



Political Science BA

A degree in political science is the perfect choice for students who want to change the world. Our students gain knowledge about politics and policy, and develop sought-after skills—such as information-gathering and processing, analysis, research, decision-making, and oral and written communication—that are transferable to many career paths after graduation. Areas of concentration include American politics, international and comparative politics, urban politics, public law, public policy and administration, and gender and politics. In addition to formal course work, internships are available in which the student can apply classroom learning and gain practical field experience.

Career Outlook

Our graduates work in a variety of settings, as lawyers in the legal system, staff for government agencies, legislatures, and political campaigns, managers of public, private and nonprofit organizations, and advocates for a wide variety of social, environmental, and economic organizations. The variety of skills students develop, coupled with internship experience, make our graduates strong candidates on the job market. Early and mid-career political science graduates enjoy higher average salaries than those in business management and other fields. Political science is also a path to graduate school and the top major of law school applicants.

Future Career Options

- Attorney/Judge
- Campaign Staff
- Corporate Governmental Affairs Director
- Environmental or Social Policy Expert
- Legislative Assistant
- Policy Analyst
- Political Consultant
- Research Analyst
- Social Media Manager
- Teacher or Professor

Skills Developed By Degree Completion

- Explain the history, characteristics and impact of legal, economic and political institutions and systems
- Apply various methods, tools, and sources to answer important policy and political questions
- Compare and contrast different theories of politics
- Assess political issues
- Form evidence-based recommendations and communicate them clearly
- Plan, execute, and defend research projects

Successful alumni have gone on to fulfill many of the opportunities above. Additional possibilities are taken from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Contact an advisor to discuss additional future career options.

IT STARTS RIGHT NOW

This is a sample academic map for the courses to take each academic semester/session. This map is not a substitute for academic advisement. Contact your advisor when making final selections.



UNIVERSITY STUDIES

University studies is required for all first-year students and those with less than 24 credit hours.



MILESTONE COURSES

Milestone courses should be taken in the order shown to ensure you stay on a timely and accurate path toward graduation.



SUMMER AND INTERSESSION COURSES

Don't forget that summers and winter breaks are a way to fast-track your route to degree completion – and lighten your load during fall and spring!

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admissions.umsl.edu

2024-2025 4-YEAR ACADEMIC MAP

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Year

1

FALL SEMESTER (16 credit hours)

ENGL 1100: First-Year Writing (3)
INTDSC 1003: University Studies (1)
POL SCI 1100: Introduction to American Politics (3)
GEN ED CORE: Mathematics Proficiency (3)
GEN ED EXPLORE: Humanities and Fine Arts (3)
GEN ED EXPLORE: Math and Life/Natural Sciences (3)

SPRING SEMESTER (15 credit hours)

POL SCI 1500: Introduction to Comparative Politics (3)
GEN ED CORE: Communication Proficiency (3)
GEN ED EXPLORE: Humanities and Fine Arts (3)
GEN ED EXPLORE: Math and Life/Natural Sciences (3)
Elective (3)

Year

2

FALL SEMESTER (14 credit hours)

FGN LANG 1001: Language and Culture I (5)
POL SCI 1800: Introduction to International Politics (3)
GEN ED EXPLORE: Math and Life/Natural Sciences (3)
GEN ED EXPLORE: Humanities and Fine Arts (3)

SPRING SEMESTER (15 credit hours)

FGN LANG 1002: Language and Culture II (5)
POL SCI XXXX: Political Science Course (3)
POL SCI XXXX: Political Science Course (3)
Cultural Diversity (3)
Elective (1)

Year

3

FALL SEMESTER (15 credit hours)

FGN LANG 2101: Language and Culture III (3)
POL SCI 3000: Political Analysis (3)
POL SCI XXXX: Political Science Course (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)

SPRING SEMESTER (15 credit hours)

ENGL 3100: Junior-Level Writing or Equivalent (3)
POL SCI 3XXX+ Political Science Course (3)
POL SCI 3XXX+ Political Science Course (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)

Year

4

FALL SEMESTER (15 credit hours)

POL SCI 3XXX+ Political Science Course (3)
POL SCI XXXX: Political Science Course (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)

SPRING SEMESTER (15 credit hours)

POL SCI 3XXX+ Political Science Course (3)
POL SCI 4950: Senior Seminar in Political Science (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)
Elective (3)



Check once completed