Welcome to the Political Science Major

We’re glad you made the decision to major in political science! By doing so, you are opening the door to many exciting career opportunities.

- Federal, State or Local Government
- Public Relations
- Campaign Consulting
- Urban and Regional Planning
- Research Consultant
- Political Think Tank Member
- Research Consultant
- Legislative Aid
- City Manager
- Diplomat-Foreign Service
- Intelligence Expert
- Lobbyist
- Survey Analyst
- Political Scientist
- Interest Groups
- Party Politics
- Journalism
- Editor
- Media Consultant
- Foreign News Correspondent
- FBI/CIA Agent
- Military Service Officer
- Parole/Probation Officer
- Corrections Officer
- Paralegal
- Business
- Bibliographer
- Biographer

Or, consider extending your education by going to Law School or Graduate School for an M.A. or Ph.D. in political science.

Declaring your major in person is easy:

1. Obtain an unofficial transcript through PAWS.
2. Make an appointment with one of our undergraduate advisors to meet, discuss your course plan and declare a major.
3. Meet with your Letters & Sciences advisor to ensure your chosen path meets the L&S degree requirements. Our political science advisors are not trained to advise you on all of the L&S requirements.

Or, you can start the major declaration online by filling out the major declaration request form from our website and filling out the form.

If you just want to talk with someone to see whether the political science major is right for you, our undergraduate advisors are always willing to talk with you to find the best path.
The Department of Political Science offers a comprehensive curriculum designed to provide a thorough understanding of politics while establishing a foundation for careers in government, law, education, business, and other fields. Undergraduates benefit from the resources of its nationally-recognized faculty and strong graduate programs. In addition to courses on political ideas, behavior, and institutions at the local, state, national, and international levels, the department offers opportunities for students to participate in research projects, internship programs, and a program in law studies.

The political science curriculum is divided into five areas: American politics, comparative politics, international politics, political theory, and political methodology.

Requirements for the Major

Majors are required to complete a minimum of 30 credits in political science, of which at least 15 credits must be in upper-division courses (numbered 300 or above) taken in residence at UWM. The following courses must be included among those taken for major credit:

- PolSci 103 (Introduction to Political Science) or PolSci 104 (Introduction to American Government and Politics)
- PolSci 203 (Introduction to Political Science Research) or PolSci 390 (Political Data Analysis) or PolSci 392 (Survey Research)
- At least one course beyond the 100 level in each of the four areas of political science (American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Politics, and Political Theory). Students should consult the most current version of the Undergraduate Catalog to determine which courses fall into which subfields. According to the College, 15 of your credits in the major must be upper division (300-level or above) and completed in residence at UWM.
- PolSci 500 (Capstone Course in Political Science) for all students who began their studies in and after Fall 1998, to be taken in the last year of study.

The political science major, as do all majors in the college, requires that you attain a 2.5 GPA in all political science courses, including transfer work, and 2.5 GPA in political science courses taken at UWM as well as a 2.0 GPA overall.

Note: The College of Letters and Science requires that students must declare a major upon completing 15 credits and before completing 75 credits. It is extremely important to declare a major as soon as possible after completing 15 credits, so that a Political Science advisor can help you avoid any surprises affecting graduation. This is the student’s responsibility, not the department's. The Department of Political Science provides several faculty advisors who are available to all students, not just to majors. The advisors will provide students with information about political science courses, career opportunities, the political science major, and other matters of interest and importance. Schedule your appointment with an advisor or submit an online application for declaring your major as soon as you complete those 15 credits!
Course of Study: Law Studies Option

Students may emphasize the study of law within the major by completing, in conjunction with or in addition to all of the requirements outlined above, the courses listed below as part of the 30 credits required for the major. Any of Pol Sci 250, 411, 412, 419, 452, 464, or 470 meets the American politics requirement; Pol Sci/Philos 384 (560) qualifies as political theory; and Pol Sci 316 is an international politics course.

**Required Courses**

- Pol Sci 250  Law and Society
- Pol Sci 412  Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties

**And, two of the following:**

- Pol Sci 316  International Law
- Pol Sci 384 (560)  The Philosophy of Law [jointly offered with Philos 384 (560)]
- Pol Sci 416  Trial Courts in the Judicial Process
- Pol Sci 417  The Supreme Court
- Pol Sci 419  Constitutional Interpretation
- Pol Sci 452  Administrative Law
- Pol Sci 464  Women and the Law
- Pol Sci 471  Problems in Law Studies: (Subtitle)

Course of Study: Minor

Minors are required to complete a minimum of 18 credits in political science, of which at least 9 must be in upper-division courses (numbered 300 or above) taken at UWM. Minors must complete courses in at least two of the following four areas: American politics, comparative politics, international politics, and political theory. Students must attain a 2.5 GPA in all political science courses, including any transfer work, and a 2.5 GPA in all political science courses taken at UWM.

Honors and High Honors in the Major

Departmental honors are awarded upon graduation to students who achieve a 3.5 GPA overall and also in their political science major. Students meeting these GPA requirements will automatically be slated for graduating with honors in the major.

Students meeting the grade point requirements might also wish to be considered for departmental high honors. If a student wishes to be considered for departmental high honors, s/he should request that the faculty member supervising her/his substantial research paper, either for the Capstone or another course, nominate her/him for high honors. The supervising faculty member then will decide if the student should be recommended to the high honors committee, which is
composed of three political science faculty members. The committee will determine if the quality of the nominee’s paper is sufficient to earn the high honors designation and, if so, will bestow the high honors accordingly. Do note that any student interested in receiving high honors needs to contact a Political Science faculty member to be considered; these high honors are not bestowed automatically.

Questions about any of the above honors designations can be directed to any of the Political Science faculty advisors.

**Undergraduate Advisors**

**David Armstrong, Assoc. Prof., Ph.D.**
University of Maryland
Undergraduate Program Director

**Ivan Asher, Asst. Prof., Ph.D.**
University of California, Berkeley

**Shale A. Horowitz, Prof., Ph.D.**
University of California, Los Angeles

**Hong Min Park, Asst. Prof., Ph.D.**
Washington University St. Louis

**Natasha Borges Sugiyama, Assoc. Prof., Ph.D.**
University of Texas at Austin

**Kristin Trenholm, Lecturer, Ph.D.**
University of California, Los Angeles

**Faculty**

**Robert J. Beck, Assoc. Prof., Ph.D.**
Georgetown University

**Sara (Pashak) Benesh, Assoc. Prof., Ph.D.**
Michigan State University

**John Bohte, Assoc. Prof., Ph.D.**
Texas A & M University
Master of Public Administration Director

**Kathleen Dolan, Prof., Ph.D., Chair**
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**Kennan Ferguson, Assoc. Prof., Ph.D.**
University of Hawaii
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Thomas M. Holbrook, Prof., Ph.D.
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