

Political Science

Undergraduate Study

The study of political science is designed to enable students to understand the nature of politics, public values, and the institutions and processes of politics in their various forms.

Students completing a major in political science will understand and be able to interrelate the leading theories, literature, and approaches in the subfields of American government, political theory and methods, international relations, and comparative politics. Graduates can analyze and formulate effective argumentation in written and oral forms, including the ability to appreciate and accommodate diverse political ideas, and the ability to collect and critique information and ideas of others in support of original arguments. Graduates appreciate the knowledge and civic responsibilities required for effective participation in political life.

The political science major is often chosen by students preparing for a career in law. Students with this goal should consult with the department in selecting courses. See also Preprofessional Study.

Several internship options are available to the political science major, offering students the opportunity to experience practical application of the knowledge learned in academic courses.

Requirements for the Major:

For the purpose of defining undergraduate requirements in the Department of Political Science, the Department employs four subfields within the discipline, with the following courses in each:

I. Theory and Methods

POL S 235	Introduction to Ethics and Politics	3
POL S 313	Special Topics in Theory and Methods	2
POL S 334	Politics and Society	3
POL S 335	Science, Technology, and Public Policy	3
POL S 356	Theories of International Politics	3
POL S 306	Public Opinion and Voting Behavior	3
POL S 430	Foundations of Western Political Thought	3
POL S 431	Modern Political Thought	3
POL S 470	Political Game Theory	3
POL S 480	Ethics and Public Policy	3
POL S 487	Electronic Democracy	3
POL S 490B	Independent Study: Theory and Method	arr †
Total Credits		32 †

† Arranged with instructor.

II. American Government and Politics

POL S 215	Introduction to American Government	3
POL S 305	Political Behavior	3
POL S 310	State and Local Government	3
POL S 311	Municipal Government and Politics	3
POL S 312	Special Topics in American Government and Politics	2
POL S 318	Campaign and Elections	3
POL S 319	Law and Politics	3
POL S 320	American Judicial Process	3
POL S 334	Politics and Society	3
POL S 335	Science, Technology, and Public Policy	3
POL S 344	Public Policy	3
POL S 358	United States Foreign Policy	3
POL S 359	Current Issues in American Foreign Policy	3
POL S 360	American Institutions: Congress	3
POL S 361	American Institutions: The Presidency	3
POL S 363	American Institutions: Media	3
POL S 364	Political Parties and Interest Groups	3
POL S 370	Religion and Politics	3
POL S 371	Introduction to Public Administration	3

POL S 385	Women in Politics	3
POL S 383	Environmental Politics and Policies	3
POL S 413	Intergovernmental Relations	3
POL S 417	Campaign Rhetoric	3
POL S 420	Constitutional Law	3
POL S 421	Constitutional Freedoms	3
POL S 442	The Policy and Politics of Coastal Areas	3
POL S 475	Management in the Public Sector	3
POL S 476	Administrative Law	3
POL S 480	Ethics and Public Policy	3
POL S 490A	Independent Study: American Government and Politics	arr †

† Arranged with instructor.

III. Comparative Politics

POL S 241	Introduction to Comparative Government and Politics	3
POL S 314	Special Topics in Comparative Politics	2
POL S 340	Politics of Developing Areas	3
POL S 343	Latin American Government and Politics	3
POL S 346	European Politics	3
POL S 347	African Politics	3
POL S 349	Politics of Russia and the Soviet Successor States	3
POL S 350	Politics of the Middle East	3
POL S 442	The Policy and Politics of Coastal Areas	3
POL S 485	Comparative Public Administration	3
POL S 490C	Independent Study: Comparative Politics	arr †

† Arranged with instructor.

IV. International Relations

POL S 251	Introduction to International Politics	3
POL S 315	Special Topics in International Relations	2
POL S 356	Theories of International Politics	3
POL S 357	International Security Policy	3
POL S 358	United States Foreign Policy	3
POL S 359	Current Issues in American Foreign Policy	3
POL S 381	International Political Economy	3
POL S 422	International Law	3
POL S 452	Comparative Foreign Policy	3
POL S 453	International Organizations	3
POL S 485	Comparative Public Administration	3
POL S 487	Electronic Democracy	3
POL S 490D	Independent Study: International Relations	arr †

† Arranged with instructor.

