

Political Science Undergraduate Handbook

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Foreword

This handbook summarizes and explains departmental requirements, policies, and resources, and offers a distillation of the best general advice our office can offer students. If you still have questions about or need more details concerning any of the topics discussed here, contact the Undergraduate Studies Office. And please let us know right away about anything you discover here that is incorrect, ambiguous, or incomplete.

General points

We recommend that you take advantage of all the services the university and college provide to keep track of your degree requirements and monitor your academic progress. As a matter of university policy, you are responsible for knowing and observing all the academic rules and requirements that pertain to your degree and programs.

In addition to our department's undergraduate website (where you found this handbook) you'll find the following websites especially helpful. Whenever you have a question, your first step should be to consult them.

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (LAS) Student Pages

las.illinois.edu/students

Registration information

registrar.illinois.edu/registration

Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS) for students

registrar.illinois.edu/dars-audit/

(DARS offers an unofficial accounting of completed and remaining campus, college, and major requirements.)

Course Explorer

courses.illinois.edu

(Course schedules, real-time enrollment information, general education requirements, program information)

Academic Catalog

catalog.illinois.edu

The academic catalog contains a complete listing of approved courses of instruction and a degree programs index.

Student Code

admin.illinois.edu/policy/code

Pay immediate and careful attention to mail or messages from any university office or official. Campus officials and professors will use the email and physical addresses you have on record for official communications, so make sure you have registered your email address properly with the school and keep your contact information up to date through UI Integrate.

You may wish to read Dr. Hinchliffe's psadvisor blog (wiki.cites.uiuc.edu/wiki/display/psadvisor/Home)

Stay up to date on department information by liking the Facebook page (University of Illinois Department of Political Science) and following us on Twitter and Instagram at the handle @IllinoisPolSci.

Also, our office regularly sends news and announcements to the ps-advisor-l email list server; you can subscribe by sending an email from your illinois.edu account to "listserv@listserv.illinois.edu" with a blank subject line and "subscribe ps-advisor-l" in the body, with no other text or signature included. You will receive an email reply with further instructions.

Forms

Most departmental forms—individual study, scholarship and essay award applications, honors thesis forms and information, Pi Sigma Alpha applications, and so on—are available online (pol.illinois.edu/undergraduate/forms.html). LAS has put its forms online as well (las.illinois.edu/students/forms).

Contacting your advisor

Advisors are assigned to students by the first letter of their last name. The assignments are noted on the department's undergraduate web page (pol.illinois.edu/undergraduates). To make an appointment, call 333.7491 during regular office hours: Monday through Friday from 9.00–12.00 and 1.00–5.00. You can always ask to meet with a specific advisor, if you have a

preference. There are limited walk-in hours available M-F, 1:00-2:00 on days class is in session. Walk-in appointments may last no more than ten minutes if other students are waiting. Generally students must make appointments in advance by contacting the undergraduate office.

You are always welcome to email your advisor. At some times of the year, getting a response may take one or two workdays, and email implies less privacy than other means of communication. A prompt, helpful response to your email is more likely if you do the following:

1 Make clear what kind of response you would like to have. An email that states a condition—for example, "I couldn't get into the course I wanted/needed, so I signed up for this other course"—does not communicate what you would like to have happen: are you asking for advice on the consequences of the change in plans? Are you seeking help to get into the first course? Or something else?

2 Make the subject distinct. A simple reply to an unrelated earlier message from your advisor slows down response time; your advisor will need to read through the older messages and see what connections there might be. If you intend to start a new discussion, save time and start a new message thread.

3 Make sure email is the right vehicle. Email is good for short messages or sending a link; it's less so for dialogue. Phone calls are far better for chatting. If you can't put all of the pertinent facts into a short email, get a quicker response by including a cell phone number and one or two times to call.

Meeting with your advisor

Visit with your advisor regularly. When you and your advisor know and understand each other, advising works better. Meet with your advisor:

- to plan course registration for an upcoming semester;
- to understand academic requirements related to degree completion, transfer of credit, academic standing, entry or departure from the university, and so on;
- to develop long-term academic plans, or fit existing academic plans with career or post-graduate educational or other post-collegiate plans;
- to learn about opportunities for study abroad, internships, or academic

honors; and

—to get help or a referral to other campus units for help with problems.

Come to your advising meetings prepared:

1 Bring all material relevant to what you need to discuss with your advisor, including your own academic records and any pertinent letters, forms, brochures, messages, and so forth.

2 Be ready to talk about your educational plans and career path, your academic likes and dislikes, your interests and so on.

3 If you don't have educational or career plans, working out a strategy to imagine and develop those plans is a good thing to talk about. If you had a plan, and it's changed, that's good matter for discussion.

4 Write your questions down, and plan to take notes.

Because advisors have many responsibilities, if you need an advisor's guidance, feedback, or signature, you should plan your meeting far enough in advance of the relevant deadlines to allow for the time he or she needs to review any materials and complete any forms required.

Coming to political science

The Department of Political Science welcomes all students who are admitted to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Students interested in exploring political science as a major have a variety of routes available. All students start with a relatively small core of classes, then pursue their academic interests in different directions. Each subfield of political science addresses only some of the issues regarding political systems and political life. But many advanced classes draw on ideas from more than one subfield. The major concern in course planning is making sure that you take courses in a sufficient number of subfields to be prepared for the advanced classes you are most interested in taking.

The best overviews of the academic discipline of political science are PS 100 (Introduction to Political Science) or PS 200 (Fundamentals of Political Science). (You can receive credit for either PS 100 or PS 200, but not both, and PS 200 is offered only online.) All political science majors must take PS 101 (US Government and Politics) or otherwise earn credit for this course. If you are interested in other courses at the 100- or 200- level, you should register for them; they can offer a good feel for a subfield or special topic in political science. Advanced-level courses (at the 300- and 400-level) are almost always poor first courses for exploring the discipline. Typically, freshmen and sophomore political science majors take one or two political science courses per semester. Depending on their interests and their academic performance, they take their first advanced-level political science class in the second semester of their sophomore year, or the first semester of their junior year.

The Undergraduate Studies Office does have a few specific recommendations for all students new to the major—among them, of course, meeting with your advisor and becoming familiar with this handbook. Beyond that recommendation, the department has a few suggestions for different populations of prospective students.

Prospective freshmen

At the University of Illinois, most freshmen who begin as political science majors graduate as political science majors. Political science is a great major to have in college. The discipline looks at the most important issues of our time. Past and present students who major in political science do interesting and important things on campus, and they have wonderful careers and lives after graduation.

Occasionally, prospective freshmen still in high school ask: “What courses in high school might best help me in college?”, or, “What goes with political science?” A few words on each of these questions is in order.

Probably, the most important quality successful students can seek in their high school curriculum is “academic intensity”; that is, courses requiring “a high concentration of intellectual effort.” So, the first response is that you should take classes you enjoy but that are “academically intense.” Abide by the suggestions of your high school counselor and teachers, but keep academic intensity in mind.

Two areas of study in high school, however, may pay unexpectedly high dividends in college: foreign languages and mathematics. Students in LAS need to complete four levels of a foreign or “non-primary” language, or three levels each of two foreign languages. In general, each sequential year of foreign language study in high school, or each semester in college, counts as one level of a foreign language. So, if you complete four years of a foreign language in high school, you will have completed the foreign language requirement in college. Completing the requirement in high school allows you the opportunity to move to more advanced study of a foreign language in college, or it frees space in your schedule to pursue other interests, or both. Knowledge of a foreign language also opens up a wider array of study abroad options.

Also, you should complete as much math as you can in high school, for two reasons. First, students with mathematical instruction beyond Algebra II are more likely to graduate from college. Instruction in Algebra II more than triples the odds of graduating from college; taking calculus in high school increases the odds more than seven times.¹ Although scholars might quibble about the causal path, the evidence is clear that more math in high school means better prospects for success in college. Second, mathematics, particularly calculus and statistics, are required for advanced study in many topics holding a present or future interest to students of political science: economics, policy analysis, and voting studies all draw on more advanced understanding of mathematics. Calculus and statistics are also prerequisites for many areas of graduate study of interest to political science majors, such as Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Public Administration (MPA), Master of Public Policy (MPP), Master of Public Health (MPH), and various doctoral programs.

Some students ask about taking advanced placement (AP) examinations. As noted above, in our view, academically intense experiences are good preparation for college. We believe you will receive excellent instruction in political science on this campus, and instruction in many high school advanced-placement courses has a somewhat different focus than instruction in similar courses on campus. Still, many students will find taking advanced placement courses to be a prudent choice. Students can earn credit for PS 101 (Introduction to American Government and Politics) by earning a 4 or 5 on the US Government Advanced Placement Exam; students can earn credit for PS 240 (Introduction to Comparative Politics) by earning a 5 on the Comparative Government Advanced Placement Exam. Beginning in Fall, 2016, by virtue of an act of the legislature, students will receive credit at state institutions for all advanced placement scores of 3 or higher. The implications of this new rule are still being resolved, but students who have not received the indicated advanced scores should be wary of taking courses requiring specific predicate knowledge. Consult an advisor for more information.

Aside from supporting course work, the department does not require any particular courses outside political science, but some recommendations might be helpful. Political science majors particularly benefit from instruc-

tion in six areas outside political science: quantitative methods, philosophy, a foreign language, economics, psychology, and history. Several courses listed as suggested electives also meet various general education requirements.

A variety of subfields of political science rely on some quantitative methods. Thus, course sequences in any of the following areas would be helpful for most political science students: calculus (MATH 220–MATH 241); informatics, (CS 102–CS 105); and statistics (ECON 202–ECON 203; SOC 280–SOC 380; STAT 100–STAT 200.) These sequences will also satisfy the campus quantitative reasoning requirements on campus.

You should study a foreign language with regard to your future employment and research plans. For example, students interested in careers in foreign affairs or national security should consider the study of “critical languages” such as Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Russian, or Turkish.² If you are interested in studying particular regions of the world, you may wish to study languages from those regions. Of course, students may also choose to study a foreign language to learn more about their own culture and heritage. All foreign language instruction and cultural studies can be helpful.

A variety of advanced political theory classes may be helped by a broader knowledge of philosophy available in classes such as classical philosophy (PHIL 203 or PHIL 410), early modern philosophy (PHIL 206 or PHIL 412), nineteenth-century philosophy (PHIL 411), major recent philosophers (PHIL 414), and feminist theory (GWS 350.)

