

POLITICAL SCIENCE, BA

Political science is the study of governments, political processes, public policies and political behavior by groups or individuals and is an ideal major for students with a passion for current events.

At UWM, students take coursework from four broad areas of political science in order to obtain a well-rounded education in the field: American politics, international relations, comparative politics, and political theory. Along with exploring these substantive areas, students strengthen their research, writing, and critical thinking skills. With this background, students leave UWM ready to enter graduate school or the world of work in government, international organizations, campaigns, business, consulting, nonprofits, and many other industries. This broad major is available entirely online, or students can mix-and-match and take a some online and some traditional classes.

Many students find that a degree in Political Science aligns well with their interest in law and their plans to attend law school after college. We offer a large number of courses in constitutional law and legal practice in society, and students can focus their electives around these as part of the Law Studies option within the Political Science major. Students planning for law school also often participate in our law sports programs such as intercollegiate moot court and intercollegiate mock trial.

Internships are encouraged for all majors, and opportunities can be found locally as well in in Washington DC.

Since 1966, students from all UW System campuses and other universities have participated in the United Nations Summer Seminar (<http://uwm.edu/political-science/undergraduate/u-n-summer-seminar/>). This five-week, six-credit program is partially held at United Nations Headquarters in Manhattan. The four weeks in New York include special access to U.N. facilities and intensive interaction with over 40 experts representing governments and international organizations.

Requirements

Course of Study – Bachelor of Arts Degree

Complete 120 credits including 90 credits in the College of Letters & Science and with 36 of the 90 credits in L&S upper-level (numbered above 300) courses. The College requires that students must complete in residence at UWM at least 15 credits in upper-division (numbered 300 or above) courses in their major. Students are also required to complete University-wide General Education Requirements and the specific L&S requirements listed below.

To complete a major, students must satisfy all the requirements of the major as stated in this catalog. Students who declare their majors within five years of entering the UW System as a degree candidate may satisfy the requirements outlined in any catalog issued since the time they entered. Credits used to satisfy the major also may be used to satisfy other degree requirements.

University General Education Requirements (GER)

Code	Title	Credits
Oral and Written Communication		

Part A

Achieve a grade of C or better in the following course:

ENGLISH 102	College Writing and Research (or equivalent)
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Part B

Course designated as OWC-B; may be completed through a major-specific course requirement

Quantitative Literacy

Part A

Earn at least 3 credits with a grade of C or higher in one of the following courses or an equivalent course, or achieve a placement code of at least 30 on the mathematics placement test (or other appropriate test, as determined by the Mathematical Sciences Department)

MATH 102	Mathematical Literacy for College Students II
MATH 103	Contemporary Applications of Mathematics
MATH 105	Introduction to College Algebra
MATH 108	Algebraic Literacy II
MATH 111	Introduction to Logic - Critical Reasoning ¹
or PHILOS 111	Introduction to Logic - Critical Reasoning
MATH 116	College Algebra
Or equivalent course	

Part B

Course designated as QL-B; may be completed through a major-specific course requirement

Arts

Select 3 credits 3

Humanities

Select 6 credits 6

Social Sciences

Select 6 credits 6

Natural Sciences

Select 6 credits (at least two courses including one lab) 6

UWM Foreign Language Requirement

Complete Foreign Language Requirement through:

- Two years (high school) of a single foreign language
- Two semesters (college) of a single foreign language
- Or equivalent

UWM Cultural Diversity Requirement

One course from the Arts, Humanities, or Social Sciences must also satisfy UWM's Cultural Diversity requirement

¹ Math 111 and Philosophy 111 are jointly offered and count as repeats of one another. Students cannot receive credit for both courses.

College of Letters & Science Requirements

I. English Composition Requirement

Students must satisfy the English Composition Requirement with one of the following options:

- 1) Completing ENGLISH 102 with a grade of C or higher; or
- 2) by placing beyond ENGLISH 102 on the English Placement Test (EPT) (or other assessment as determined by the English Department); or

3) transferring a course of at least 2.5 equivalent credits from another institution that is equivalent to English 102, or a UWM higher-level expository writing course, with a grade of C or higher.

