

# POLITICAL SCIENCE

## Overview of Political Science

The study of political science is designed to enable students to understand the nature of politics, public values, and policy, as well as the institutions and processes that produce these outcomes.

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, international relations, comparative politics, and public policy. Graduates can analyze and formulate effective argumentation in written and oral forms, with the ability to appreciate and accommodate diverse political ideas and 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.

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.

## Expected Student Learning Outcomes

Upon graduation, students should be able to:

- Understand the nature of politics, public values, and the institutions and processes of politics in their various forms.
- Understand and be able to interrelate the leading theories, literature, and approaches in the subfields of American government, political theory and methods, international relations, comparative politics, and public policy.
- Be able to analyze and formulate effective argumentation in written and oral forms, including the ability to appreciate and accommodate diverse political ideas, and to collect and critique information in ideas of others in support of original arguments.
- Appreciate the knowledge and civic responsibilities required for effective participation in political life.

## Political Science, B.A.

All Political Science majors must satisfactorily complete 34 credits of Political Science, including at least 18 credits of Political Science courses numbered 300 or above and at least 9 credits of Political Science courses numbered 400 or above. No more than 3 credits of POL S 490 (<http://catalog.iastate.edu/previouscatalogs/2023-2024/search/?P=POL%20S%20490>), POL S 496 (<http://catalog.iastate.edu/previouscatalogs/2023-2024/search/?P=POL%20S%20496>), POL S 497

(<http://catalog.iastate.edu/previouscatalogs/2023-2024/search/?P=POL%20S%20497>), or POL S 499 (<http://catalog.iastate.edu/previouscatalogs/2023-2024/search/?P=POL%20S%20499>), alone or in combination, may count towards the major. Only Political Science courses in which a student earns a grade of C- or higher will count for the major. At least 15 credits of Political Science coursework must be earned at Iowa State University.

POL S 101	Exploring Political Science	1
At least two subfield-introduction courses		6
POL S 111	Introduction to American Government	
POL S 121	Introduction to International Politics	
POL S 125	Democracy and Dictatorship: Introduction to Comparative Politics	
At least two career gateway courses		6
POL S 222X	Global Engagement	
POL S 232X	Politics of Business	
POL S 235	Introduction to Ethics and Politics	
POL S 271	Public Organizations and Leadership	
POL S 283	Introduction to Environmental Politics and Policies	
At least one research-methods course		3
POL S 261	Thinking Like a Political Scientist: Qualitative Approaches	
POL S 262	Thinking Like a Political Scientist: Quantitative Approaches	
POL S 401	Political Analysis and Research	
Additional POL S 300-level and above coursework to complement other course choices and to meet the minimums required for the major		18
At least 18 credits of POL S courses numbered 300 or above		
At least 9 credits of POL S courses numbered 400 or above		
As part of the 300-level and above coursework, a capstone from at least one of the following:		
POL S 491	Senior Thesis (3 cr. minimum)	
POL S 499	Internship in Political Science (3 cr. minimum)	
POL S course numbered 500 or above (3 cr. minimum)		
Study-abroad experience approved by the department		
POL S 492	Graduating Senior Survey	R
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>34</b>
Complementary Course Requirements		
One Statistics course		
STAT 101	Principles of Statistics	3-4
or STAT 104	Introduction to Statistics	

or STAT 226	Introduction to Business Statistics I	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>3-4</b>
Communication Proficiency		
ENGL 150	Critical Thinking and Communication	3
ENGL 250	Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition	3
ENGL 302	Business Communication	3
or ENGL 309	Proposal and Report Writing	
or ENGL 314	Technical Communication	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>9</b>

As majors in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Political Science students must meet College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (<https://catalog.iastate.edu/collegeofliberalartsandsciences/>) and university-wide requirements (<https://catalog.iastate.edu/collegescurricula/>) for graduation in addition to those stated above for the major. The university-wide Communication Proficiency Grade Requirement (<http://catalog.iastate.edu/previouscatalogs/2023-2024/academics/#communicationproficiencytext>) requires a grade of C or better in ENGL 250 (<http://catalog.iastate.edu/previouscatalogs/2023-2024/search/?P=ENGL%20250>). Students in all ISU majors must also complete a three-credit course in U.S. diversity and a three-credit course in international perspectives. Check (<http://www.registrar.iastate.edu/courses/div-ip-guide.html>) for a list of approved courses. Discuss with your advisor how the two courses that you select can be applied to your graduation plan.

LAS majors require a minimum of 120 credits, **including a minimum of 45 credits at the 300/400 level**. You must also complete the LAS world language requirement and career proficiency requirement.

### Political Science with Teacher Preparation Focus

Students seeking teacher certification in American Government must meet all of the requirements of the Political Science major while taking the specific Political Science classes required for certification by the State of Iowa. This coursework must include POL S 111 Introduction to American Government and a minimum of 12 additional credits in American Government (see options below). Students must also complete at least one additional endorsement in either American History or World History. Most students will complete a total of three endorsement areas; the third might include American or World History, Psychology, Economics, Anthropology or Sociology. Specific requirements of each endorsement are available from your advisor. Teacher license requirements are established by the Iowa Department of Education and the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners and are subject to change. Recent changes may not be reflected in this catalog, but advisers and faculty will be aware.

Students must also meet the requirements of the Secondary Major in Education (<http://catalog.iastate.edu/previouscatalogs/2023-2024/collegeofhumansciences/educationsecondary/#curriculumtext>) including student teaching (EDUC 417). Students must earn a minimum grade of B- in all content courses used for licensure and a minimum grade of C in all other required courses.

