbin - Ph.D. (Johns Hopkins University)
- Allan S. Hammock - Ph.D. (University of Virginia)
- Sophia L. Peterson - Ph.D. (University of California, Los Angeles)
- Susan Hunter - Ph.D. (Ohio State University)
- James Whisker - Ph.D. (University of Maryland)
- Jeffrey S. Worsham - Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin)

Admissions

- All First-Time Freshmen are admitted directly to the major.
- Students admitted from other majors within WVU must have an overall GPA of 2.0 and have completed at least one POLS class with a grade of C- or higher.
- Students transferring from another institution must have an overall GPA of 2.0.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS 2024-2025

The Admission Requirements above will be the same for the 2024-2025 Academic Year.

Major Code: 1464

[Click here to view the Suggested Plan of Study \(p. 5\)](#)

General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (<http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef/>)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations		
F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		3-6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102 or ENGL 103	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research Accelerated Academic Writing	
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology		4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Reasoning		3-4
F4 - Society & Connections		3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past		3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity		3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity		3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)		9
Total Hours		31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Degree Requirements

Students must complete WVU General Education Foundations requirements, College B.A. requirements, major requirements, and electives to total a minimum of 120 hours. For complete details on these requirements, visit the B.A. Degrees tab on the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences page (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/#bachelorofartstext>).

Departmental Requirements for the B.A. in Political Science

All students wishing to obtain a degree in Political Science must comply with the following:

- **Capstone Requirement:** The General Education Foundations requires the successful completion of a Capstone course. Political Science majors must successfully complete one of the following: POLS 484, POLS 487, POLS 488, POLS 489.
- **Writing Requirement:** The Department of Political Science is a SpeakWrite Affiliated Program, committed to fostering and assessing students' written, verbal, visual, and mediated communication skills. The Political Science major requires its Bachelor of Arts program graduates to complete ENGL 101 and ENGL 102 (or ENGL 103), and a minimum of four additional **SpeakWrite Certified Courses™** as a part of their programs of study.
- **Calculation of the Major GPA:** A minimum GPA of a 2.0 is required in all courses applied to major requirements. If a course is repeated, all attempts will be included in the calculation of the GPA, unless the course is eligible for a D/F repeat.
- **Area of Emphasis:** Students may select an Area of Emphasis, depending on their academic or career interests. A minimum GPA of a 2.0 is required in all courses applied to the Area of Emphasis.

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	University Requirements	69
	ECAS B.A. Requirements	12
	Political Science Major Requirements	39
Total Hours		120

University Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)		
Outstanding GEF Requirements 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6		21
POLS 191	First-Year Seminar	1
General Electives		47
Total Hours		69

ECAS Bachelor of Arts Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
ECAS B.A. Requirements		12
Fine Arts Requirement		
Foreign Language		
Global Studies and Diversity Requirement		
Total Hours		12

Political Science Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
CORE REQUIREMENT:		21
POLS 102	Introduction to American Government	
Political Science Policy Analysis or Public Administration requirement:		
POLS 230 or POLS 240	Introduction to Policy Analysis Introduction to Public Administration	
POLS 250	Introduction to Comparative Politics	
Political Science International Requirement:		
POLS 103 or POLS 260	Global Political Issues Introduction to International Relations	
POLS 270 or POLS 271	Concepts in Political Theory History of Political Thought 2	
POLS 300	Empirical Political Analysis	
Political Science Economics:		
POLS 334 or POLS 360	Politics of Economic Policy International Political Economy	
POLITICAL SCIENCE ELECTIVES:		15
Select one option:		
Option 1: POLS Electives		
Complete 15 additional credit hours in POLS with a minimum of 12 credits at the 300 level or above the 300-level.		
Option 2: Area of Emphasis		
Select an Area of Emphasis from the following:		
American Politics and Policy		
Elections & Campaigns		
International Relations, Comparative Politics, and National Security		
Pre-Law and Legal Studies		
CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE:		3
Select one of the following:		
POLS 484	Capstone: Build a Politics Podcast	
POLS 487	Capstone: Senior Paper	
POLS 488	Capstone: Political Simulation	
POLS 489	Capstone: Citizenship Seminar	
Total Hours		39