Note: This requirement is the same as the University General Education Requirement for Oral and Written Communication Part A. The College of Letters & Science does not have a specific requirement for a writing course beyond English 102, but students must complete the university-wide requirement for Oral and Written Communication Part B listed above.

II. Mathematics and Formal Reasoning

To satisfy the Mathematics and Formal Reasoning Requirement, students must satisfy the following two requirements:

1. Achieve a placement code of at least 30 on the mathematics placement test (or other appropriate test, as determined by the Mathematical Sciences Department) or earn at least 3 credits with a grade of C or higher in one of the following courses or an equivalent course:

Code	Title	Credits
MATH 102	Mathematical Literacy for College Students II	3
MATH 103	Contemporary Applications of Mathematics	3
MATH 105	Introduction to College Algebra	3
MATH 108	Algebraic Literacy II	3
MATH 111	Introduction to Logic - Critical Reasoning ¹	3
or PHILOS 111	Introduction to Logic - Critical Reasoning	
MATH 116	College Algebra	3
MATH 175	Mathematical Explorations for Elementary Teachers I	3

¹ Math 111 and Philosophy 111 are jointly offered and count as repeats of one another. Students cannot receive credit for both courses.

Note: This requirement is the same as the University General Education Requirement for Quantitative Literacy Part A, listed above.

2. Complete one course (at least 3 credits) at the 200 level or above chosen from courses in Mathematics, PHILOS 211, or Letters and Science statistics courses:

Code	Title	Credits
Complete one of the following:		
3 or more credits in any 200-level or above Math course		
AFRIC 220	Introduction to Statistics in African and African Diaspora Studies	
ANTHRO 568	Introduction to Anthropological Statistics	
ATM SCI 500	Statistical Methods in Atmospheric Sciences	
BIO SCI 465	Biostatistics	
ECON 210	Economic Statistics	
GEOG 247	Quantitative Analysis in Geography	
HIST 595	The Quantitative Analysis of Historical Data	
MTHSTAT 215	Elementary Statistical Analysis	

PHILOS 211	Elementary Logic
POL SCI 390	Political Data Analysis
POL SCI 392	Survey Research
PSYCH 210	Psychological Statistics
SOCIOL 261	Introduction to Statistical Thinking in Sociology

Note: This requirement is NOT the same as the University General Education Requirement for Quantitative Literacy Part B. To complete the BA, students must take one of the L&S approved courses. **Not all of the courses listed here will satisfy the QL-B requirement.**

III. Foreign Language Requirement

Placement testing may be used to satisfy all or part of this requirement. Language courses (including American Sign Language) other than English taken in high school may be used to satisfy all or part of this requirement. One year of high school language equates to one semester of college work.

Completion of the L&S Language Requirement also satisfies the university-wide Foreign Language GER, but not vice versa.

Code	Title	Credits
Completed in one of the following ways:		0-18
Successful completion of the 4th semester of college work or equivalent in one language other than English (including American Sign Language)		
Successful completion of the 3rd semester of college work or equivalent in one language other than English (including American Sign Language) PLUS the 2nd semester of college work or equivalent in another language other than English (including American Sign Language)		

IV. International Requirement

See Approved Courses for the L&S International Requirement (<http://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/approved-courses-international-requirement/>) for course options.

Code	Title	Credits
Completed in one of the following ways:		9
Complete 3 courses (min. 9 cr) in a single foreign language (not including literature-in-translation or American Sign Language) at the 3rd semester level and above		
Complete 3 non-language courses (min. 9 credits) with an international content chosen from at least 2 curricular areas.		
Complete 9 credits in combination of the two options above.		

