

# 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)

### PROFESSORS

- Clarissa Estep - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)  
Director of International Studies Program
- 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
- Vito D'Orazio - Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University)  
Regular Graduate Faculty, Woodburn Associate Professor, International Relations, Data Sciences
- 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
- David Hauser - Ph.D. (University of Pittsburgh)  
International Conflict, National Security Analysis
- 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
- Jonathan M. King - Ph.D. (Michigan State University)  
Regular Graduate Faculty, Judicial Politics
- Shaniqua Williams - Ph.D. (Auburn University)  
Regular Graduate Faculty, Public Administration, State and Local Politics

## **PROFESSORS EMERITI**

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

## **Admissions for 2026-2027**

- First Time Freshmen are admitted directly to the major.
- Students transferring from other majors or another institution with at least a 2.0 overall GPA are admitted directly to the major.

Major Code: 1464

[Click here to view the Suggested Plan of Study \(p. 4\)](#)

## **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
<b>General Education Foundations</b>		
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, Eberly Edge Program requirements, major requirements, and electives to total a minimum of 120 hours.

## Departmental Requirements for the B.A. in Political Science

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

- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.

## Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	University Requirements	66
	Eberly Edge Requirements	15
	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, 6 and 8	27
POLS 191	First-Year Seminar	1
	General Electives	38
Total Hours		66

## Eberly Edge Program Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
EDG 1: Data and Society		3
EDG 2: Effective and Civil Communication		3
EDG 3: Ethics and Civil Responsibility		3
EDG 4: Global and Regional Perspectives (POLS 250)		
EDG 5: Practicing Arts & Sciences (ARSC 380)		3
EDG 6: High Impact Experience		3
Total Hours		15

## Political Science Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
<b>CORE REQUIREMENT:</b>		<b>21</b>
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	
<b>POLITICAL SCIENCE ELECTIVES:</b>		<b>15</b>
Select one option:		
<b>Option 1: POLS Electives</b>		
Complete 15 additional credit hours in POLS with a minimum of 12 credits at the 300 level or above the 300-level.		
<b>Option 2: Area of Emphasis</b>		
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		
<b>CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE:</b>		<b>3</b>
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
POLS 102 (F4)		3 POLS 270 or 271	3
POLS 103 or 260 (F7)		3 EDG 2: Effective and Civil Communication	3

GEF 2A		3 F2A	3
EDG 1: Data and Society		3 F3	3
General Elective		2	
		15	15
<b>Second Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Hours</b>
ENGL 102 (GEF 1)		3 POLS 230 or 240	3
POLS 250 (EDG 4)		3 POLS 300	3
F8 Course 1		3 EDG 3: Ethics and Civil Responsibility	3
General Elective		3 F5	3
General Elective		3 F6	3
		15	15
<b>Third Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Hours</b>
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 ARSC 380 (EDG 5)	3
F8 Course 2		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 F8 Course 3	3
		15	15
<b>Fourth Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Hours</b>
POLS Elective/AoE course 5		3 POLS Capstone	3
General Elective		3 EDG 6: High Impact Experience	
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. 6)
- Pre-Law and Legal Studies (p. 7)

## AMERICAN POLITICS AND POLICY AREA OF EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Hours
Select five of the following:		
POLS 261	Introduction to National Security	15
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 Law & Policy
POLS 342	Bureaucratic Politics
POLS 373	American Political Philosophy
<hr/>	
Total Hours	15

## ELECTIONS & CAMPAIGNS AREA OF EMPHASIS

Code	Title	Hours
<b>FIELD RESEARCH REQUIREMENT:</b>		<b>3</b>
POLS 348	Field Research and Community Engagement in Elections and Campaigns	
<b>POLITICAL SCIENCE ELECTIVES:</b>		<b>9</b>
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	
<b>SKILLS COURSE:</b>		<b>3</b>
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	
<hr/>		
Total Hours		15

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

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Select five of the following:</b>		<b>15</b>
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
<hr/>	
Total Hours	15

## PRE-LAW AND LEGAL STUDIES AREA OF EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Hours
<b>CORE COURSES:</b>		<b>6</b>
POLS 210	Law and the Legal System	
POLS 313	American Constitutional Law	
or POLS 314	Civil Liberties in the United States	
<b>UPPER-DIVISION ELECTIVES:</b>		<b>9</b>
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	
<hr/>		
Total Hours		15

## Accelerated Program

- B.A. Political Science and M.A. Political Science (p. 8)

## Accelerated B.A. in Political Science and M.A. in Political Science

Students must fulfill all degree requirements for the B.A. in Political Science (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/politicalscience/>) and all requirements for the M.A. in Political Science (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/politicalscience/ma/>) with the exception of the minimum number of credit hours in M.A. in Political Science Electives and the minimum number of credit hour required for the M.A., as described below. Students must also meet all requirements for the A.B.M in Political Science.

**Credit Hours:** Students are required to complete a minimum of 31 credit hours in POLS at the graduate level. Up to 12 of those credits can be at the 400 level. The number of graduate credit hours may vary depending on number of semesters in residence.

### ABM Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Undergraduate Coursework		106
Shared B.A./M.A. Coursework		14
Graduate Coursework		24
Total Hours		144

### Shared Coursework Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
POLS 500	Introduction to Political Research	3
POLS 501	Quantitative Political Analysis	3
POLS 502	Advanced Quantitative Methods	3
POLS 596	Graduate Seminar	2
Any POLS course at the 400 level or above		3
Total Hours		14

#### 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 POLS 501	3
POLS 500		3 POLS 596	1
F8 Course 2		3 ARSC 380 (EDG 5)	3
		General Elective	2
		15	15

#### Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
POLS Elective/AoE course 5		3 POLS Capstone	3
POLS 502		3 EDG 6: EDG High Impact Experience	3
POLS 596		1 POLS 400 level or above	3
F8 Course 3		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		2	
		15	15

Total credit hours: 60

### 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
<b>Second Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Hours</b>
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
<b>Third Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Hours</b>
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
<b>Fourth Year</b>			
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Hours</b>
LAW 641		1 LAW 675	1
LAW 686		4 LAW 703	4
LAW 700		3 LAW 707	4
LAW 705		3 LAW 711	2
LAW 709		4 LAW 725	4
		15	15

Total credit hours: 120

## 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.