In addition to completing the requirements of the Secondary Major in Education, students will complete the following:

PSYCH 230	Developmental Psychology	3
EDUC 426	Principles of Secondary Education	3
EDUC/HIST 498	Methods of Teaching History/Social Sciences	

### Political Science Course Options for American Government Teacher Certification

POL S 111	Introduction to American Government	3
Minimum of 12 additional credits in American Government		12
POL S 121	Introduction to International Politics	
POL S 125	Democracy and Dictatorship: Introduction to Comparative Politics	
POL S 271	Public Organizations and Leadership	
POL S 283	Introduction to Environmental Politics and Policies	
POL S 306	Public Opinion and Voting Behavior	
POL S 310	State and Local Government	
POL S 318	Campaigns and Elections	
POL S 319	Law and Politics	
POL S 320	American Judicial Process	
POL S 333	Democracy and Diversity in America	
POL S 334	Politics and Society	
POL S 335	Science, Technology, and Public Policy	
POL S 339	Liberty and Law in America	
POL S 344	Public Policy	
POL S 358	United States Foreign Policy	
POL S 359	Current Issues in American Foreign Policy	
POL S 360	American Institutions: Congress	
POL S 361	American Institutions: The Presidency	
POL S 363	American Institutions: Media	
POL S 364	Political Parties and Interest Groups	
POL S 370	Religion and Politics	
POL S 381	International Political Economy	
POL S 385	Women in Politics	
POL S 419	The Judiciary	
POL S 420	Constitutional Law	
POL S 421	Constitutional Freedoms	

POL S 430 Foundations of Western Political Thought

POL S 431 Modern Political Thought

POL S 453 International Organization

POL S 460 American Political Institutions

<sup>1</sup> Meets International Perspectives requirement.

<sup>2</sup> Meets LAS College Mathematical Disciplines requirement.

<sup>3</sup> May be cross-listed to fulfill other requirements. POL S 333, POL S 339, POL S 353, and POL S 385 fill this requirement.

## Four Year Plan Political Science, B.A.

### Freshman

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
POL S 101	1 POL S 121 or 125 <sup>1</sup>	3
ENGL 150	3 Natural Science Choice	3
LIB 160	1 Social Science Choice	3
POL S 111, 121, or 125	3 Humanities Choice	3
Natural Science Choice	3 Elective	3
Social Science Choice	3	
<b>14</b>		<b>15</b>

### Sophomore

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
ENGL 250	3 STAT 101, 104, or 226 <sup>2</sup>	3-4
POL S 261 or 262	3 POL S 222X, 232X, 235, 271, or 283	3
POL S 222X, 232X, 235, 271, or 283	3 Political Science Choice - 300/400 Level	3
Natural Science Choice	2-3 Humanities Choice	3
World Language/Elective	3-4 World Language/Elective	3-4
LAS 203	1	
<b>16</b>		<b>16</b>

### Junior

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Political Science Choice - 300/400 Level	6 Political Science Choice - 400 Level	3
ENGL 314, 302, or 309	3 Humanities Choice	3
U.S. Diversity Choice <sup>3</sup>	3 Electives	9
Humanities Choice	3	
<b>15</b>		<b>15</b>

### Senior

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Political Science Choice - 400 Level	3 Political Science Choice - 500 Level	3
Electives	11-12 Electives	12
<b>14-15</b>		<b>15</b>

**Total Credits: 120-121**

## Minor in Political Science

The department offers a minor in political science that may be earned by completing 15 credits of coursework in political science, fulfilling all of the following criteria:

- At least 9 of the credits must be in courses numbered 300 or above.
- At least 9 of the credits must have been taken at Iowa State University.
- At least 6 of the credits must be in courses numbered 300 or above, be taken at Iowa State University, and have a minimum grade of C.
- No more than 3 credits of POL S 490 may be included.
- None of the credits may be in courses offered only on a satisfactory/fail basis.
- At least 9 of the credits must not be used to meet other department, college, or university requirement.

## BA/MA PROGRAM

The concurrent BA/MA (<https://www.pols.iastate.edu/combined-b-a-m-a/>) classification offers well-qualified Iowa State juniors and seniors the opportunity to start working on a master's degree in Political Science before completing a bachelor's degree. Contact the department's Director of Graduate Education for more information about applying.

## 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 <https://www.pols.iastate.edu/academics/graduate/>

## Master of Arts (MA)

This is a 30-credit Master's 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. 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. The degree can also be pursued jointly with a JD at the Law School of Drake University (see below).

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 12 credits in political science or related courses. During their program of study, all students are expected to complete STAT 587, POL S 501, and a thesis or creative component. Additional information including detailed graduation requirements can be found at <https://www.pols.iastate.edu/graduate/political-science-m-a/>.

## Master of Science in Cybersecurity

The Master of Science in Cybersecurity 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 Cybersecurity 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 Cybersecurity 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 Cybersecurity degree can also help prepare students who wish to go on to pursue a PhD in information politics and policy.

Students interested in the Cybersecurity 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 Cybersecurity program in cooperation with Political Science. More in-depth information on the program including detailed graduation requirements can be found at <https://www.pols.iastate.edu/graduate/master-of-science-in-information-assurance-ms-ia/>.

## 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/> (<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 <https://www.pols.iastate.edu/graduate/master-of-arts-juris-doctorate-program-m-a-j-d/>.

## Graduate 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 AND POLICY (GCPMP)**

The Political Science Department offers a Graduate Certificate of Public Management and Policy (GCPMP). The GCPMP 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 GCPMP coursework, add the 6 more elective credits, and earn a GCPMP 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 <https://www.pols.iastate.edu/graduate/graduate-certificate-of-public-management-and-policy/>.