To complete the major in Political Science a student must earn 33 semester credits of courses in Political Science subject to the following conditions:

1. Students must satisfactorily complete POL S 101 and POL S 301.
2. Students must complete at least 3 credits in each of the four subfields listed above. Students may apply only one half-semester mini-course (POL S 312, POL S 313, POL S 314, POL S 315) in each group.
3. Political Science courses in which a student has a grade of D+ or lower will not count for the major but can be counted as electives.
4. At least 18 credits of Political Science courses must be numbered 300 or above.
5. Students must pass one statistics course from among STAT 101, STAT 104, STAT 226, or STAT 231.
6. No more than six credits of POL S 496, POL S 497, or POL S 499 (alone or in combination) can be used to fulfill any of these requirements. A maximum of three credits of POL S 490 can be applied to meet any of the four subfield requirements.
7. A maximum of six credits from half-semester mini-courses (POL S 312, POL S 313, POL S 314, POL S 315) can be applied to satisfy the above requirements.
8. At least 15 credits of Political Science coursework must be earned at Iowa State University.

9. Advanced Communication Skills: Majors must earn at least a C+ in each of ENGL 150 and ENGL 250. Those who do not must complete ENGL 309 or ENGL 314 with a minimum grade of C. Majors must also complete POL S 395.

The department offers a minor in political science that may be earned by completing 15 credits beyond the 100-level of coursework in political science, nine of which must be at the 300 level or above. A student minoring in Political Science normally will be expected to take at least 9 credits in Political Science coursework at Iowa State University. Only 3 credits of POL S 490 or POL S 499, alone or in combination, and only 2 credits of POL S 312, POL S 313, POL S 314, or POL S 315 may be included in the total of 15 credits required for the minor. All minors in the College of Liberal Arts and Science require a minimum of 6 credits in courses numbered 300 and above taken at ISU with a minimum grade of C. Credits earned in POL S 496, POL S 497, or POL S 499, offered on a satisfactory/fail basis only, will not fulfill this requirement.

Graduate Study

The department offers work for a Master of Arts degree (MA) with a major in political science and minor for students in other departments. The department also offers work for a Graduate Certificate of Public Management and Policy (GCPMP) for those interested in an educational certificate program that requires less work than a full masters program. In addition, the Department of Political Science offers work for a Master of Science in Information Assurance (MSIA) and a joint Master of Arts/Juris Doctor (MA/JD) program with the Law School of Drake University. Information with detailed requirements for all graduate degrees may be obtained at the department's web page at <http://www.pols.iastate.edu/graduate-students/>.

Master of Arts (MA)

This is a 30-credit masters degree that gives students the opportunity to explore the field of political science in order to pursue a PhD, go to law school, improve research skills, or understand politics better. We currently offer concentrations in American Politics, Comparative Politics, and International Relations. Beginning August 2015 we anticipate (pending university approval) a new curriculum in which the three concentration areas are American Politics, Global Politics, and Public Policy. Although it is not a formal concentration, some students have worked heavily in the area of political theory. Top students are eligible for graduate assistantships that make graduate study much more affordable and provide opportunities for assisting faculty with teaching and research. These are awarded on a merit basis. A thesis is required for this degree. The department also has a joint Master of Arts/Juris Doctor (MA/JD) program with the Law School of Drake University. Students wishing to pursue this joint degree must submit separate applications to Drake University and Iowa State University and be accepted by both institutions.

MA graduates have a broad substantive understanding of the political process and the academic study of politics. They also have in-depth knowledge of one or more subfields in political science. Graduates are skilled at conducting research and preparing thorough research summaries. They are able to identify and address complex political questions, taking into account related ethical, legal, economic, and social issues.

The prerequisites for major graduate work in the MA program normally are completion of at least 15 credits in political science, the GRE (Graduate Record Examination), one year of a foreign language (equivalent to 8 semester hours) and a course in basic statistics (equivalent to STAT 101). If the basic statistics requirement has not been met, the student may remedy the deficiency by passing equivalent courses, for which no graduate credit will be received. During their program of study, all students are expected to complete STAT 401, POL S 502, and a thesis. Additional information including detailed graduation requirements can be found at <http://www.pols.iastate.edu/graduate-students/ma-in-political-science/>.