The study of policy analysis or political economy is aided by a background in economics. Suitable courses include ECON 102, ECON 103, and more advanced classes like ECON 302 and ECON 303. Also helpful might be more applied courses in agricultural and consumer economics, such as ACE 251, ACE 254, ACE 255, or ACE 310.

Increasingly, some areas of political science rely on experimental methods of psychological phenomenon. Introductory classes in psychology, such as PSYC 100 or PSYC 103, can be helpful and are popular among political science majors. Many political science majors also enjoy classes like social psychology (PSYC 201, PSYC 333, PSYC 353), abnormal psychology (PSYC

238), organizational psychology (PSYC 245), and personality psychology (PSYC 250 or PSYC 353), as well as more advanced courses in related fields. Recent research in political science is moving toward biological or genetic explanations for human behavior; students interested in these topics may wish to begin with biological science courses like MCB 150/151.

The major events covered in many history courses are the raw data of political science: wars, elections, policy initiatives, social movements, and so on. A basic understanding of global history (HIST 100), Western civilization (HIST 141 and HIST 142), and/or US history (HIST 171 and HIST 172), among other historical topics, can deepen your understanding of many concepts introduced in political science. More advanced study of history is also helpful.

Transfers from other units on campus

Prospective transfers to political science from the Division of General Studies or other majors on campus may wish to read the handbook and look over the information for incoming freshmen. As compared with courses in many other majors on campus, political science courses require more reading and writing. As compared to many humanities, the thought process is more abstract and less textual or historical. Issues of identity are becoming more prominent in the discipline and are covered in a variety of intermediate and advanced courses in the department.

Most likely, successful transfer students from the Division of General Studies at the end of the sophomore year will have completed (and done well in) at least two political science courses before they declare the major, and they work on completing requirements of the major at a pace of two—or in rare instances three—courses per semester. Students who attempt to complete the major in three or fewer semesters can expect difficulty.

Occasionally, students transfer to political science to bide their time until they can meet the transfer requirements for another major, not taking any political science courses in the meantime. Such students are at risk because failing to make adequate progress in the major is grounds for academic probation. Also, if the student fails to meet the declaration criteria for his/her intended major, there may not be time to complete political science require-

ments and graduate within eight semesters.

If you have any questions, or if you are not sure if the major is an appropriate choice, you may meet with a political science advisor to review your academic history and consider your situation.

Transfers from off-campus

The advice to off-campus transfers is much the same as for freshmen and on-campus transfers. However, there are a couple of special issues. Transfers from off campus come through the Office of Admissions, and they need to meet the requirements set out in the College of Liberal Arts and Science's Transfer Handbook, available online (admissions.illinois.edu/pdf/transfer/handbook/las2.pdf). Also, transfer students from other colleges and universities need to be particularly careful not to take courses at UIUC for which they have already received credit. Historical information on how particular courses at other institutions have been transferred to UIUC is available online at transferology.com, but until your past courses are fully articulated, be sure to consult with an advisor about selecting courses.

The college requires that you complete at least one transferrable political science course before you arrive in order to declare political science as your major. We recommend strongly that you complete a three-hour course that would transfer to the University of Illinois as PS 101 (Introduction to US Government and Politics) and at least one more three-hour course that would transfer as a field course (PS 100, 220, 230, 231, 240, 270, or 280)—two more, if possible. You can take other political science courses before you come to the university, but be advised that advanced hours or other requirements of the major might not be met by political science electives taken at other institutions.

Transfer students from institutions outside the United States should review the admissions application information for international students at the Office of Admissions website (admissions.illinois.edu/apply/international). In addition, you may need to complete an English Proficiency Test once you arrive on campus. The reading and writing in many political science courses may prove to be a challenge to students without strong skills in English, but many international students do successfully complete the major. Otherwise,

advice for transfer students coming to Illinois from other institutions in the US applies to you also.

All transfer students with strong academic records should self-nominate for the University of Illinois's James Scholars honors program. In order to be eligible, you must have a transfer GPA of 3.7, and plan to complete a minimum of four semesters at Illinois. Also, you must apply during your first term at the University of Illinois to be considered for the program.

The political science major

At the University of Illinois, the undergraduate study of political science is divided into five fields: American Politics, Public Policy, Comparative Politics, Political Theory, and International Relations. PS 101 (Introduction to US Government & Politics) is a mandatory course for majors. Each of the five fields contains a 200-level introductory field course, other intermediate courses, and advanced-level (300- and 400-level) courses. You should take the introductory course in a given field before you take any advanced courses in that field.

A political science major requires 50 hours of coursework. 30 of these hours come from political science classes; these are your core requirements. The remaining 20 hours are your supporting coursework.

Core requirements

You must complete **30 hours** of political science courses, distributed according to the following requirements:

PS 101 (Introduction to US Government & Politics): **3 hours**³

Three field courses, from PS 100 (Introduction to Political Science), 220 (Public Policy), 230 (Political Science Research), 231 (Strategic Models), 240 (Comparative Politics), 270 (Political Theory), or 280/281 (International Relations): **9 hours**

Advanced-level (300/400-level) PS courses: **12 hours**

PS courses at any level: **6 hours**

A related and overlapping requirement is that you complete 12 hours of advanced-level political science courses on the Urbana-Champaign campus. Thus, if you only take 12 hours of advanced-level political science, this means that you must complete all of your advanced-level hours in political science on campus. The curriculum map in Appendix 2 may be helpful for understanding the structure of the major.

The department makes a limited exception for students studying abroad: You may apply 3 advanced-level hours per term, up to a total of 6 hours, from courses you take abroad toward advanced hours requirements in your major, and the college will treat them as being “on-campus” for the purposes of this requirement. PS 490 (Individual Study) and PS 491 (Government Internship) hours (described below) supervised by faculty of this campus, no matter where you do your independent study or internship, are considered “on-campus” for the purposes of this requirement.⁴ They require special certifications from the Undergraduate Studies Office to count as advanced hours.

Exceptions to departmental advanced-level course requirements do not change the college and campus advanced-hour and residency requirements. These requirements can be complicated to apply; you should speak with your advisor, or with your admissions and records officer in the LAS Student Academic Affairs Office, if you have any questions, or if you plan to use advanced-level credit you did not earn on this campus towards your major or degree.

Special courses

Some courses are not associated with any specific field. These include PS 100 (Introduction to Political Science), PS 200 (Foundations of Political Science), PS 490 (Individual Study), PS 491 (Government Internship), PS 492 (Undergraduate Research Assistance), PS 494 (Junior Honors Seminar), PS 495 (Senior Honors Seminar), and PS 496 (Senior Thesis). Others, such as PS 199 (Undergraduate Open Seminar) or PS 300 (Special Topics) are associated with different fields depending on the topic of a given iteration of the course.

Restrictions and limits

The department reserves seats in advanced classes for students whose primary major is political science. In addition, by agreement with the college and with some other departments and programs, some seats in certain political science courses are reserved for students with other majors. Generally, these restrictions by major are removed around the time that registration opens to freshmen, about three weeks into the registration period. Ask an advisor if you have any questions or if you would like an override for a course.

A few courses are restricted by class standing. Only seniors may participate in the senior honors seminar (PS 495) and senior thesis course (PS 496). Other courses may be open to students only with departmental approval. Any of these restrictions will be specified in online course descriptions, and these restrictions are not typically removed or waived.

There are limits to the amount of credit you can apply toward your major from some PS courses. You cannot include more than 6 hours of any of PS 490 (Individual Study), PS 491 (Government Internship), or PS 492 (Undergraduate Research Assistance), or more than 9 total hours of any of these courses in combination, in the advanced hours you use to complete your major requirements. Because the college requires any courses used to complete major requirements to be graded, you cannot apply any ungraded hours of PS 491 to your major (though they may still count as advanced-level hours on campus for the purposes of college and campus degree requirements). Finally, you may earn no more than 6 hours of credit in PS 300 (Special Topics) courses, and the courses must be on different topics.

Supporting coursework

Completing a political science major also requires you to take **20 hours** of thematically-related courses outside political science that support your study in the major. At least 12 of these hours must be at the 200-level or higher. The department has interpreted the rules regarding supporting coursework broadly, but we recommend that you choose a program that complements the courses you choose for your political science major.

There are three ways to complete your supporting coursework.

Option 1 You may complete the requirements for a second major or a

minor. A second major or a minor can raise special issues about counting courses and credit hours toward degree completion when the second major or the minor contains political science courses, because several political science courses are "cross-listed" as courses in other departments. For example, PS 312 (Politics and the Media), is cross-listed as CMN 325 and MACS 322. Also, some interdisciplinary majors, like Global Studies, include advanced-level political science courses in their major requirements. The first issue to keep in mind is that, quite apart from meeting the requirements of a second major or minor, under no circumstances can political science courses count as part of supporting coursework.

Second, students who major in political science and have a second major or a minor for which political science courses may or must be used, must keep in mind a college rule requiring at least 12 hours of 300- or 400-level coursework in the second discipline, for majors, and at least 6 hours for minors, independent of other programs (or supporting coursework or technical electives). The rules regarding cross-listed advanced-level courses and how they apply to students who are double-majoring are complicated; the best advice is to indicate your plans for the second major or minor to advisors in each discipline or unit. Ask directly about double-counting of courses.

If you add a minor that does not require at least 20 hours, you must take additional courses in that department or program to reach 20 hours if you wish to use it for supporting coursework.

Option 2 You may complete 20 credit hours of courses from any one or two academic departments outside political science. (This is a good option for students interested in taking multiple courses from departments, such as economics and psychology, that do not offer minors.)

Option 3 You may complete 20 hours from three or more departments according to a "topical plan of study." You must write a short memo to your political science advisor that outlines the program you wish to use, lists the courses you'd like to take, and explains why they fit together. Once the plan is approved, you may plan to use these courses for supporting coursework.

You may not use any of the following courses for supporting coursework under any of the above options: political science courses or courses cross-listed with political science (as noted above), basic composition

courses, language courses below the fourth level you are using to complete the language proficiency general education requirement, and any courses you take credit/no credit or satisfactory/unsatisfactory. Note that because of these restrictions, you might complete the requirements for a second major or minor, but not be able to use all those courses for your supporting coursework. Ask an advisor if you have any questions.

