

# POLITICAL SCIENCE (BA)

This program was approved for students entering the university in the Summer 2022–Spring 2023 catalog year. For more information about catalog year, go to Catalog Year Information (<http://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/university-wide-unit-specific-policies/catalog-year/>).

## Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Unit: College of Arts and Sciences (AS) (<http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/>)  
Department: Political Science (<http://louisville.edu/politicalscience/>)  
Academic Plan Code(s): See Track Requirements tab.

## Program Information

*This program can be completed in a traditional classroom format or entirely online (<https://louisville.edu/online/programs/bachelors/online-bachelor-of-arts-in-political-science/>).*

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science program at UofL cultivates an understanding of policy, politics and governments in the United States and around the globe. We offer a wide range of courses including campaigns and elections, the Presidency and Congress, social movements and civil rights, terrorism and war, constitutional law, environmental policy, religious politics, urban politics and poverty, and international politics. The department is a particularly inviting environment for students, with small class sizes, our own building, a computer lab, and options to specialize via several tracks in our major.

Political Science majors at the University of Louisville have been extremely successful in earning prestigious scholarships and fellowships. The roster of recent successes includes numerous Fulbright Award winners and multiple Truman Scholars. Since 2010, three of our students have won the annual Mary Churchill Humphrey scholarship, often described as UofL's Rhodes Scholarship because it supports graduate study in Great Britain. Many of our majors go on to have successful careers in government, international affairs, nongovernmental organizations, business, academia, and media.

Completion of this degree requires work to be submitted for the department's Learning Outcomes Measurement. For details, contact the department.

## Degree Summary

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Requirements ( <a href="http://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/">http://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/</a> ) <sup>1</sup>	31
	College/School Requirements	22
	Program/Major Requirements <sup>1</sup>	15
	Track Requirements <sup>1,2</sup>	53
	<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>	<b>121</b>

<sup>1</sup> Some credit hours from the General Education Requirements may be satisfied by courses defined by the program, in which case additional electives will be required to complete the minimum hours for the degree.

<sup>2</sup> Political Science offers three BA options (two tracks and one non-track). For all three options, including the non-track, please refer to the Track Requirements tab.

Specific coursework information can be found on the Degree Requirements tab.

## Accelerated BA-BS/MA in Political Science

Political Science majors who are considering pursuing a master's degree (MA) in Political Science can speed up the process by applying some of their undergraduate credit hours toward a master's degree. Students accepted into the Accelerated BA-BS/MA take three graduate courses (9 credit hours) as an undergraduate that apply toward both the bachelor's degree and the eventual master's degree.

Interested students must apply for admission to the program in the first semester of the senior year (i.e., after completing 90 hours). Applicants must meet the general requirements for admission to the Graduate School and must submit an application to the Department of Political Science. Applicants should have an undergraduate major or minor in social science or have sufficient alternative preparation in the social sciences.

## Departmental Admission Requirements

There are no specific admission requirements for this degree plan.

The Application for Major form can be found on the Arts & Sciences Advising Center website (<http://louisville.edu/artsandsciences/advising/apply/>).

## General Education Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Requirements ( <a href="http://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/">http://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/</a> ) <sup>*</sup>	31
The following courses are required by the program and satisfy the respective General Education Requirement(s):		
POLS 202	Introduction to Comparative Politics - SB, D2	

<sup>\*</sup>All degrees require the completion of the University-wide General Education Program (link provided above). Some General Education requirements may be met in the requirements for the major or supporting coursework, in which case additional electives may be required to complete the minimum hours for the degree.

## College/School Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Arts &amp; Sciences Requirements</b>		
GEN 100	Student Success Center First Year Experience	1
or GEN 101	Arts & Sciences First Year Experience	
	Foreign Language <sup>1</sup>	12
	Electives in Humanities or Natural Sciences <sup>2</sup>	9
	WR—two approved courses at the 300 level or above <sup>3</sup>	
	<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>	<b>22</b>

## Program/Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Department of Political Science</b>		
POLS 201	Introduction to American Government and Politics - SB <sup>4</sup>	3
POLS 202	Introduction to Comparative Politics - SB, D2 <sup>4</sup>	3

POLS 330	International Relations	3
POLS 390	Contemporary Political Research <sup>5</sup>	3
POLS 495	Senior Seminar - WR, CUE (CUE) <sup>6</sup>	3
<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>		<b>15</b>

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Track Requirements (see tracks tab for coursework) <sup>7</sup></b>		<b>53</b>

No more than 6 hours of POLS 430, POLS 510, POLS 511 and/or POLS 512 may count toward the major.