V. Breadth Requirement

Along with completing the University General Education Requirements of 3 credits in the Arts (A); 6 credits in the Humanities (HU), Social Sciences (SS), and Natural Sciences (NS/NS+); and a course with the Cultural Diversity (CD/+) designation, L&S students must complete the Breadth requirement.

Code	Title	Credits
Arts		
Select 3 credits		3
Humanities		
Complete 12 credits of L&S courses with Humanities Breadth designation; no more than 6 credits from a single subject area. *		12

Social Sciences

Complete 12 credits of L&S Courses with Social Science Breadth designation; no more than 6 credits from a single curricular area. *

Natural Sciences

Complete 12 credits of L&S Courses with Natural Sciences Breadth designation, including at least one laboratory or field course; no more than 6 credits from a single curricular area. *

Cultural Diversity

Complete 3 credits in a course with Cultural Diversity (CD) designation. **

* Students should check their course selections carefully with the list of approved L&S Breadth Courses (<http://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/breadth-requirement-course-list/>). Students are advised to select at least 6 credits worth of courses in each of the Humanities, Social Science, and Natural Sciences areas that can satisfy both the campus-wide General Education Requirements and the L&S Breadth requirement.

** Students are advised to select a course that satisfies the Cultural Diversity requirement as well as a Humanities or Social Science breadth/GER requirement.

VI. The Major

The College of Letters and Science requires that students attain at least a 2.0 GPA in all credits in the major attempted at UWM. In addition, students must attain a 2.0 GPA on all major credits attempted, including any transfer work. Individual departments or programs may require higher GPAs for graduation. Some departmental majors require courses from other departments. Contact your major department for information on whether those credits will count as part of the major GPA. The College requires that students must complete in residence at UWM at least 15 credits in upper-division (numbered 300 or above) courses in their major.

Research Requirement

Within their majors, students must complete a research experience approved by the L&S faculty. A list of courses satisfying the research requirement in each major can be found here (<http://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/approved-courses-research-requirement/>).

VII. The Minor

The College of Letters and Science requires that students attain at least a 2.0 GPA in all credits in the minor attempted at UWM. In addition, students must attain a 2.0 GPA on all minor credits attempted, including any transfer work.

Political Science Major Requirements

Majors must attain a 2.0 GPA in all political science courses, including any transfer work, and a 2.0 GPA in political science courses taken at UWM. Majors are required to complete a minimum of 30 credits in political science, of which at least 15 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:

Code	Title	Credits
Introductory Requirement		
POL SCI 103	Introduction to Political Science	3
or POL SCI 104	Introduction to American Government and Politics	

Methods Requirement

Select one of the following: 3

POL SCI 203	Introduction to Political Science Research
POL SCI 390	Political Data Analysis
POL SCI 392	Survey Research

Requirements: Areas of Political Science

Select at least one course beyond the 100 level in each of the following four areas of political science: 12

American Politics	
POL SCI 105	State Politics
POL SCI 150	Multicultural America: Minority Voting Rights and Representation
POL SCI 201	Introduction to Public Service
POL SCI 210	American Public Policy
POL SCI 213	Urban Government and Politics
POL SCI 215	Ethnicity, Religion and Race in American Politics
POL SCI 216	Environmental Politics
POL SCI 243	Public Administration
POL SCI 250	Law and Society
POL SCI 387	Topics in American Politics:
POL SCI 388	Latino Politics
POL SCI 398	Cyber-Politics: ¹
POL SCI 405	State Government:
POL SCI 408	The American Presidency
POL SCI 410	Law Through Popular Culture
POL SCI 411	Constitutional Law: Government Powers and Federalism
POL SCI 412	Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties
POL SCI 415	The Politics of Race, Ethnicity and Immigration
POL SCI 416	Judicial Politics
POL SCI 417	The Supreme Court
POL SCI 419	Constitutional Interpretation
POL SCI 421	Party Politics in America
POL SCI 425	Women in Politics
POL SCI 426	Congressional Politics
POL SCI 444	Politics and the Bureaucracy
POL SCI 450	Urban Political Problems
POL SCI 452	Administrative Law
POL SCI 464	Sex, Gender, and the Law
POL SCI 467	Elections and Voting Behavior
POL SCI 471	Problems in Law Studies:
POL SCI 473	Public Opinion
POL SCI 475	Political Psychology
Comparative Politics	
POL SCI 106	Politics of the World's Nations
POL SCI 300	Western European Politics
POL SCI 301	British Politics
POL SCI 302	Politics of Eastern Europe
POL SCI 310	Russian and Post-Soviet Politics
POL SCI 312	The Politics of Authoritarian Regimes