Major plans of study

Before you graduate, you and your political science advisor must complete a major plan of study and submit that plan to LAS. A major plan of study is a form that notes your progress on your general education and major requirements and lists the courses you intend to use for your supporting coursework. The major plan of study must be submitted to your admissions and records officer in LAS. You should begin discussing your major plan of study with your assigned academic advisor after you have completed between 45 and 75 hours of credit. Typically, we ask students to complete the form once they have enrolled in the last course(s) they are using for supporting coursework, hence at the latest after they register for their last term on campus.

You must also submit a résumé along with your major plan of study. The Career Center offers excellent examples of résumés both in its offices and online (careercenter.illinois.edu), and its staff will be pleased to assist you in developing a résumé. You can also discuss your résumé with your advisor. If you are planning to attend graduate school, you may submit a curriculum vitae rather than a résumé. When your résumé is ready to submit, you will give it to your advisor, who can then file it and note its receipt with your major plan of study.

In conjunction with preparing your major plan of study and talking about your résumé with your academic advisor, think about your career and educational plans for life after college. Nationally, about two-thirds of 2013 college graduates believed they needed more training after graduation to get their desired job.⁵ About 47% of political science majors not only obtain additional training after college, but go on to earn a graduate degree. On average, based on national data, former political science majors who earn graduate degrees have better employment prospects and higher salaries than people

without graduate degrees; the average annual boost in earnings that comes from a graduate degree is about 62%.⁶

Careful planning can improve your prospects after graduation. We hope and expect that students at a flagship university will outperform the national average. But developing a solid academic, work, and extracurricular activity record is necessary to make you a strong candidate for graduate or professional school after college.

Finishing your degree and graduating

When you register for your final semester of classes, you must declare your intent to graduate. You can do this online from the same suite of applications you use to register for courses. The deadline for online declaration is the tenth day of the semester in which you wish to graduate, but your admissions and records officer can add your name to the graduation list by hand if you miss the deadline.

Declaring your intent to graduate prompts your admissions and records officer to conduct an official audit of your courses to confirm that you have completed or will have completed all the requirements for your degree, major(s), and any minor(s). Under the supervision of a dean, your college admissions and records officer—not your political science advisor—is the person who certifies whether you have satisfied the requirements for your degree. Note that participating in a commencement or convocation ceremony is distinct from actually graduating; you will need to register for those ceremonies separately, and being allowed to participate in them does not mean you have completed your degree.

The political science minor

A political science minor requires you to complete **18 hours** of coursework, distributed as follows:

PS 100 or 101 (101 recommended): **3 hours**

Two field courses, from PS 201 (US Racial & Ethnic Politics; counts as an American Politics field course for minors only), 220 (Public Policy), 230 (Political Science Research), 240 (Comparative Politics), 270 (Political Theory), or 280/281 (International Relations): **6 hours**

Any three advanced-level (300/400-level) courses from the subfields in which credit for the minor has already been completed: **9 hours**

The fields from which you may choose your advanced-level political science courses depend on your choice of 100 or 101 and the field courses you take. Assume, for example, that you take PS 101 (an American politics course), PS 240 (comparative politics), and PS 270 (political theory). If you then take PS 304 (The Presidency), you may use the course for your minor, because it is an American politics course, and you have taken the field course prerequisite, PS 101. If you take PS 384 (The Politics of Globalization), however, you may not count it towards your minor, because it is an international relations course, and that course is not in the fields represented by PS 101, 240, or 270. The curriculum guide available on the department's website shows which courses belong to which fields of study.

You may count up to 6 hours of PS 300 (Special Topics) courses in appropriate fields toward your minor. To use these courses requires you to have a minor modification form signed by a political science advisor that you deliver to your admissions and records officer in your college. The form is needed because these courses vary in topic and are not automatically assigned to any fields in the political science catalog. A political science advisor can tell you the fields to which different sections of PS 300 belong. (The subfield of a special topics course is also noted in the description of the course appearing

in course schedule.) You may count hours from PS 490 (Individual Study) and PS 491 (Government Internship) towards your minor, if the topic of the research you completed for your independent study or internship was in an appropriate field. You may have to present documentation or ask the supervising political science faculty member to contact the undergraduate studies office to confirm the field in which your independent study or internship research belongs. Using these courses also requires a minor modification form signed by a political science advisor that you deliver to your admissions and records officer.

No other courses count towards a political science minor. There are no exceptions. The curriculum map in Appendix 2 may be helpful in understanding the structure of the minor.

Course planning

General advice

Plan a flexible schedule as far as two or three terms ahead. If you plan carefully and take advantage of advanced placement credit, summer courses, and online courses, you may be able to graduate one term or even a full year “early.” Complete your general education, non-primary language, basic composition, quantitative reasoning, and political science core requirements by the end of your junior year, so you can be flexible in your later terms of study and have room for study abroad or an internship.

Try to spread your courses in a given term around different subjects and areas of knowledge. Continue required subjects you started in high school, like non-primary languages or math, as soon as possible—especially if they are not your favorites.

Many 100- and 200-level political science courses are social science general education courses, so you will probably not have to go out of your way to meet this general education requirement. Some political science courses meet additional or other requirements. For example, PS 201 (US Racial and Ethnic Politics) is a social science and a US-minority cultural studies course, and PS 241 (Comparative Politics in Developing Nations) is a social science and a non-Western cultural studies course.

Special topics courses can be fun and interesting to take. PS 199 is an open undergraduate seminar; topics vary from term to term.

You should choose your supporting coursework no later than the second semester of your sophomore year. It is important to plan your supporting coursework, because many 200-level and higher courses have prerequisites. Use your general education and elective courses to try out programs or subjects you think you would be interested in using for supporting coursework.

If you are transferring from another school, or have credit from advanced placement tests, or plan to take courses during summer sessions, you may

need to adapt these suggestions to meet your own needs. Some graduate and professional schools—like medical schools—may ask you to complete specific requirements in order to apply as well. Ask your advisor for help.

The first four terms

You should consult your degree audit report and campus and college general education requirements, along with these suggestions, in order to tailor them to suit your specific needs.

Below is a suggested plan for your first four semesters. Apply it flexibly, keeping in mind your own academic objectives and circumstances. Scheduling and seat availability may affect when you take some of your general education or elective courses. Consult your advisor if you have any questions or concerns about your schedule.

First term

PS 101 or other introductory political science course
Basic composition, elective/discovery course, or a second political science course^a

Non-primary language (if needed) or elective^b
Quantitative reasoning or natural science general ed course^c
Arts/humanities general ed course or elective
LAS 101 (LAS 122 for James Scholars)

Second term

PS field course
PS field or other 200-level course
Basic composition or elective/discovery course
Non-primary language (if needed) or general ed course
General ed course or elective

Third term

PS field or other 200-level course

PS 200-level or general ed course

Non-primary language (if needed) or general ed course

General ed course or elective

General ed course or elective

Fourth term

PS advanced-level course

PS field or other 200-level course

Non-primary language (if needed) or general ed course

General ed course or elective

Elective

Notes

a Discovery courses are courses set aside only for first-year freshmen.

Some meet general education requirements, while others are for elective hours only. The Provost's office keeps current lists of discovery courses at provost.edu/programs/Discovery.courses.html.

b The college requires proficiency in a non-primary language equivalent to four semester courses of college study. If you plan to start a language from the beginning and take all the courses to reach this level, make sure to leave room in your schedule for them.

c The department recommends STAT 100 or an equivalent course, such as ECON 202, EPSY 280, or SOC 235.

Choosing field courses

Pick your field courses according to your intellectual interests and goals. Keep in mind the field course prerequisites for advanced-level political science courses. Technically, once you have completed 6 hours of PS courses, you may take any advanced-level political science courses you wish. But professors who teach advanced classes assume you have a certain grasp of foundational knowledge and experience in the field. You are not likely to do well in a course for which you are not prepared.

If you plan to study abroad, you should take PS 240 (Introduction to Com-

parative Politics) and/or PS 280 (Introduction to International Relations), to prepare for advanced-level comparative and international politics courses you may want to take while abroad. If you plan to undertake independent study, or to complete an honors thesis, consider PS 230 (Introduction to Political Research). Some professors will not supervise individual study or theses with students who have not taken this course.

The second four terms

As an incoming freshman, you may not have a clear idea yet what all your abilities, preferences, and shortcomings are, or what you want to do when you finish your undergraduate degree. It is thus more helpful to think about your junior and senior years in terms of your goals, rather than what specific courses you should take.

By the end of your junior year, you should have:

- completed all your general education, introductory and intermediate major course, and supporting coursework requirements;
- completed at least five advanced-level courses (15 hours);
- studied abroad, or made plans to do so, if that is what you want to do;
- completed an internship, or made plans to do so, if that is what you want to do;
- chosen the areas you would like to study outside your general education, major, and supporting coursework requirements during your senior year;
- taken part in other activities or projects, or developed skills, that will make you a more attractive professional or graduate school applicant or job candidate, according to your preferences;
- and begun specific post-graduate planning: picking a postgraduate career, meeting with a career counselor or with faculty and staff mentors to discuss your prospects and options, arranging to take any examinations for graduate or professional schools (GRE, LSAT, GMAT, etc.), and creating a timeline with due dates for gathering materials and submitting applications.

By the end of the first term of your senior year, you should have:

- completed all your general education, major, supporting and other specific coursework requirements for a BA in political science (that is, have only general elective credits to complete);

- successfully concluded any study abroad programs or internships;
- successfully concluded any other activities or studies you took on connected to your postgraduate career; and
- put into action the postgraduate plan you created after your junior year (or before).

By the end of the second term of your senior year, you should have:

- completed all your requirements for graduation;
- be prepared for a great life after college.

Other study options

You may want to pursue some topic in political science more thoroughly than you can in the courses the department regularly offers, or participate in research projects, or study political science in a different institution, or even in a different country. There are a number of options you might consider in your junior or senior year.

Please note that there are restrictions on the number of credit hours you can earn or apply to your major requirements from PS 490 (Individual Study), 491 (Government Internship), and 492 (Undergraduate Research Assistance). These restrictions are noted above (The political science major/Restrictions on courses).

Individual study

Individual study courses (PS 490) allow you to work closely with a political science faculty member to explore a topic in greater depth than our catalog courses allow, or to pursue a topic that is not in the catalog. The department considers these courses to be extensions of, not replacements for, courses in the department's course catalog.