At least 50 of the total minimum hours required must be at the 300 level or above.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Culminating Undergraduate Experience (Graduation requirement)</b>		

Requirement fulfilled by completing:

POLS 495	Senior Seminar - WR, CUE
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- <sup>1</sup> Completion of the intermediate level of a single foreign language
- <sup>2</sup> In addition to courses counted toward General Education; 6 hours must be at 300 level or above
- <sup>3</sup> May be incorporated into other degree requirements
- <sup>4</sup> Fulfills General Education requirement.
- <sup>5</sup> Substitutions may be approved by the departmental advisor.
- <sup>6</sup> Fulfills WR requirement.
- <sup>7</sup> Students who satisfy General Education Requirements by courses defined by the program will require additional electives to complete the minimum hours for the degree.

## Track Requirements

Students who satisfy General Education Requirements by courses defined by the program will require additional electives to complete the minimum hours for the degree.

### Track in Applied Politics

Academic Plan Code(s): POLSBA\_APO

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Political Institutions</b>		

Select two of the following: 6

POLS 302	Urban Political Economy
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POLS 305	Urban Politics
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POLS 306	State Government
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POLS 311	American Presidency
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POLS 314	Judicial Politics
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POLS 317	American Congress
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POLS 325	Public Administration
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POLS 326	Public Policy - SB
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POLS 331	The United Nations and International Organization - WR
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#### Political Identity and Behavior

Select two of the following: 6

POLS 316	Gender, Sexuality & Law
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POLS 318	Religion and United States Politics - SB, D1
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POLS 319	Media and Politics
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POLS 320	Civil Rights and the Law II
POLS 321	Political Psychology and Public Opinion - SB
POLS 322	American Political Parties and Elections - SB
POLS 323	Queer Politics
POLS 324	Women in American Politics
POLS 327	African-American Politics - SB, D1
POLS 328	Information Technology and Politics
POLS 335	Global Environmental Politics
POLS 563	Women in Developing Countries - WR

#### Experiential Learning

Select one of the following: 3

POLS 310	Policy, Community & Service
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POLS 430	Political Science Internship I
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POLS 465	Chinese Culture
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POLS 510	Louisville Metro Council Internship
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POLS 511	Internship II
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POLS 512	Frankfort Legislative Internship
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POLS 520	Coping with Conflict
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POLS 530	International Negotiation
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POLS Elective		3
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#### Supporting Courses

ECON 202	Principles of Macroeconomics - SB	3
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Minimum Electives		32
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<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>		<b>53</b>
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## Track in Global Politics and International Affairs

Academic Plan Code(s): POLSBA\_GIA

Code	Title	Hours
<b>International Relations Area</b>		

Select two of the following: 6

POLS 331	The United Nations and International Organization - WR
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POLS 332	International Law - WR
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POLS 333	American Foreign Policy
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POLS 334	The Politics of Global Economic Relations
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POLS 335	Global Environmental Politics
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POLS 336	Politics of European Integration and Foreign Policy
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POLS 337	Law, Diplomacy and Power: The Foreign Relations of the U.S.
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POLS 338	National and International Security: Issues and Policies
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POLS 339	Terrorism
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POLS 341	Political Violence
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POLS 363	Politics of Oil
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POLS 364	World Order
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POLS 371	Latin America in the World
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POLS 406	Topics in International Relations
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POLS 437	The United States and East Asia - WR
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POLS 450	Topics in World Affairs
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POLS 506	Topics in International Relations
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POLS 520	Coping with Conflict
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POLS 530	International Negotiation	
<b>Comparative Politics Area</b>		
Select two of the following:		6
POLS 304	Comparative Urban Politics	
POLS 328	Information Technology and Politics	
POLS 340	Politics and Government of Western Europe	
POLS 341	Political Violence	
POLS 345	Russia and Eurasia - WR	
POLS 347	Democratization	
POLS 349	Comparative Political Culture - WR	
POLS 350	African Government and Politics	
POLS 355	Introduction to Middle East Politics	
POLS 356	Political Islam	
POLS 357	Religion and International Politics - SB, D2	
POLS 362	Comparative Political Economy	
POLS 363	Politics of Oil	
POLS 365	The People's Republic of China - D2, SB, WR	
POLS 366	Politics of East Asia - SB, D2	
POLS 367	Politics and Government of Southeast Asia	
POLS 370	Latin American Politics - D2, SB	
POLS 371	Latin America in the World	
POLS 402	Topics in Comparative Politics	
POLS 437	The United States and East Asia - WR	
POLS 502	Topics in Comparative Politics	
POLS 563	Women in Developing Countries - WR	
POLS Electives <sup>1</sup>		6
<b>Supporting Courses</b>		
ECON 202	Principles of Macroeconomics - SB	3
Minimum Electives		32
<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>		<b>53</b>