Master of Science in Information Assurance (MSIA)

The Master of Science in Information Assurance (MSIA) is a multi-disciplinary program designed to provide students with diverse backgrounds and interests the opportunity to obtain professional training in the emerging field of information assurance. The core of the MSIA program is built around a series of courses taught in Electrical and Computer Engineering, Mathematics, and Computer Science that introduce students to software and hardware aspects of cryptography and computer security. The program also recognizes, however, that information assurance defined in terms of security, privacy, access, and reliability is not simply a technical problem but also involves important societal dimensions, including policy, education, ethics, and management. Recognizing that political science offers many potential intersections with information assurance (e.g., public sector

management of information technology; forensics and computer crime; information technology policy and law; information technology and international relations; information warfare; etc.), students with interests in these areas are encouraged to select the Department of Political Science as their home department.

Students opting to pursue a MSIA degree through the Department of Political Science can expect to acquire skills and background knowledge relevant to a career in public policy or public sector management of information assurance technologies. The MSIA degree can also help prepare students who wish to go on to pursue a PhD in information politics and policy.

Students interested in the MSIA degree program should consider Political Science as a home department if their future career and/or educational interests lie in such areas as: institutional issues related to the Internet and information technologies; electronic government and electronic democracy; information technology, international security, and information warfare; information technology policy and law; and public administration and public sector management of information technology.

Admission requirements generally follow the same guidelines as the MA in Political Science. Degree requirements are specified by the MSIA program in cooperation with Political Science. More in-depth information on the program including detailed graduation requirements can be found at: <http://www.pols.iastate.edu/graduate-students/master-of-science-in-information-assurance/>.

Master of Arts/Juris Doctorate Program (MA/JD)

The Drake Law School and the Department of Political Science at Iowa State University are co-sponsors of the Master of Arts/Juris Doctorate degree. This degree combines courses at both Iowa State University and the Drake Law School and follows most of the same requirements as a double degree. However, the student must have full admission to both schools. Detailed information for the MA/JD can be found at the ISU Political Science webpage as well as the Drake Law School website (under Joint Degree): <http://www.law.drake.edu/>.

The increasing attention being focused on the solution of social problems by State and Federal governments has created a need for persons with advanced training in both law and political science. The Drake Law School and the ISU Department of Political Science jointly administer a MA/JD program to provide an opportunity for students at the Drake Law School to achieve, concurrently, a JD degree in law and a MA degree in political science, and for graduate students in political science at Iowa State University to achieve a degree in law.

Successful completion of this program will enable students at Drake Law School to receive both a JD and an MA degree within a three-year period, while graduate students in political science at Iowa State University will be able to transfer a substantial number of hours to the Drake Law School toward the fulfillment of the JD requirements in a similar amount of time. Additional information including detailed graduation requirements can be found at: <http://www.pols.iastate.edu/graduate-students/master-of-arts-juris-doctorate-program-m-a-j-d/>.

Minor

Students in other graduate programs may obtain a minor in political science by completing at least 9 credits of political science courses. Interested students should consult the Graduate College Handbook for additional information on graduate minors.

The Graduate Certificate of Public Management (GCPM)

The Political Science Department offers a Graduate Certificate of Public Management (GCPM). The GCPM is a 15-credit certificate. Students who are interested in public management and policy, but unsure about committing to a full master's degree, can aim for the certificate knowing that those courses will also count toward a master's degree if they choose to continue on. Iowa State graduate students in other fields may want to pursue the certificate to improve their credentials on the job market if their interest overlaps with public management and policy. For example, doctoral students in higher education and education administration can earn all 9 of their "outside" credits in the GCPM coursework, add the 6 more elective credits, and earn a GCPM along with their PhD.

Requirements for admission are a graduate school application, an essay stating purposes for study, college transcripts, the GRE (waived for those with five or more years of public or nonprofit sector experience), three letters of recommendation, and the TOEFL for international students. More information on the program including curricular requirements can be found at: <http://>

www.pols.iastate.edu/graduate-students/the-graduate-certificate-of-public-management-and-policy/ .