Individual study typically involves preparing a substantial research paper or project although some students may work out a guided readings course or a special project. You can enroll in from 1 to 4 credit hours for each individual study class; the amount of work you will do depends on the amount of credit you hope to earn. The content of an individual study is up to your faculty sponsor, but you can expect to complete about 10 pages of written work for every credit hour.

Not every faculty member is willing to take on individual projects—at least, not with just any student. These courses are uncompensated extra work for faculty, and they take time away from course preparation and research. It is more likely that a professor will agree to supervise an individual

study course with you if one or more of the following conditions are true:

—You have completed (and done well in) an advanced-level course in the field in which you want the independent study, preferably a course with the professor with whom you'd like to work.

—You contact the professor well ahead of time—one or even two terms before the independent study course would happen.

—You have a well-thought out question or project in mind to propose to the faculty member. PS 230 (Introduction to Political Research) can help you learn to develop sound research proposals.

—Your proposal concerns research on a topic of particular interest to the faculty member.

Generally, only juniors and seniors are likely to be prepared sufficiently for individual study. Enrolling in an individual study course requires you and the sponsoring faculty member to complete a form (available on the political science undergraduate web page) describing the project and the nature of the work you will do. The Director of Undergraduate Studies must then approve the project.

Undergraduate research assistantships

Faculty members may from time to time advertise approved research projects for undergraduate research assistants on the PS undergraduate listserv or at the annual PS major fair. Qualified students apply for these positions directly to the supervising faculty member (or, in some cases, to the Director of Undergraduate Studies) by completing and submitting a form available on the forms page on the department's website. Students may be required to submit other materials in support of their application as well.

If accepted, you will enroll in PS 492 (Undergraduate Research Assistance) for the number of hours specified by the supervising faculty

member. You should expect to complete approximately three hours of research assistance per week for every credit hour you are enrolled. You will also complete a capstone paper on your experience of approximately 10 pages for every enrolled credit hour in PS 492. More details will be available in the materials accompanying the application form.

Internships

The University of Illinois does not typically give academic credit for internships. However, the department does facilitate or direct certain internship programs with internship courses for which you can earn academic credit.

The Illinois in Washington Program. The department supervises the operation of the Illinois in Washington (IIW) program on behalf of the Champaign-Urbana campus and Ias. IIW is an excellent capstone experience for students who have not studied abroad or who are not completing a senior thesis. During the fall and spring semesters, the program allows you to earn twelve hours of credit: six hours for classwork and research projects associated with your internship (PS 491 Government Internship), and six hours from courses offered by faculty in the Washington, dc area. In the summer, you can earn six hours in PS 491 for classwork and research projects associated with your internship.

Full program details and application materials are available on the IIW website (washington.illinois.edu). The Interim Director for the program is Professor Susan Dimock (sdimock@illinois.edu).

The Vienna Diplomatic Program. The Vienna Diplomatic Program (VDP) is a program offered in the spring semester designed for students interested in international organizations and diplomacy. uiuc partner schools the University of Vienna (UV) and Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU) offer English-language courses in international law and diplomacy, international business and economics, European integration, and other contemporary issues. In Vienna, you will take PS 393 (Diplomatic Studies Practicum), a basic German course, and other approved VDP courses, and prepare a research paper on an international organization based in Vienna.

Details are on the program's website (euc.illinois.edu/Vienna), or you can

contact political science professor Robert Pahre (pahre@illinois.edu). The program is affiliated with the Austria-Illinois Exchange Program (AIEP); for more information about the AIEP's resources and arrangements in Vienna for accommodation and activities, please contact Bruce Murray (bmurray@illinois.edu) and/or Robert Jenkins (jenkinrj@illinois.edu).

The Champaign County Public Defender Program. The department in collaboration with the Pre-Law Advising Office and the Champaign County Office of the Public Defender directs an internship in the Public Defender's office for up to five undergraduates per semester. Unlike other internships that require a substantial research project completed in conjunction with the internship itself for academic credit, credit in this program is based on class meetings and structured assignments that integrate readings on political systems, the legal system, and constitutional and human rights, with on-the-job experience summarizing case files, witnessing trials and colloquies, and interviewing witnesses and clients. Students are supervised by the Champaign County Public Defender or attorneys in the office.

Details about the program are available by contacting or the Director of Pre-Law Advising Services, Jamie Thomas-Ward (thomas99@illinois.edu).

Individual study credit associated with local internships. The Champaign-Urbana community offers a variety of sites suitable for students to intern and explore issues related to political science, among them: civic management, legal process and legislative representation. During the Fall and Spring semesters, Professor Henehan conducts a class to assist students in presenting themselves, locating, applying, and interviewing for, and hopefully, selecting internships. She helps to maintain good relationships with internship sites, and her internship class helps students assimilate experiences on internships to their curricular experiences. This class makes three-credit internships available to many students. Questions? Contact Professor Marie Henehan (mhenehan@illinois.edu).

An internship can be the basis for an individual study. You must work these projects out as you would for any other individual study arrangement. You cannot earn credit directly for job-related work at an internship site. Also, written work you complete on the job does not in itself constitute

academic work; your faculty sponsor must supervise and direct any work you do for academic credit. Students must have at least sophomore status and be in good academic standing to choose this option. Note that if you choose this option, you will not have the benefit of placement assistance, site review, or other faculty supervision and aid that students on approved internship programs have. The Champaign-Urbana community offers a variety of internship sites where students interested or majoring in political science can learn about (among other fields and topics) civic management, legal procedure, and legislative representation. See a study abroad or departmental advisor for more information.

Study abroad

The University of Illinois's Study Abroad Office coordinates many academic programs and internship/service learning opportunities for both summer and regular academic terms. There are programs on six continents—some in English, some in the host countries' languages. The department recommends strongly that you study abroad for at least one term, especially if you are interested in comparative politics or international relations. Indeed, in recent years, faculty of this department have led students in courses to Austria, Cuba, England and Peru (and faculty of other departments have led students elsewhere). The variety and number of study abroad opportunities available is quite impressive, and students should take advantage of this opportunity.

Generally, coursework abroad counts towards degrees; depending on the amount and level of credit, it can count toward political science major requirements as well. Some courses available on these programs have been pre-approved for specific credit by the college and the department; for others, you will need to ask for course approvals before you leave or after you return.

If you are interested in studying abroad, visit the SAO's website (studyabroad.illinois.edu/before-you-start) and watch the First Steps series of videos. The website explains further steps for researching and applying for programs.

The National and International Scholarships Program (topscholars.illinois.edu) coordinates programs for international scholars such as the

Beinecke, Churchill, Fulbright, Gates Cambridge, Luce, Marshall, Mitchell, and Rhodes Scholars programs. The university participates in a number of programs that can finance study abroad, help students learn a foreign language, and offer students post-graduate opportunities. For example, many campus area studies units administer Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) scholarships; other students are able to attain Boren National Security Scholarships. Other (limited) scholarship assistance is also available.

Probation and progress

College probation

Students sometimes stumble academically. This often happens after a significant change or event—your first term in college, or your first term after transferring to UIUC from another school; a death, illness, or divorce in your family or among your close friends; or a physical or emotional problem of your own. If your campus or major GPA drops below 2.0 (a C average), LAS will place you on academic probation. You will receive an email from the college explaining why you have been placed on probation and the conditions under which you can return to good standing. The message will also explain the consequences of continued poor performance. For the most part, academic standing and the terms of an academic probation are set by LAS; typically, one term of academic probation is a meeting with your academic advisor.

The campus and college have a number of resources for students on probation, which you can use depending on the reasons for the trouble you're having. Students with chronic physical, cognitive, or psychological conditions should visit the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) office (disability.illinois.edu) to discuss accommodations in your courses or living conditions that might improve your performance in classes.

The Campus Counseling Center (counselingcenter.illinois.edu) is useful for students who need to address emotional or psychological issues, and students who need to develop important skills and habits for succeeding in college, like studying, test preparation, or time management.

If you are having academic problems, your advisor can help you evaluate your current schedule and devise a plan for your probationary and subsequent semesters that will help you complete your degree successfully.

If you are placed on academic probation, you must see a political science advisor to discuss your status and future plans. We may contact you if you

do not approach us first. You may need to complete an informational survey about your probation, or arrange meetings with one or more of the campus or college student life units mentioned above, in connection with this meeting. To prevent further academic missteps, we may place an advising hold on your registration if you fail to meet with us as required.

Departmental Holds and Progress toward your degree

Students must make regular and satisfactory progress toward their degree by enrolling in and passing appropriate courses. Occasionally, the department will place registration holds on students making or in danger of not making adequate academic progress. Students in a major must take required courses to complete a degree in that major and maintain an acceptable GPA (2.0) in courses for that major. Generally, taking one PS course per semester and maintaining a GPA of 2.0 in PS courses until you are finished or nearly finished with your degree constitutes minimal progress toward a degree in political science (but note that it may not allow you to graduate in four years). Absent such progress, the department may place a hold on your registration until you change your major or agree to begin taking political science courses. Absent special circumstances (such as a recent transfer) students who have completed six or fewer hours of PS courses by the start of their junior year are not making satisfactory academic progress. These "shadow majors" risk academic dismissal from the university. Students with a PS GPA below 2.0 who cannot raise their GPA to 2.0 or higher with two three-hour PS courses before completing their fourth year of college are also not making satisfactory academic progress, and they also risk academic dismissal.

After you graduate

Many political science majors seek postgraduate degrees in law, business, public administration, public policy, international affairs, social work, and even in political science. One way to think about your undergraduate studies is to plan them to support your aspirations for graduate school. For example, if you plan to complete a graduate degree in business or public policy, you might take one or two semesters of calculus, statistics, or economics. If you plan graduate study in an area program (like the Middle East or Southeast Asia) you might develop advanced language proficiency in a relevant language. Post-graduate plans including schools, careers and related matters are all good topics to discuss with your academic advisor in planning your time at Illinois.

But resist the temptation to turn your undergraduate degree into a miniature version of a professional program, such as law or business, or to reduce your choices of courses to what you think will look good to admissions officers in those schools. A degree in at the University of Illinois offers you the chance to grow as a thinker and a human being. Not only are more broadly educated and thoughtful students better candidates for professional schools, but many students report that their careers are more fulfilling for the time they spent in school learning about subjects beyond what their professional careers required.