## No-Track Political Science BA

Academic Plan Code(s): POLSBA, POLSBAO

Students in this plan of study are required to take at least one course from each of Political Science's five subfields.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>American Politics <sup>2</sup></b>		<b>3</b>
Select one of the following:		
POLS 306	State Government	
POLS 311	American Presidency	
POLS 312	Constitutional Law	
POLS 313	Constitutional Law	
POLS 314	Judicial Politics	
POLS 315	Race, Law and Politics - D1, SB	
POLS 316	Gender, Sexuality & Law	
POLS 317	American Congress	
POLS 318	Religion and United States Politics - SB, D1	
POLS 319	Media and Politics	
POLS 320	Civil Rights and the Law II	
POLS 321	Political Psychology and Public Opinion - SB	
POLS 322	American Political Parties and Elections - SB	

POLS 323	Queer Politics	
POLS 324	Women in American Politics	
POLS 327	African-American Politics - SB, D1	
POLS 401	Topics in American Politics - WR	
POLS 501	Topics in American Politics	
POLS 507	Topics in Digital Politics	
<b>Public Policy <sup>2, 3</sup></b>		<b>3</b>
Select one of the following:		
POLS 302	Urban Political Economy	
POLS 304	Comparative Urban Politics	
POLS 305	Urban Politics	
POLS 310	Policy, Community & Service	
POLS 325	Public Administration	
POLS 326	Public Policy - SB	
POLS 333	American Foreign Policy	
POLS 405	Topics in Public Policy	
POLS 426	Environmental Policy	
POLS 505	Topics in Urban and Public Policy	
POLS 510	Louisville Metro Council Internship	
POLS 511	Internship II	
POLS 512	Frankfort Legislative Internship	
<b>International Relations <sup>2, 3, 4, 5</sup></b>		<b>3</b>
Select one of the following:		
POLS 331	The United Nations and International Organization - WR	
POLS 332	International Law - WR	
POLS 333	American Foreign Policy	
POLS 334	The Politics of Global Economic Relations	
POLS 335	Global Environmental Politics	
POLS 336	Politics of European Integration and Foreign Policy	
POLS 337	Law, Diplomacy and Power. The Foreign Relations of the U.S.	
POLS 338	National and International Security: Issues and Policies	
POLS 339	Terrorism	
POLS 341	Political Violence	
POLS 363	Politics of Oil	
POLS 364	World Order	
POLS 371	Latin America in the World	
POLS 406	Topics in International Relations	
POLS 450	Topics in World Affairs	
POLS 437	The United States and East Asia - WR	
POLS 506	Topics in International Relations	
POLS 520	Coping with Conflict	
POLS 530	International Negotiation	
<b>Comparative Politics <sup>2, 4, 5</sup></b>		<b>3</b>
Select one of the following:		
POLS 304	Comparative Urban Politics	
POLS 328	Information Technology and Politics	
POLS 340	Politics and Government of Western Europe	
POLS 345	Russia and Eurasia - WR	
POLS 341	Political Violence	
POLS 347	Democratization	