POL SCI 314	Chinese Politics and Foreign Policy
POL SCI 320	Politics of Developing Countries
POL SCI 321	Politics of Revolution in Developing Nations
POL SCI 325	Latin American Politics
POL SCI 326	Brazilian Politics and Society
POL SCI 328	The Arab-Israeli Conflict
POL SCI 329	African Politics
POL SCI 333	Seminar in Comparative Politics:
POL SCI 334	German Politics and the New Europe
POL SCI 335	Comparative Political Systems
POL SCI 341	Politics and Markets in Pacific-Rim Countries:
POL SCI 355	The Politics of Economic Inequality
POL SCI 368	Gender and Politics in Developing Nations
POL SCI 371	Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict
POL SCI 372	Poverty and Politics:
POL SCI 374	Health, Wealth, and Democracy
POL SCI 377	Elections in the Modern World
International Politics	
POL SCI 175	Introduction to International Relations
POL SCI 316	International Law
POL SCI 330	The Politics of International Economic Relations
POL SCI 337	International Organization and the United Nations
POL SCI 338	Seminar in International Relations:
POL SCI 339	European Integration
POL SCI 340	Politics of Nuclear Weapons
POL SCI 343	Asian International Relations
POL SCI 346	U.S.-Latin American Relations
POL SCI 359	Problems of American Foreign Policy
POL SCI 365	Theories and Methods in International Politics
POL SCI 370	International Conflict
POL SCI 379	Morality, Conflict and War
POL SCI 391	Current Crises and Events in International Relations
POL SCI 423	Conduct of American Foreign Affairs
Political Theory	
POL SCI 110	Sex and Power
POL SCI 255	Great Issues of Politics
POL SCI 281	Classics of Political Theory
POL SCI 361	History of International Political Thought
POL SCI 381	The Development of Western Political Thought
POL SCI 382	Modern Political Thought
POL SCI 384	The Philosophy of Law
POL SCI 385	American Political Thought
POL SCI 386	Contemporary Political Theory
POL SCI 389	Politics and Philosophy:
Research Experience	3

Select one of the following:²

POL SCI 312	The Politics of Authoritarian Regimes
POL SCI 314	Chinese Politics and Foreign Policy
POL SCI 325	Latin American Politics
POL SCI 326	Brazilian Politics and Society
POL SCI 338	Seminar in International Relations:
POL SCI 346	U.S.-Latin American Relations
POL SCI 361	History of International Political Thought
POL SCI 368	Gender and Politics in Developing Nations
POL SCI 370	International Conflict
POL SCI 408	The American Presidency
POL SCI 415	The Politics of Race, Ethnicity and Immigration
POL SCI 417	The Supreme Court
POL SCI 425	Women in Politics
POL SCI 464	Sex, Gender, and the Law
POL SCI 467	Elections and Voting Behavior

Electives

Select 9 credits from any of the above.	9
Total Credits	30

¹ Depending on instructor, may satisfy American Politics or International Relations area requirement.

² Satisfies the L&S requirement for a research experience in the major; should be taken in the last year of study.

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. Some of the courses below also satisfy the requirement of 3 credits above the 100 level in each area of Political Science.