It often takes one to two years to prepare for graduate study. The best general preparation is to be an outstanding undergraduate student and to think ahead. Specifically, there are five things any interested student should do:

Consider your options. The staff at the University of Illinois's Career Center have plenty of information and advice to help you find careers in which you are interested and how to decide among them. Talk to the folks there. Talk to your academic advisors; they have worked with many students

who have gone on to variety of careers. Talk to your professors. Professors in your desired fields of study are good sources of help if you are considering an academic career. Sometimes, going to graduate school or professional school right after graduating from college is a good choice; other times, a year or more of work experience can improve your options.

Decide if a particular graduate or professional program meets your needs. Think about what you would like to learn in graduate or professional school. What additional certifications or credentials do you need for your career? How does additional education fit into your life and career plans? (Slightly more than one-third of GRE test-takers admitted that they had not received enough information about career options prior to attending graduate school; and only 12% consult with career planning professionals during graduate school.⁷) Weigh carefully the costs and benefits of attending graduate or professional school.

Prepare for and take the required examinations. Most graduate and professional schools require you to take at least one standardized examination and submit your scores with your application. Program application materials will include this information, and the Career Center can help you figure out when to schedule those exam(s) and how to prepare for them. Typically, if you want to start post-graduate study immediately after finishing your BA, you will take these exams in the summer or fall after your junior year.

Collect recommendations. Graduate schools usually require two or more letters of academic reference. (Some schools also require professional references.) The best way to get good academic references is to cultivate strong working relationships with your professors. You need these referees to speak to your abilities and accomplishments with authority, experience, and detail; graduate programs discount heavily letters written by professors who obviously do not know you very well, who have not known you for very

long, or who cannot offer more than vague praise for you. (Most professors simply will not write letters for students they do not know, or about whom they can say only very little.) Independent study projects and senior theses are good ways to develop the kinds of relationships with faculty that make letters of reference much easier to write.

It takes time to write a good letter of reference, the more so the busier the professor is who is writing, so you must contact your referees well in advance of when the letters are due. It is best to provide them with at least a curriculum vitae or résumé, and a short note highlighting the skills or experiences they should stress in their letters, or the particular questions or issues they should address. More and more programs are moving to online application procedures, but many still require printed applications; make sure your referees have any forms the schools or programs to which you are applying require them to complete. Unless schools provide or require otherwise, it is best to give your referees stamped, pre-addressed envelopes so they can mail recommendation letters themselves. Never leave your references guessing how or where to submit references.

Complete applications. Organizing and keeping track of deadlines and materials lists is critical. Also, keep in mind that completing applications almost always means more than filling out forms. Students often find the personal statement or essay that many programs require to be the most difficult part of an application. The University of Illinois Writers' Workshop (cws.illinois.edu/workshop) can coach you on personal statements and résumés.

Post-graduate study

Different kinds of graduate programs have different requirements and expectations. The summaries below of the most common options for political science students should be enough to start you reflecting, but for resolving confusion or uncertainty or making a final decision, you will have to gather detailed information about the goals, principles, and application processes for each kind of graduate school. Recall, political science is a liberal art, and the major prepares students for a wide-variety of post-graduate educational experiences. Political science majors have graduated and pursued advanced studies in topics ranging from medicine, pharmacy and entomology

to human resources and library science. Again, the staff in the Career Center will be an immense help in this task, but be sure to raise your plans with your academic advisors. Here are some common post-graduate choices for education made by political science majors:

Law school. If you are considering law school seriously, you should contact the Pre-Law Advising Services office (prelaw.illinois.edu). There is no such thing as a "pre-law major"; political science is a fine major, but it is only one of many that students might choose who intend later to go on to law school. The American Bar Association recommends that students take courses that help develop skills and habits of thinking important to a successful career in law. Accounting, cultural and global studies, economics, finance, history (especially American history), logical reasoning and ethics, mathematics, political institutions, political theory, psychology, public policy, and sociology are all topics in which students interested in law should consider taking courses while they are undergraduates. As with other kinds of post-graduate education, examine carefully a choice to go to law school. This educational choice is quite expensive, and in recent years, the expected return for attending law school has diminished.

Business school. Some political science students seek a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree after they finish their BA. Business school requires quantitative analytical skills, including calculus and statistics, and some schools prefer applicants who can show a year or more's worth of coursework in these courses. Some political science courses, especially those in research design, mass political behavior, and election analysis, can help you develop these skills, but you would do well also to take at least one semester each of calculus and statistics while you are completing your BA. Many excellent business schools seek students with a year or more of practical experience before prospective students apply; careful planning before undergraduate graduation can ease your way into business school.

Public administration and public policy. The National Academy of Public Administration has found that governments at all levels are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit well-educated people for professional and administrative positions. If you are interested in a career in government, you should consider pursuing one of two relevant professional degrees after

you complete your political science BA: the Master of Public Administration (MPA), or the Master of Public Policy (MPP).

An MPA degree is a professional public sector management degree, similar to a business management degree, but designed to prepare you for work in service in federal, state, regional, and local government, and in public-service nonprofit and not-for-profit organizations, as an administrator or manager. By contrast, an MPP degree is an applied research degree, one that emphasizes policymaking, policy analysis, and evaluation, again all in the context of public service in government or private-sector organizations. If you are interested in an MPA or MPP, you should consult the website of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) for further information (naspaa.org). As with other kinds of professional education, many MPA or MPP programs prefer students with experience before matriculation; careful selection of internships during college or employment after college can aid your application.

Political science. A few students may be interested in becoming political scientists themselves. The best people to consult about this career choice are political science faculty. How best to prepare for graduate study in political science depends on your interests; you should talk to faculty and graduate students in the subjects or courses that most interest you to learn more. You can find more information about graduate study and professional life as a political scientist at the website for the American Political Science Association (APSA) (apsanet.org).

Graduate study toward a PhD in political science is to prepare you to teach and conduct research. If you are interested in a career in public affairs or policy, pursue an MPA or MPP (see above).

Careers

The Career Center (careercenter.illinois.edu) can be extremely helpful as you plan your career. The Center has resources and staff available to help you through every stage of preparing for post-graduate life: identifying professions and vocations most appropriate for your abilities and interests, planning courses to get important skills or experience, locating job openings or programs, preparing application materials, gathering letters of recom-

mendation, interviews and much more. Here we include information only about a few of the careers political science majors often choose.

Government. For students interested in a career with the federal government, a good place to start exploring jobs is the Making the Difference website (gogovernment.org). The ranges of jobs available, and the process of applying for them, make careers in the federal government different from careers elsewhere. The USAJobs website (usajobs.gov) and the federal Office of Personnel Management website (opm.gov) both list a number of positions—such as budget analyst, program analyst, foreign affairs specialist, public affairs specialist, or social scientist, with agencies like the Government Accounting Office or the Congressional Research Service—suitable for political science majors. To be hired for one of these positions, you need to have and be able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of a federal hiring officer the appropriate knowledge, skills and abilities. The USAJobs Information website has tips for writing up your qualifications.

And, of course, don't overlook opportunities with state, county, or municipal governments.

If you are interested in working with an international agency, or with a US agency dealing with international affairs, you may also find a professionally-oriented masters degree in international affairs or diplomacy helpful. These degrees are generally distinct from academic degrees in political science and professional degrees in public administration.

Health administration/public health. Students interested in careers in public health may find that a medical degree, or an MPP or MPA with a concentration in public health issues and policies/practices, is the best preparation (see graduate study information above). There are a number of professional associations in the US for health administrators, like the American College of Healthcare Executives (ache.org), the Healthcare Financial Management Association (hfma.org), and the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (himss.org). The names of these groups should give you a sense of the range of careers in health management.

Human resources. Many schools, like the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, offer graduate courses and degrees in human resource management (HRM), some with a general focus and others specialized for

different aspects of HRM or for different industries. The main professional organization for HRM in the United States is the Society for Human Resource Management (shrm.org).

Media and journalism. Political science courses are popular with journalism majors, and it's not surprising in turn that some political science majors' interests lead them to journalism after school.

Keep in mind that political science students interested in a career in journalism will be competing with candidates with undergraduate degrees in journalism or advertising. You should try to take whatever journalism and related courses you can (like JOUR 200, ART 250, or INFO/WRIT 303), and you should also try to gain as much practical experience as you can—especially through internships, but also through activities like working for student and local newspapers and radio or TV stations—and to hone your communication skills. You might also consider developing your analytical and writing/speaking/production skills around your specific areas of interest in politics (for example, religion and politics, foreign policy, campaigns and elections) into an area of expertise you can offer to media employers.

One good place online to begin searching for information about journalism as a career is the website for the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) and the Sigma Delta Chi foundation for journalism (spj.org/sdx.asp).

Nonprofit careers. Some political science students seek to work with non-profit or not-for-profit organizations at home and abroad. Students looking for employment in these sectors can visit the websites for the National Council of Nonprofit Associations (councilofnonprofits.org), the Chronicle of Philanthropy (philanthropy.org), and Idealist.org (idealist.org).

Two prominent choices for political science graduates headed for the nonprofit world are the United States Peace Corps and the organization Teach for America. The mission of the Peace Corps, as the organization sees it, is to help interested countries educate and train their citizens and to promote better crosscultural understanding between Americans and the people the Corps serves. You can find out more about the Peace Corps, including about the qualifications and experiences they are looking for in their volunteers, at their website (peacecorps.gov).

Teach for America is a volunteer organization that recruits teachers and

professional and vocational trainers to serve in urban and rural areas in the United States where a lack of resources hurts the life chances and prospects of citizens. The organization is looking for people “from all backgrounds and career interests” with leadership experience, perseverance, and critical thinking, motivational, and organizational skills. You can find out more about the mission of Teach for America and how you can become eligible to apply to serve at their website (teachforamerica.org).

Senior theses, honors, and distinction

The Political Science Honors Program

The Political Science Honors Program prepares excellent students to complete a senior-year research experience culminating in the production of a senior thesis. The program is designed to guide you through a series of supervised research projects in honors courses. Students will then be required to take PS 495 (Senior Honors Seminar) where the instructor will help you develop a research design, and in PS 496 (Senior Thesis), a faculty mentor who helped you develop the research design will supervise your execution of that design and report of your research in a senior thesis, the capstone experience of political science honors students. Student admission to and progress through the Honors Program is monitored by the department.

