

BA with a Major in Political Science

Program Codes:

20FT0343BA

Degree Requirements

To earn a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences degree from UIC, students must complete university, college, and department degree requirements. The Department of Political Science degree requirements are outlined below. Students should consult the [College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#) section for additional degree requirements and college academic policies.

Code	Title	Hours
Summary of Requirements		
Major Requirements		33
General Education and Electives to reach minimum Total Hours		87
Total Hours		120

General Education

See General Education and Writing-in-the-Discipline in the [College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#) section for information on meeting these requirements.

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
POLS 101	Introduction to American Government and Politics ^{a,b}	3
POLS 200	Methods of Political Science	3
Select two of the following: ^c		6
POLS 120	Introduction to Political Theory	
POLS 130	Introduction to Comparative Politics	
POLS 184	Introduction to International Relations	
Select one of the following: ^d		3
POLS 329	Seminar on American Politics	
POLS 349	Topics in Comparative Politics	
POLS 389	Seminar: Topics in International Relations	
POLS 399	Seminar in Political Theory	
Four additional political science courses at the 200 level (or above). ^e		12
Two additional political science courses at the 300 level (or above), only one of which may be POLS 301 or POLS 303. ^e		6
Total Hours		33

a This course is approved for the Understanding the Individual and Society General Education category.

b This course is approved for the Understanding U.S. Society General Education category.

c Students should consult the [General Education](#) section of the catalog to determine if any of these courses are approved General Education courses.

d Any of these courses may be used to fulfill the Writing-in-the-Discipline requirement.

e Not including POLS 305. A course must be at least 3 hours to count as an elective.

Transfer courses in political science must have grades of C or better to count toward the major or minor.

Recommended Plan of Study

Course	Title	Hours
First Year		
Fall Semester		
ENGL 160	Academic Writing I: Writing in Academic and Public Contexts	3
POLS 101	Introduction to American Government and Politics ^a	3
Foreign Language		4
General Education Requirement course		3-5
Hours		13-15
Spring Semester		
ENGL 161	Academic Writing II: Writing for Inquiry and Research	3
POLS 120	Introduction to Political Theory ^a	3
or POLS 130 or Introduction to Comparative Politics		
or POLS 184 or Introduction to International Relations		
General Education Requirement course		3
General Education Requirement course		3-5
Foreign Language		4
Hours		16-18
Second Year		
Fall Semester		
POLS 120	Introduction to Political Theory ^a	3
or POLS 130 or Introduction to Comparative Politics		
or POLS 184 or Introduction to International Relations		
Foreign Language		4
General Education Requirement course		3
General Education Requirement course		3
General Education Requirement course		3
Hours		16
Spring Semester		
POLS 200	Methods of Political Science	3
POLS 2xx, 3xx, or 4xx ^c		3
POLS 2xx ^c		3
General Education Requirement course		3-5
Foreign Language		4
Hours		16-18
Third Year		
Fall Semester		
POLS 2xx, 3xx, or 4xx ^c		3
POLS 2xx ^c		3
POLS 201	Political Data Analysis (or Quantitative Reasoning course) ^b	3
Electives		6
Hours		15
Spring Semester		
POLS 3xx or 4xx ^{c,d}		3
Electives		12
Hours		15
Fourth Year		
Fall Semester		
POLS 3xx or 4xx ^{c,d}		3
Select one of the following in either the fall or spring semesters: ^e		0-3
POLS 329	Seminar on American Politics	
POLS 349	Topics in Comparative Politics	

POLS 389	Seminar: Topics in International Relations	
POLS 399	Seminar in Political Theory	
Electives		12
Hours		15-18
Spring Semester		
Select one of the following in either the fall or spring semesters: ^e		0-3
POLS 329	Seminar on American Politics	
POLS 349	Topics in Comparative Politics	
POLS 389	Seminar: Topics in International Relations	
POLS 399	Seminar in Political Theory	
Electives		14-15
Hours		14-18
Total Hours		120

- a *POLS 101 and POLS 120 may be used to satisfy two of the nine courses in the General Education Requirement.*
- b *Satisfies Quantitative Reasoning (with a grade of C or better) but is not required for the major. To be eligible, you must first satisfy the math prerequisite.*
- c *Not including POLS 305. A course must be at least 3 hours to count as an elective.*
- d *Only one of these two may be POLS 301 or POLS 303.*
- e *Any of these courses may be used to fulfill the Writing-in-the-Discipline requirement. May be taken fall or spring semester.*