Law Studies Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Required		
POL SCI 250	Law and Society ³	3
POL SCI 411	Constitutional Law: Government Powers and Federalism ³	3
POL SCI 412	Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties ³	3

Select two of the following:

POL SCI 316	International Law ⁴	3
POL SCI/PHILOS 384	The Philosophy of Law ⁵	3
POL SCI 416	Judicial Politics ³	3
POL SCI 417	The Supreme Court ³	3
POL SCI 419	Constitutional Interpretation ³	3
POL SCI 452	Administrative Law ³	3
POL SCI 464	Sex, Gender, and the Law ³	3
POL SCI 471	Problems in Law Studies: ³	3

Total Credits	15
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- ³ Satisfies the American politics requirement.
⁴ Satisfies the international politics requirement.
⁵ Satisfies the political theory requirement.

Letters & Science Advising

The College of Letters and Science provides general academic advising for all students with a major in the College, particularly as it relates to campus' general education requirements and the College's degree requirements. We also provide specialized advising for pre-professional students (pre-med, pre-dental, pre-pharmacy, etc.) regardless if their major is in Letters and Science or not. Prospective students, including high school students and students seeking to transfer to a program in Letters and Science may also receive advising from our admissions counselors.

Upon admission, students are assigned an advisor in the College advising office. Academic advising is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by appointment. Appointments outside of these times may be available and phone appointments are available for online students. The advising office (<https://uwm.edu/letters-science/advising/contact-advising/>) is located on the first floor of Holton Hall. Current students should call (414) 229-4654 to schedule an appointment or use the Navigate website (<https://uwmilwaukee.campus.eab.com>) to make an appointment with your assigned advisor; online scheduling is only available if you already have a Letters & Science advisor assigned to you. Prospective students should call (414) 229-7711 or email let-sci@uwm.edu.

When students declare a major, they will receive an additional faculty advisor located within the major department who will assist with requirements for that major. Students should read the "Declaration of Major" information on the website of the major that they are interested in. In some cases, the student will need to choose a faculty advisor as part of the declaration process.

All students are cautioned to consult their Letters & Science academic advisor AND their major advisor prior to each registration period to ensure they understand all requirements. Do not rely on pre-printed sample plans, as they are intended to be samples only and may not be right for your particular situation.

Honors and High Honors in the Major

Departmental honors are awarded upon graduation to students who achieve a 3.500 GPA overall in all UWM courses attempted, in their political science major courses, and in upper-division political science courses. Students meeting these GPA requirements will be slated automatically for graduating with honors in the major.

Students who meet the GPA requirement and wish to be considered for departmental high honors should request that the faculty member supervising her/his substantial research paper nominate her/him for high honors. The supervising faculty member 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. Note that a student interested in receiving high honors must contact a Political Science faculty member to be considered; high honors are not bestowed automatically.

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

Honors in the College of Letters and Science

Dean's Honor List

GPA of 3.750 or above, earned on a full-time student's GPA on 12 or more graded credits in a given semester.

Honors College Degree and Honors College Degree with Distinction

Granted to graduating seniors who complete Honors College requirements, as listed in the Honors College (<http://catalog.uwm.edu/honors-college/>) section of this site.

Commencement Honors

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or above, based on a minimum of 40 graded UWM credits earned prior to the final semester, will receive all-university commencement honors and be awarded the traditional gold cord at the December or May Honors Convocation. Please note that for honors calculation, the GPA is **not** rounded and is truncated at the third decimal (e.g., 3.499).

Final Honors

Earned on a minimum of 60 graded UWM credits: Cum Laude - 3.500 or above; Magna Cum Laude - 3.650 or above; Summa Cum Laude - 3.800 or above.

Contact Information

Current Students contact Associate Professor Ivan Ascher, ascher@uwm.edu

Prospective Students contact a Letters & Science Admissions Counselor at (414) 229-7711 or let-sci@uwm.edu

<http://uwm.edu/political-science/undergraduate/>