Application to the program. Students must apply to participate in the honors program. Applications are available on the department's website, on the undergraduate forms page. The application requires you to submit an application form, transcript, résumé, and writing sample from a political science, political theory or other social science course. Admission decisions are made by the department. Students who are admitted to the program must be able to demonstrate they have the interest and academic capacity to complete a senior thesis successfully. The program is open only to political science majors.

Minimum curricular requirements for admission are:

- 1 completion on this campus of at least 9 hours of credit in political science courses,
- 2 of which 3 hours must be earned in courses numbered 300 or higher,
- 3 and which must include PS 230 (Introduction to Political Research), PS 231 (Strategic Models), or another appropriate course on positive political theory or empirical methods approved by the departmental committee. Also,
- 4 students must have a minimum 3.5 GPA in major courses taken

on this campus at the time of admission to the program. It is also strongly recommended that students have two levels of statistical methods courses completed at the time of admission.⁸

Students admitted to the Honors program take PS 230 (Introduction to Political Research), PS 231 (Strategic Models), or another appropriate course on positive political theory or empirical methods approved by the departmental committee. While it is recommended, it is not required that these courses are completed by the time of application to the Honors Program.

Normally, students will apply to this program after the first or second semester of their sophomore year, but the committee will consider applications from more advanced students as well. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Also, students not admitted to the program in a given term may reapply in subsequent terms. However, the program requires a minimum of three semesters in residence on this campus.

Program requirements before the senior year. If you are admitted to the honors program, you must complete at least one junior honors seminar (PS 494). The department will offer two sections of these seminars every academic year. The seminars are open only to students in the department's honors program or in the James Scholars or Chancellor's Honors programs, but enrollment in a given section may be restricted to political science majors.

If you are in a year-long off-campus program, like study abroad, or in back-to-back semester-long off-campus programs, or if for other reasons you were not able to take an honors seminar, you may seek a waiver of this junior honors course requirement by submitting a request and a research-oriented writing project you completed after being admitted to the honors program you would like the committee to accept in lieu of the seminar.

The department will review all honors students' progress after the second semester of their junior year. Students who are not likely to satisfy program

requirements or whose performance is unacceptable will be dropped from the program. Absent an adequate excuse, grounds for a student's dismissal from the program include:

- 1 a political science GPA below 3.25;
- 2 a failure to make satisfactory progress through the curriculum required for political science majors;
- 3 a transfer from political science to another major or college;
- 4 a campus GPA below 2.0;
- 5 dismissal from the university for any reason; or
- 6 other grounds deemed appropriate by the committee.

In each student's case, the committee will consider among other factors recommendations from faculty teaching any section(s) of the junior honors seminar that student has completed.

Senior year requirements. The senior thesis is the capstone to the honors track. Students who pass the junior review prepare for the thesis by taking the senior honors seminar (PS 495) in the fall of their senior year. They then complete the thesis under the supervision of an advisor, enrolling in the senior thesis course (PS 496) in their last semester.

Students must submit a completed preliminary draft of the thesis to their thesis supervisor at least one month before the end of classes in the semester in which the student intends to graduate. Students must submit three copies of the final version—an unbound copy signed by the thesis supervisor, a bound copy, and a digital copy—to the Undergraduate Studies Office on or before the last day of classes of the semester in which the student intends to graduate.

The senior thesis

Typically, political science majors should complete a senior thesis as part of the political science honors program. However, you may also secure a faculty member's approval and complete a thesis under his or her supervision independently of the honors program. This requires you to submit a request form detailing your planned project and plans for faculty supervision while you are writing the thesis, complete a thesis and become eligible for departmental distinction.

Completing a senior thesis as an independent project requires you to complete a minimum of 4 hours of PS 496; enrolling in those hours requires an approved thesis application form. Any senior political science major with a campus GPA of 3.0 or higher with departmental approval can register in PS 496 for 2 to 5 hours. (Note that PS 496 hours do not count towards your total or advanced-level PS hour requirements.)

The department requires you to submit a completed preliminary draft of the thesis to your supervisor at least one month before the end of classes in the term in which you intend to graduate. You must submit 3 copies of the final version of your thesis to the Director of Undergraduate Studies on or before the last day of classes in that term: one unbound copy with a certificate signed by your faculty supervisor, one bound copy, and one digital copy in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format.

Departmental distinction

The honors program and completing a senior thesis are connected to departmental requirements for distinction. Only political science majors are eligible for any level of departmental distinction, and only majors in the honors program are eligible for high distinction.

For students who complete a senior thesis outside the honors program: To be eligible for distinction, you must

- 1 earn a major GPA on this campus of 3.25 or higher, and
- 2 earn a GPA in your thesis course(s) (PS 496) of 3.67 or higher.

For students who complete a senior thesis as part of the honors program: To be eligible for distinction, you must

- 1 earn a major GPA on this campus of 3.25 or higher, and
- 2 earn a GPA in your senior honors seminar and senior thesis courses (PS 495 and PS 496) of 2.67 or higher.

To be eligible for high distinction, you must

- 1 earn a major GPA on this campus of 3.25 or higher, and
- 2 earn a GPA in your senior honors seminar and thesis courses of 3.67 or higher.

The Civic Leadership Program

The Civic Leadership Program (CLP) offers students an informed appreciation of American democracy, the values and structures on which it is based, its successes and its weaknesses, and the challenges it will face in the 21st century. Because the potential benefits of democratic governance cannot be realized without an abundant supply of capable and committed civic leaders, the Civic Leadership Program takes on the mission of generating a stream of highly motivated, exceptionally capable, ethically aware, and broadly-trained individuals who will be prepared to assume leadership positions in civic affairs in both the private and the public domains.

The Undergraduate Program

Undergraduate students participate in the Civic Leadership Program through two paths: the Civic Leadership Concentration (for political science majors) and the Political and Civic Leadership Minor (for students majoring in other fields). Admission to the program is competitive and based on academic performance, demonstrated leadership achievement, and the potential for meaningful civic engagement. Successful completion of either the concentration or the minor requires three components: foundational coursework in political science and/or related disciplines, specialized coursework in civic leadership, and an internship. The Program also offers extracurricular and networking opportunities.

The Program is designed to appeal to students with interests in American politics, public policy, and civic engagement. The curriculum points CLP students toward coursework inside and outside the Department of Political Science that will provide them with the substantive background and theoretical foundations to understand leadership and policymaking in the U.S. context and to participate as civic leaders. This involves understanding of:

- the civic and political dimensions to societal problems and issues;

- the opportunities, constraints, and limits to addressing those problems collectively;
- the importance of adhering to ethical principles in the formulation of collective actions;
- the relationships between public policy and competitive free-enterprise, market-based economic principles;
- the interpersonal skills needed to work effectively toward a consensus with diverse groups of individuals;
- the elements of effective and ethical leadership.

Civic Leadership Concentration

The Civic Leadership Concentration is for political science majors. Those wishing to pursue the concentration must be admitted to the Civic Leadership Program and fulfill requirements of the political science major in a way that also completes requirements of the Civic Leadership Program.

Completion of the Civic Leadership Concentration must include either as major or supporting coursework one course in each of the following areas, chosen from a list maintained by the Department:

- 1 an intermediate or advanced course in public policy,
- 2 course examining the construction and consequences of social identity relating to race, religion, ethnicity, or gender, and
- 3 a course exploring different perspectives on a just, ordered, and moral society;
- 4 at least two sections of PS 199 designated as pertaining to the Civic Leadership Program, and
- 5 an Internship Course (PS 491). A list of such sections appears as Appendix 3.

Minor in Political and Civic Leadership

The Minor in Political and Civic Leadership is for students who are not political science majors. Minors must be admitted to the Civic Leadership Program and meet all of the following requirements.

1 one foundation course: PS 100 (Intro to Political Science) OR PS 200 (Foundations of Political Science); PS 101 (Intro to US Gov & Pol); GLBL 100 (Intro to Global Studies) OR GLBL 220 (Governance)

2 one course in each of the following areas, chosen from a list maintained by the Department: (1) an intermediate (200-level) or advanced (300-level) course in public policy; (2) a course examining the construction and consequences of social identity relating to race, religion, ethnicity, or gender; and (3) a course exploring different perspectives on a just, ordered, and moral society

3 PS 491 (Internship), or an approved internship course in another department

4 at least two sections of PS 199 designated as pertaining to the Civic Leadership Program.

A list of such sections is available in the Undergraduate Studies Office of the Department of Political Science. At least three courses (9 hours) must be at the advanced level.

Department scholarships and awards

Several benefactors have endowed the Department of Political Science to fund scholarships and prizes for political science majors. Most of these awards and scholarships are modest; they will help with tuition and fees but not cover their full cost. Note that scholarships may affect other financial aid awards. As a rule, eligible students must apply for these awards before the last day of classes in the fall term. Awards are announced the following spring.

The William Jennings Bryan Prize. Bryan was the Democratic Party's candidate for President three times, the Secretary of State under Woodrow Wilson, and the prosecutor of John Scopes in the famous Tennessee court case on evolution. Bryan left a small bequest to the university to fund a prize for the best essay on the topic of government. This prize is awarded every five years; the next offering will be in 2013.

The Dean S. Dorman Award. Dean S. Dorman graduated from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1909. He and his employer, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, created a fund to allow undergraduate students to travel as departmental delegates to conferences and symposia in which they are participants. There are several awards annually.

The Ronald H. Filler Political Science Scholarship. Ronald H. Filler is a commodities attorney who funds a scholarship to be awarded to sophomores based on their academic merit. He will also mentor any interested recipients.

The Charles E. Merriam Scholarship. Merriam was one of the most important political scientists in the early and mid-twentieth century. His son, Charles J. Merriam, has endowed two scholarships for the department, one to an outstanding sophomore for study during the junior year, and one to an outstanding junior to study during the senior year.

The Charles E. Merriam Essay Award. Merriam also endowed an annual scholarship prize for the best essay on local government and politics. (A past head of the department noted that in the global era of the twenty-first century, "local" may be interpreted broadly.) All students are eligible to apply.

The Rita and Leonard Ogren Award. A fund honors the memory of Mr. and Mrs. Ogren by giving awards to undergraduates and graduates in political science.