POLS 349	Comparative Political Culture - WR	
POLS 350	African Government and Politics	
POLS 355	Introduction to Middle East Politics	
POLS 356	Political Islam	
POLS 362	Comparative Political Economy	
POLS 363	Politics of Oil	
POLS 366	Politics of East Asia - SB, D2	
POLS 365	The People's Republic of China - D2, SB, WR	
POLS 367	Politics and Government of Southeast Asia	
POLS 370	Latin American Politics - D2, SB	
POLS 371	Latin America in the World	
POLS 402	Topics in Comparative Politics	
POLS 437	The United States and East Asia - WR	
POLS 502	Topics in Comparative Politics	
POLS 563	Women in Developing Countries - WR	
<b>Political Theory</b> <sup>2</sup>		<b>3</b>
Select one of the following:		
POLS 381	Early Political Thought	
POLS 382	Modern Political Thought	
POLS 383	American Political Thought	
POLS 384	Democracy and Its Critics - WR	
POLS 386	Political Theory and Utopia - WR	
POLS 387	American Utopian Communities	
POLS 388	Contemporary Political Theory	
POLS 404	Topics in Political Theory	
POLS 504	Topics in Political Theory - WR	
POLS 568	Feminist Theory - WR	
<b>Political Science Electives</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Supporting Courses</b>		
ECON 202	Principles of Macroeconomics - SB	3
Electives in Social Sciences other than Political Science, with 9 hours at the 300-level or above		15
Minimum Electives		14
<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>		<b>53</b>

- <sup>1</sup> The department encourages students to satisfy a portion of the elective requirement through completion of experiential learning courses such as POLS 430, POLS 465, POLS 510, POLS 511, POLS 520 or POLS 530.
- <sup>2</sup> POLS 399 may be an appropriate elective under any category depending on its topic in a given semester. A student must obtain her/his advisor's approval before attempting to use this course to satisfy an area requirement.
- <sup>3</sup> POLS 333 may be used as an elective option under Public Policy or International Relations. It may only satisfy one requirement. It may not be used to satisfy both requirements.
- <sup>4</sup> POLS 341 may be used as an elective option under International Relations and Comparative Politics. It may only satisfy one requirement. It may not be used to satisfy both requirements.
- <sup>5</sup> POLS 363 may be used as an elective option under International Relations and Comparative Politics. It may only satisfy one requirement. It may not be used to satisfy both requirements.

## Flight Plan

### No Track - Political Science (BA)

Academic Plan Code(s): POLSBA

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Year 1</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
GEN 100 or GEN 101	Student Success Center First Year Experience or Arts & Sciences First Year Experience	1
ENGL 101	Introduction to College Writing - WC	3
POLS 201	Introduction to American Government and Politics - SB	3
POLS 111	Political Discourse - OC	3
ECON 202	Principles of Macroeconomics - SB	3
Foreign Language 1		3-4
<b>Hours</b>		<b>16-17</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
ENGL 102	Intermediate College Writing - WC	3
POLS 202	Introduction to Comparative Politics - SB, D2	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S		3
Foreign Language 2		3
General Elective		3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Year 2</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
General Education: Cardinal Core Social & Behavioral Sciences Historical Perspective - SBH		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Quantitative Reasoning - QR		3-4
Foreign Language 3		3-4
Political Science American Politics elective		3
General Elective		3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>15-17</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
POLS 330	International Relations	3
Humanities or Natural Science Wr elective (300 level or above)		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences Lab - SL		1
Foreign Language 4		3-4
Political Science Comparative Politics elective		3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>16-17</b>
<b>Year 3</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
Social Science elective		3
Social Science elective (300 level or above)		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities US Diversity - AHD1		3
Political Science International Relations elective		3
Humanities or Natural Science elective (300 level or above)		3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
POLS 390	Contemporary Political Research	3
Political Science Public Policy elective		3
Social Science elective (300 level or above)		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities - AH		3
Social Science elective		3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Year 4</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
Social Science elective (300 level or above)		3
Political Science Political Theory elective		3
Humanities or Natural Science elective (300 level or above)		3
Political Science elective		3

General elective	3
<b>Hours</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>	
POLS 495 Senior Seminar - WR, CUE	3
Political Science elective	3
General elective	3
General elective	3
General elective	3
<b>Hours</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>	<b>122-126</b>