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
POLS 191		1 ENGL 101 (GEF 1)	3
Foreign Language 101		3 GEF 2A	3
POLS 102 (GEF 4)		3 GEF 3	3
POLS 103 or 260 (ECAS Glo. St. & Div.; GEF 7)		3 Foreign Language 102	3
General Elective		2 POLS 270 or 271	3
GEF 2A		3	
		15	15

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENGL 102 (GEF 1)		3 GEF 5	3
Foreign Language 203		3 ECAS Fine Arts Requirement (GEF 6)	3
POLS 250		3 Foreign Language 204	3
General Elective		3 POLS 230 or 240	3
General Elective		3 POLS 300	3
		15	15

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
POLS 334 or 360		3 POLS Elective/AoE course 3	3
POLS Elective/AoE course 1		3 POLS Elective/AoE course 4	3
POLS Elective/AoE course 2		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
		15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
POLS Elective/AoE course 5		3 POLS Capstone	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
		15	15

Total credit hours: 120

*

Students completing a minor, a double major or a dual degree fulfill the GEF 8 requirement.

Areas of Emphasis Offered:

- American Politics and Policy (p. 5)
- Elections & Campaigns (p. 6)
- International Relations, Comparative Politics, and National Security (p. 7)
- Pre-Law and Legal Studies (p. 7)

AMERICAN POLITICS AND POLICY AREA OF EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Hours
Select five of the following:		15
POLS 261	Introduction to National Security	
POLS 310	American Presidency	
POLS 311	Political Parties & Elections	

POLS 313	American Constitutional Law	
POLS 314	Civil Liberties in the United States	
POLS 315	Law and Public Policy	
POLS 316	Public Opinion and Politics	
POLS 317	Interest Groups and Democracy	
POLS 318	Legislative Process	
POLS 320	American Federalism and Policy	
POLS 321	West Virginia Government	
POLS 323	Religion & Politics	
POLS 324	Sexuality, Law, and Politics	
POLS 331	Criminal Law Policy and Administration	
POLS 333	Politics of Social Welfare	
POLS 334	Politics of Economic Policy	
POLS 335	Civil Rights, Policy, and Politics	
POLS 337	Gender/Politics and Policy	
POLS 338	Environmental Policy	
POLS 339	National Security Analysis	
POLS 342	Bureaucratic Politics	
POLS 373	American Political Philosophy	
Total Hours		15

ELECTIONS & CAMPAIGNS AREA OF EMPHASIS

Code	Title	Hours
FIELD RESEARCH REQUIREMENT:		3
POLS 348	Field Research and Community Engagement in Elections and Campaigns	
POLITICAL SCIENCE ELECTIVES:		9
Select 3 courses from the following list:		
POLS 311	Political Parties & Elections	
POLS 316	Public Opinion and Politics	
POLS 317	Interest Groups and Democracy	
POLS 323	Religion & Politics	
POLS 335	Civil Rights, Policy, and Politics	
POLS 337	Gender/Politics and Policy	
POLS 345	Electoral Systems and Political Parties Around the World	
POLS 346	The Electoral Process	
POLS 347	Representation	
SKILLS COURSE:		3
Select One from the Following:		
ADV 215	Principles of Advertising	
ADV 419	Advertising Strategies	
COMM 104	Fundamentals of Public Communication	
COMM 105	Fundamentals of Mediated Communication	
WRIT 303	Multimedia Writing	
WRIT 304	Business and Professional Writing	
GEOG 302	Political Geography	
LDR 201	Principles of Leadership	
PSYC 251	Introduction to Social Psychology	
SOC 207	Social Problems in Contemporary America	
STAT 312	Intermediate Statistical Methods	
Total Hours		15