The Peter F. Rossiter Scholarship. Peter F. Rossiter, a longtime Democratic Chairman in Sangamon County and the first president of the State Democratic County Chairmen Association, has endowed an award for freshmen, sophomore, and junior political science majors based on academic merit and financial need. There are one or two awards offered annually.

The Bob Byars Scholarships for First-Generation College Students. Bob Byars was an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science from 1968 to 1975. He enjoyed the solidarity and support of many students and colleagues at Illinois during his struggle to gain tenure in the department. Some 25–30 years later, he resumed contact with several former students who had succeeded in a variety of fields, who pooled their resources for a need-based scholarship fund for first-generation college students in political science at the University of Illinois.

Student groups

The political science department is associated with two registered student organizations at the University of Illinois: Pi Sigma Alpha and the Political Science Club. More information about both groups is available through links on the political science undergraduate web pages.

Pi Sigma Alpha (PSA). PSA is the national political science honor society, but it does far more than honor students. Its goal is to be “an integral part of the Political Science department in the promotion of worthwhile extracurricular activities related to public affairs.” Gamma Mu, the chapter at Illinois, has been a very active chapter. Among other events, it has sponsored a series of brown bag lunches with faculty members to discuss their areas of interest and to explore graduate school options; invited speakers to address the career interests and aspirations of political science students; and helped coordinate public viewings of candidate debates during elections. Members of the chapter help students through peer academic advising during advance enrollment each term.

PSA members also choose the faculty recipient for the annual Pi Sigma Alpha/Clarence A. Berdahl Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

You must apply to be invited to join Pi Sigma Alpha. To be eligible, you must have at least junior standing (60 credit hours completed), have a 3.0 university GPA and a 3.25 GPA in political science courses, and have completed at least 10 hours of coursework in political science, of which 3 hours must be at the advanced level (300-level or higher). You must also pay a one-time \$50 membership fee.

Political Science Club. The mission of the Political Science Club is to inform and foster interest in politics and current events. Although this club is not exclusively for political science majors, and is unaffiliated with the Department of Political Science, many members are political science majors.

This registered student organization brings in speakers, hosts debates, and has a wide range of social activities.

The ACDIS Student Security Group. The university’s Arms Control, Disarmament and International Security (ACDIS) is a study group offering a certificate administered outside the department of political science, but many faculty and students are interested in this topic. The ACDIS Student Security Group is a Registered Student Organization “dedicated to enhancing student inquiry into security studies and careers. The group aims to offer UIUC students the networking and pre-professional training that they need in order to succeed in their future careers—whether they are in intelligence, diplomacy, academia, or policy. Alongside career prep, the organization plans to support social functions as well—film screenings and debates are expected to make up a major portion of the group’s activities.” Information about that group is on their website (illinois.collegiatelink.net/organization/security/about).

1 Clifford Adelman, "The Toolbox Revisited: Paths to Degree Completion from High School Through College" (us Department of Education, 2006), p. 33. Online at www2.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/toolboxrevisit/toolbox.pdf (accessed May 22, 2013).

2 The term "critical languages" comes from the Critical Language Scholarship Program of the us Department of State. More information about the program and a current list of eligible languages is online at clscholarship.org/languages.php (accessed June 5, 2013).

3 The department is experimenting with a new format that divides this introductory course into two three-credit-hour courses: Foundations of Political Institutions and Foundations of Political Behavior. These courses present theoretical conceptions of political institutions and political behaviors in greater depth and use the politics of the United States as an example to introduce and explore universally applicable concepts of political science. Until this experiment is completed, political science majors and minors who complete each of these two courses (temporarily numbered PS 199) will receive a major modification to satisfy the PS 101 requirement of the major. This replacement option is not available to political science minors, or students required to take PS 101 to meet requirements of other majors or programs.

4 That limited exception only pertains to the residency requirement of the major. There is a distinct but related requirement to complete 21 advanced hours in residence on this campus.

5 Accenture, "2013 College Graduate Employment Survey," pp. 13, 38. Online at accenture.com/SiteCollectionDocuments/PDF/Accenture-2013-College-Graduate-Employment-Survey.pdf (accessed May 22, 2013).

6 Anthony P. Carnevale, Stephen J. Rose and Ban Cheah, "The College

Payoff: Education, Occupations, Lifetime Earnings," (Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, 2011); Anthony P. Carnevale, Jeff Strohl and Michelle Melton, "What's It Worth: The Economic Value of College Majors," (Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, 2011), p. 178.

7 Cathy Wendler, Brent Bridgeman, Ross Markle, Fred Cline, Nathan Bell, Patricia McAllister and Julia Kent, "Pathways Through Graduate School into Careers" (Princeton, N.J.: ETS, 2012), pp. 17, 20. Online at pathways-report.org/rsc/pdf/19089_PathwaysRept_Links.pdf (accessed June 28, 2013).

8 Typically, faculty supervisors will expect students to use statistical methods in their research project, but for some kinds of research questions, other kinds of research methods are helpful and appropriate. If you contemplate a thesis using other research methodologies, you should speak to a faculty mentor before applying to the program. That mentor can write a letter of support outlining a suitable methodological preparation for the contemplated thesis. Because PS 495 focuses on empirical research methods, students electing to write a senior thesis on political theory may ask the departmental committee to waive the senior honors seminar requirement. The committee will grant a waiver if the student has (1) completed appropriate coursework, including PS 270 (Introduction to Political Theory), PS 371 (Classical Political Theory), PS 372 (Modern Political Theory), and one further advanced-level course in political theory (or other suitable preparatory classes amounting to 12 hours of classes); and (2) secured in advance a faculty member's agreement to supervise that student's senior thesis.

Appendix 1 Contacts and resources

Important websites

Department of Political Science

pol.illinois.edu/undergraduate

LAS student website

las.illinois.edu/students

las.illinois.edu/students/forms

Registration information

registrar.illinois.edu/registration

Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS) for students

(shows your completed and remaining degree requirements)

registrar.illinois.edu/dars-audit

Course Explorer

(Includes course catalogs and schedules, real-time enrollment information, general education course lists, and program information)

courses.illinois.edu

Academic Catalog

catalog.illinois.edu

Enrollment verification

registrar.illinois.edu/enrollment-degree-verification

Transcripts

registrar.illinois.edu/transcripts

Student Code

admin.illinois.edu/policy/code

Departmental contacts

Department of Political Science

420 David Kinley Hall

1407 W Gregory

Urbana, IL 61801

p 217.333.7491

f 217.244.5712

ps-advisor@illinois.edu

Kathryn Clark

Academic Advisor

217.300.5666

keclark@illinois.edu

Dr. Joseph Hinchliffe

Director of Undergraduate Studies

217.244.1820

jjhinch@illinois.edu

Carmen Kremitzki

Academic Advisor

217.300.3176

ckremitz@illinois.edu

Other useful contacts

The Career Center

715 S Wright St
Champaign, IL 61820
217.333.0820
careercenter.illinois.edu

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Student Academic Affairs Office
2002 Lincoln Hall
702 S Wright Street
Urbana, IL 61801
217.333.1705
las.illinois.edu

Counseling Center

110 Turner Student Services Building
610 E John Street
Champaign, IL 61820
217.333.3704
counselingcenter.illinois.edu

Disability Resource and Education Services

1207 S Oak Street
Champaign, IL 61820
217.333.1970 (v/tty)
disability.illinois.edu

James Scholars Program

217.333.1158
lashonors@illinois.edu
las.illinois.edu/students/honors/james

National & International Scholarships Program

Center for Advising & Academic Services
Illini Union Bookstore 5th Floor
807 S Wright St
Champaign, IL 61820
topscholars@illinois.edu
topscholars.illinois.edu

Pre-Law Advising Services

Center for Advising & Academic Services
Illini Union Bookstore 5th Floor
807 S Wright St
Champaign, IL 61820
217.333.9669 (appointments)
prelaw.illinois.edu

Office of Student Financial Aid

Student Services Arcade
620 E John St
Champaign, IL 61820
217.333.0100
217.265.5516 (fax)
osfa.illinois.edu

Study Abroad Office

115 International Studies Building
910 S Fifth Street
Champaign, IL 61820
217.333.6322
studyabroad.illinois.edu

The Writers' Workshop

217.333.8796 (appointments, all locations)
cws.illinois.edu/workshop

Appendix 2 Political Science curriculum guide and planning sheet

Appendix 3 Civic Leadership & Political Science curriculum guide and planning sheet

Department of Political Science
CURRICULUM GUIDE AND PLANNING SHEET

Survey courses are required for the major. Courses in **bold type** are field courses. See the political science undergraduate handbook and online course catalog for details about course prerequisites.

American Politics

PS 101 Intro to US Govt & Pol

PS 201 US Racial & Ethnic Ppls
PS 202 Religion & Ppls in the US
PS 272 Women and Ppls

PS 301 The US Constitution I
PS 302 The US Constitution II
PS 303 The US Congress
PS 304 The US Presidency
PS 305 The US Supreme Court
PS 309 State Govt in the US
PS 311 Pol Parties in the US
PS 312 Ppls & the Media
PS 313 Congress & Foreign Policy
PS 315 African-Am Ppls
PS 316 Latina/o Ppls
PS 317 Asian-Am Ppls

PS 318 Interest Groups & Social Mvrs
PS 319 Campaigns & Elections
PS 322 Law & Public Policy
PS 323 Law & Representation
PS 409 Attitudes, Behaviors, & Environ
PS 410 Neighborhoods & Ppls
PS 411 Campaigning to Win
PS 412 Genetics & Ppls
PS 450 Civic Engagement in Modern Soc
PS 451 Citizens & the Dem Process
PS 452 Normative Perspectives on Am Ppls
PS 453 Ethics, Leadership, & Democracy
PS 455 Pol Econ, Soc Welfare, & Dem
PS 456 Democracy & Identity
PS 457 Dem Govt in a Global Setting

PS 230 Intro to Pol Research

PS 231 Strategic Models

PS 330 Intro to Pol Behavior
PS 331 Intro to Electoral Behavior

Public Policy

PS 220 Intro to Public Policy

PS 222 Ethics & Public Policy
PS 224 Politics of the National Parks
PS 225 Environmental Ppls & Policy

PS 321 Principles of Public Policy

Comparative Politics

PS 152 The New Middle East

PS 240 Intro to Comp Ppls

PS 241 Comp Ppls in Developing Nations
PS 242 Intro to Modern Africa
PS 243 Pan-Africanism
PS 273 Environment and Soc