## Track in Applied Politics

Academic Plan Code(s): POLSBA\_APO

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Year 1</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
GEN 100 or GEN 101	Student Success Center First Year Experience or Arts & Sciences First Year Experience	1
ENGL 101	Introduction to College Writing - WC	3
POLS 201	Introduction to American Government and Politics - SB	3
Foreign Language 1		3-4
General Elective		3
General Elective		2
<b>Hours</b>		<b>15-16</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
ENGL 102	Intermediate College Writing - WC	3
POLS 202	Introduction to Comparative Politics - SB, D2	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Oral Communication - OC		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S		3
Foreign Language 2		3-4
<b>Hours</b>		<b>15-16</b>
<b>Year 2</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
POLS 330	International Relations	3
General Elective		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Social & Behavioral Sciences Historical Perspective - SBH		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Quantitative Reasoning - QR		3-4
Foreign Language 3		3-4
<b>Hours</b>		<b>15-17</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
ECON 202	Principles of Macroeconomics - SB	3
Humanities or Natural Science WR Elective (300 level or above)		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences Lab - SL		1
General Elective		3
Foreign Language 4		3-4
<b>Hours</b>		<b>16-17</b>
<b>Year 3</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
General elective		3
General elective (300 level or above)		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities US Diversity - AHD1		3
Political Science elective		3
Humanities or Natural Science elective (300 level or above)		3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
POLS 390	Contemporary Political Research	3
Political Science Political Institutions course		3

General elective (300 level or above)	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities - AH	3
Political Science Experiential Learning course	3
<b>Hours</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Year 4</b>	
<b>Fall</b>	
Political Science Political Institutions course	3
Political Science Political Identity course	3
General elective (300 level or above)	3
General elective	3
Humanities or Natural Science elective (300 level or above)	3
<b>Hours</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Spring</b>	
POLS 495 Senior Seminar - WR, CUE	3
Political Science Political Identity course	3
General elective	3
General elective	3
General elective	3
<b>Hours</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>	<b>121-126</b>

## Track in Global Politics and International Affairs

Academic Plan Code(s): POLSBA\_GIA

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Year 1</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
GEN 100 or GEN 101	Student Success Center First Year Experience or Arts & Sciences First Year Experience	1
ENGL 101	Introduction to College Writing - WC	3
POLS 201	Introduction to American Government and Politics - SB	3
Foreign Language 1		3-4
General elective		3
General elective		2
<b>Hours</b>		<b>15-16</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
ENGL 102	Intermediate College Writing - WC	3
POLS 202	Introduction to Comparative Politics - SB, D2	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Oral Communication - OC		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S		3
Foreign Language 2		3-4
<b>Hours</b>		<b>15-16</b>
<b>Year 2</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
POLS 330	International Relations	3
General Elective		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Social & Behavioral Sciences Historical Perspective - SBH		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Quantitative Reasoning - QR		3-4
Foreign Language 3		3-4
<b>Hours</b>		<b>15-17</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
ECON 202	Principles of Macroeconomics - SB	3
Humanities or Natural Science WR Elective (300 level or above)		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences Lab - SL		1
General elective		3
Foreign Language 4		3-4
<b>Hours</b>		<b>16-17</b>

**Year 3**

**Fall**

General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities - AH	3
Humanities or Natural Science elective (300 level or above)	3
General elective	3
General elective	3
General elective (300 level or above)	3
<b>Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

**Spring**

POLS 390 Contemporary Political Research	3
Political Science International Relations course	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities US Diversity - AHD1	3
Social Science elective	3
General elective	3
<b>Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

**Year 4**

**Fall**

Political Science International Relations course	3
Political Science Comparative Politics course	3
Humanities or Natural Science elective (300 level or above)	3
Political Science elective	3
General elective (300 level or above)	3
<b>Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

**Spring**

POLS 495 Senior Seminar - WR, CUE	3
Political Science Comparative Politics course	3
Political Science elective	3
General elective	3
General elective	3
<b>Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

**Minimum Total Hours** 121-126

**Degree Audit Report**

Degree Audit reports illustrate how your completed courses fulfill the requirements of your academic plan. What-if reports allow you to compare the courses you have completed in your current academic plan to the courses required in another academic plan. Should you have questions about either report, please consult with your academic advisor.

**To create either report:**

1. Log into your ULink account.
2. Click on the Academic Progress tile.
3. Next, click on "View my Degree Audit" to run a Degree Audit report in the Undergraduate Advising area.
4. To create a What-if report, click on "Create a What-if Advisement Report."

Click here to run a Degree Audit report, or create a What-if report. (<https://ulink.louisville.edu>)

**Flight Planner**

Based on your major, the Flight Planner tool may be available for you to create a personalized Flight Plan. The Flight Planner can be found in the ULink Student Center. Consult with your advisor for assistance with the Flight Planner.