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, COMPARATIVE POLITICS, AND NATIONAL SECURITY AREA OF EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Hours
Select five of the following:		15
POLS 261	Introduction to National Security	
POLS 301	Introduction to Intelligence Analysis	
POLS 302	Intelligence Analysis Methods	
POLS 350	Government of Japan	
POLS 351	Russian and Post-Soviet Politics	
POLS 352	Politics of the European Union	
POLS 353	Western Democratic Governments	
POLS 354	Government of China	
POLS 355	Governments of Latin America	
POLS 356	Politics of the Middle East	
POLS 357	Comparative Law and Politics	
POLS 358	Politics of Africa	
POLS 359	Politics of Terrorism	
POLS 360	International Political Economy	
POLS 361	International Law and Institutions	
POLS 362	Comparative Foreign Policy	
POLS 363	International Law	
POLS 364	American Foreign Relations	
POLS 365	Foreign Policy Decision-Making	
POLS 368	Politics of War and Peace	
POLS 369	Far East International Affairs	
POLS 370	Dictatorship and Democratization	
POLS 376	Contentious Politics	
POLS 450	Elections and Political Parties Around the World	
POLS 452	European Union Law/Legal Systems	
POLS 453	European Union Law/Institutions	
POLS 460	Gender and International Relations	
POLS 461	Transformation of War	
POLS 462	Intelligence Failures	
Total Hours		15

PRE-LAW AND LEGAL STUDIES AREA OF EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Hours
CORE COURSES:		6
POLS 210	Law and the Legal System	
POLS 313	American Constitutional Law	
or POLS 314	Civil Liberties in the United States	
UPPER-DIVISION ELECTIVES:		9
Select three of the following:		
POLS 313	American Constitutional Law (alternate classes from above)	
or POLS 314	Civil Liberties in the United States	
POLS 315	Law and Public Policy	
POLS 324	Sexuality, Law, and Politics	
POLS 331	Criminal Law Policy and Administration	
POLS 357	Comparative Law and Politics	

POLS 363	International Law	
POLS 452	European Union Law/Legal Systems	
POLS 453	European Union Law/Institutions	
Total Hours		15

3+3 Program Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
POLS 191		1 ENGL 101 (GEF 1)	3
POLS 102 (GEF 4)		3 POLS 270 or 271	3
POLS 103 or 260		3 GEF 2A	3
GEF 2A		3 GEF 3	3
Foreign Language 101		3 Foreign Language 102	3
General Elective		2	
		15	15

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENGL 102 (GEF 1)		3 POLS 230 or 240	3
POLS 210		3 POLS 300	3
POLS 250		3 GEF 5	3
POLS Law-Related Course 1		3 ECAS Fine Arts Requirement (GEF 6)	3
Foreign Language 203		3 Foreign Language 204	3
		15	15

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
POLS 334 or 360		3 Skills & Related Course 2	3
POLS 313 or 314		3 POLS Capstone	3
POLS Law-Related Course 2		3 General Elective	3
POLS at the 200-Level or Above		3 General Elective	3
Skills & Related Course 1		3 General Elective	3
		15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
LAW 641		1 LAW 638	3
LAW 700		2 LAW 706	2
LAW 703		4 LAW 707	4
LAW 705		3 LAW 711	2
LAW 709		4 LAW 725	4
LAW 722		3	
		17	15

Total credit hours: 122

Degree Progress

Within four semesters in the POLS major, students must

- have completed four of the following courses: POLS 102, POLS 230 or POLS 240, POLS 250, POLS 260, POLS 270,
- maintain a 2.0 GPA overall and in the major,
- meet with their POLS adviser each semester.

Students who do not meet these benchmarks may be removed from their major.

Major Learning Outcomes

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political Science Department Learning Outcomes

1. A command of basic substantive knowledge about the basic institutions, political actors, and relevant processes in state, national, and international political systems – in particular as they apply to the student's particular area of emphasis.
2. A knowledge of major policy issues in state, national, and international affairs and an appreciation of the complexity reflective of the uncertainties, trade-offs, and institutional/bureaucratic context of problems confronting governments.
3. An ability to think critically about political phenomena in a way that applies alternative explanatory perspectives across the major theoretical schools of thought in the political science literature.
4. A demonstrated capability to carry out systematic empirical research in political science, i.e. articulate a theoretical question, construct a rigorous research design, and analyze data or cases using appropriate methodological approaches.
5. An appreciation of the policy implications of different theoretical approaches and, more generally, how they relate to the larger ethical issues facing the West Virginia, national, and international communities.