PS 329 Immigration & Citizenship
PS 339 Pol Violence
PS 340 Ppls in Intl Development
PS 341 Govt & Ppls of Africa
PS 343 Govt & Ppls of China
PS 345 Govt & Ppls of Southeast Asia
PS 346 Govt & Ppls of South Asia
PS 347 Govt & Ppls of the Middle East
PS 348 Govt & Ppls of Western Europe
PS 351 Govt & Ppls of Post-Soviet States
PS 352 Govt & Ppls of Eastern Europe

PS 353 Govt & Ppls of Latin Am
PS 355 Democratization
PS 356 Comp Pol Econ
PS 357 Ethnic Conflict
PS 358 Comp Pol Behavior
PS 385 Ppls of the European Union
PS 397 Authoritarian Regimes
PS 408 Islam & Modern Soc
PS 415 Europe & the Mediterranean
PS 418 Languages & Minorities in Europe

Political Theory

PS 270 Intro to Pol Theory

PS 371 Classical Pol Theory
PS 372 Modern Pol Theory
PS 373 Democratic Theory
PS 374 Future Ppls

PS 376 American Pol Theory
PS 377 Topics in Contemp Pol Theory
PS 378 Topics Non-Western Pol Thought
PS 413 Sex, Power, & Ppls

International Relations

PS 180 Intro to the Ppls of Globalization
PS 280 (or 281 ACP)Intro to Intl

Relations

PS 282 Governing Globalization
PS 283 Intro to Intl Security
PS 289 Ppls of the Vietnam War

PS 379 Intl Relations & Domestic Ppls
PS 380 Intl Cooperation
PS 381 Intl Conflict (ACP)
PS 382 Intl Pol Econ
PS 383 Intl Organization (ACP)
PS 384 Ppls of Globalization
PS 386 Intl Law
PS 387 National Security Policy
PS 389 Intl Communications

PS 390 American Foreign Policy
PS 391 Soviet & Post-Soviet Foreign Pol
PS 392 Intl Organizations & Regionalism
PS 393 Diplomatic Studies Practicum
PS 394 Crisis Diplomacy
PS 395 Intl Organization
PS 396 Intl Conflict
PS 398 Strategic Intl Relations
PS 480 Energy & Security

Other Political Science Courses

PS 100 Intro to the Study of Ppls

PS 199 Open Seminar

PS 200 Foundations of Pol Science

PS 300 Special Topics
PS 490 Individual Study
PS 491 Internship
PS 492 Undergraduate Research Asst

PS 494 Junior Honors Seminar
PS 495 Senior Honors Seminar
PS 496 Senior Honors Thesis

GENERAL EDUCATION & POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR AND MINOR REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Basic composition
Advanced composition (ACP)

Non-primary language (NPL)
4 levels of one language

or 3 levels each of two languages

1	
2	
3	
4	
1	
2	
3	

Cultural studies:

Western/comparative (CW)
Non-Western/US minority (CNW/US)
Humanities/arts, 6 hrs (LA/HP)

Social/behavioral sciences, 6 hrs (SS/BS) . .

Natural sciences/technology, 6 hrs (LS/PS)

Quantitative reasoning 1 (QR1)
Quantitative reasoning 2 (QR2)

Review general education courses at courses.illinois.edu under 'Course Explorer'

PS MINOR REQUIREMENTS

PS 100 or 101

Two field courses
Choose from 201, 220, 230, 240, 270, 280/281

Advanced-level PS hours
9 hours from fields represented by 101/field courses

18 PS hours total required

NOTES:

PS MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

PS 101
Three field courses
Choose from: 100/200, 220, 230, 231, 240, 270,
280/281

Advanced-level PS courses
12 hrs \geq 300-level on-campus required

6 hours PS courses at any level

30 PS hours total required

1	
2	
3	
1	
2	
3	
4	
1	
2	
total	

SUPPORTING COURSEWORK

(A second major, a minor, or a combination of up to two different disciplines; *Political Science courses do not count for supporting coursework*)

Program:	

20 hours total (12 \geq 200-level) required

ADVANCED-LEVEL COURSES

Students must have 21 hours of on-campus courses that are advanced-level

Review your degree audit report (DARS) at: registrar.illinois.edu/dars-audit

CURRENT LIST OF APPROVED COURSES FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP CONCENTRATION & MINOR

<i>1. An intermediate or advanced course in public policy (3 hrs)</i>	
PS 220 Intro to Public Policy	PS 321 Principles of Public Policy
PS 222 Law & Public Policy	
<i>2. A course examining the construction & consequences of social identity relating to race, religion, ethnicity, or gender (3 hrs)</i>	
PS 201 US Racial & Ethnic Politics	ANTH 262 Woman's Lives
PS 202 Religion & Politics in the US	ANTH 288 American Indians of Illinois
PS 315 African American Politics	ANTH 362 Body, Personhood & Culture
PS 316 Latina/Latino Politics	ANTH 270 Language in Culture
PS 317 Asian American Politics	ANTH 274 The World of Jewish Sephard
AAS 215 US Citizenship Comparatively	ANTH 359 Adv. Topics in Latino/a US
AAS 250 Asian American Ethnic Groups	ANTH 414 Youth & Culture
AAS 258 Muslims in Am	ANTH 463 Religion & Society
AAS 281 Constructing Race in Am	ANTH 472 Border Latino/a Cultures
AAS 291 Hinduism in the United States	EPS 310 Race & Cultural Diversity
AAS 310 Race & Cultural Diversity	GWS 201 Race, Gender, & Power
AAS 328 Asian Americans & Inequalities	GWS 202 Sexualities
AAS 346 Asian American Youth	GWS 215 US Citizenship Comparatively
AAS 355 Race & Mixed Race	GWS 250 Gender & Representation
AARO 215 US Citizenship Comparatively	GWS 255 Queer Lives, Queer Politics
AARO 225 Race & Ethnicity	GWS 261 Gender in Transnational Perspect
AARO 226 Black Wom in Contemp US Soc	GWS 262 Woman's Lives
AARO 281 Constructing Race in Am	GWS 265 Gender, Place, & Space
AARO 282 Displaced Peoples of Latin Am	GWS 285 US Gender History to 1877
AARO 287 African-American Woman	GWS 286 US Gender History Since 1877
AARO 310 Race & Cultural Diversity	GWS 287 African-American Woman
AARO 342 Black Men & Masculinities	GWS 320 Gender & Latina/o Migration
AARO 372 Class Politics & Black Comm	GWS 387 History of Sexuality in the US
AIS 277 US Native Americans to 1850	LLS 215 US Citizenship Comparatively
AIS 278 US Native Americans since 1850	LLS 220 Mexican & Latin Am Immigration
AIS 280 Intro to Federal Indian Policy	LLS 227 Latina/Latinos in Contemp US
AIS 285 Indigenous Thinkers	LLS 338 Latina/o Social Movements
AIS 288 American Indians of Illinois	LLS 240 Latina/o Cultural Expressions
AIS 295 US Citizenship Comparatively	LLS 246 Gender & Sexuality in Latina/o Lit
ANTH 259 Latino/a Cultures	LLS 258 Muslims in Am
<i>3. A course exploring different perspectives on a just, ordered, & moral society (3 hrs)</i>	
PS 270 Intro to Political Theory	PS 376 American Political Theory
PS 371 Classical Political Theory	PS 378 Topics in Non-Western Pol
PS 372 Modern Political Theory	Thought
PS 373 Democratic Theory	PS 452 Normative Perspectives on Am Pol
PS 374 Future Politics	GWS 350 Feminist & Gender Theory
<i>4. Internship (3 hrs)</i>	
PS 491	
<i>4. At least two CLP-designated sections of PS 199 (2 hrs)</i>	
These courses are specifically designated PS 199 courses. The requirement cannot be fulfilled by any PS 199 course. As of right now, the second eight week course called "Civic Careers" & the PS 199 course associated with Illinois in Washington are the options to fulfill this requirement.	
<i>4. Minor only—Foundation course (3 hrs)</i>	
PS 100 Intro to PS or PS 200	PS 101 Intro to US Govt & Pol
Foundations of PS	GLBL 100 Intro to Global Studies
	GLBL 220 Global Governance

GENERAL EDUCATION & POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR WITH CIVIC LEADERSHIP CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Basic Composition	
Advanced Composition (ACP)	

Non-Primary Language (NPL)	1
4 levels of one language	2
	3
	4
Or 3 levels of two languages	1
	2
	3

Cultural Studies:	
Western/comparative (W)	
Non-Western/US Minority (NW/US)	
Humanities/arts, 6 hrs (LA/HP)	
Social/Behavioral Science, 6 hrs (SS/BS)	
Natural Science/Technology, 6 hrs (LS/PS)	
Quantitative Reasoning 1 (QR1)	
Quantitative Reasoning 2 (QR2)	

Review general education courses at my.illinois.edu under 'Course Explorer'

MINOR IN POLITICAL & CIVIC LEADERSHIP

One foundation course (PS 100/200, PS 101, GLEB 100, GLEB 220)	1
One course in each of the following areas:	2
1 200/300-level public policy course	
2 social identity	3
3 Theory	
PS 491 or approved Internship	
Two CLP designated sections of PS 199	
17 CLP hours total required	total

PS MAJOR & CLP CONCERN REQUIREMENTS

PS 101	
Three Field Courses	1
<i>Chosen from: 100/200, 220, 230, 231, 240, 270, 280/281</i>	2
	3
Advanced-level PS Courses	1
12 hours ≥ 300-level on campus required	2
	3
	4
Two CLP Designated sections of PS 199	1
	2
Internship Course (PS 491)	
One additional PS course (1-3 hrs) at any level	
30 PS hours total required	total

One course in each of the following areas: (May or may not be a PS course; see approved course list)	
1 200/300-level public policy course	
2 Social identity	
3 Theory	

SUPPORTING COURSEWORK

(A second major, a minor, or a combination of up to two different disciplines;
Political Science Courses do not count for supporting coursework)

Program:	

20 hours total (12 ≥ 200-level) required

ADVANCED-LEVEL COURSES

Students must have 21 hours of on-campus courses that are advanced-level

Review your degree audit report (DARS) at: registrar.illinois.edu/dars-audit

NOTES:



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pol-advisor@illinois.edu