POLITICAL SCIENCE (BA)

This program was approved for students entering the university in the Summer 2023—Spring 2024 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 students who have won the annual Mary Churchill Humphrey scholarship. 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

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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1 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.

2 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 Change Major Request form can be found under the Academic Progress tile on ULink.

General Education Requirements

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Program/Major Requirements

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POLS 330  International Relations  3
POLS 390  Political Science Research Methods  3
POLS 495  Senior Seminar (CUE)  3

Minimum Total Hours  15

Code  Title  Hours
Track Requirements (see tracks tab for coursework)  53

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
Culminating Undergraduate Experience (Graduation requirement)
Requirement fulfilled by completing:
POLS 495  Senior Seminar

1 Completion of the intermediate level of a single foreign language
2 In addition to courses counted toward General Education; 6 hours must be at 300 level or above
3 May be incorporated into other degree requirements
4 Fulfills General Education requirement.
5 Substitutions may be approved by the departmental advisor.
6 Fulfills WR requirement.
7 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

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Political Institutions

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Political Identity and Behavior

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Comparative Politics Area

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Experiential Learning

Select one of the following:  3

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

Supporting Courses

ECON 202  Principles of Macroeconomics  3
Minimum Electives  32

Minimum Total Hours  53

Track in Global Politics and International Affairs

Academic Plan Code(s): POLSBA_GIA

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Comparative Politics Area

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**Public Policy**  

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<td>POLS 310</td>
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<td>POLS 348</td>
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<td>POLS 405</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Law, Diplomacy and Power. The Foreign Relations of the U.S.</td>
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<td>POLS 505</td>
<td>Topics in Urban and Public Policy</td>
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<td>Louisville Metro Council Internship</td>
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<td>POLS 511</td>
<td>Internship II</td>
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<td>POLS 512</td>
<td>Frankfort Legislative Internship</td>
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**International Relations**  

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 331</td>
<td>International Organization</td>
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<td>POLS 332</td>
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<td>POLS 333</td>
<td>American Foreign Policy</td>
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<td>POLS 334</td>
<td>The Politics of Global Economic Relations</td>
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<td>POLS 335</td>
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<td>Law, Diplomacy and Power. The Foreign Relations of the U.S.</td>
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<td>Political Violence</td>
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<td>POLS 363</td>
<td>Politics of Oil</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 364</td>
<td>Improving World Order</td>
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<td>POLS 371</td>
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<td>POLS 437</td>
<td>The United States and East Asia</td>
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<td>POLS 506</td>
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<td>POLS 520</td>
<td>Coping with Conflict</td>
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**Comparative Politics**  

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<tr>
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<td>Comparative Urban Politics</td>
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<td>POLS 328</td>
<td>Information Technology and Politics</td>
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<td>POLS 340</td>
<td>Politics and Government of Western Europe</td>
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<td>POLS 345</td>
<td>Russia and Eurasia</td>
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**No-Track Political Science BA**  

**Academic Plan Code(s):** POLSBA, POLSBA_O  

Students in this plan of study are required to take at least one course from each of Political Science's five subfields.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLS 341</td>
<td>Political Violence</td>
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<td>POLS 347</td>
<td>Democratization</td>
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<td>Comparative Political Culture</td>
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<td>POLS 350</td>
<td>African Government and Politics</td>
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<td>POLS 355</td>
<td>Introduction to Middle East Politics</td>
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<td>POLS 356</td>
<td>Political Islam</td>
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<td>POLS 362</td>
<td>Comparative Political Economy</td>
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<td>POLS 363</td>
<td>Politics of Oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 366</td>
<td>Politics of East Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 365</td>
<td>People’s Republic of China</td>
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<td>POLS 367</td>
<td>Politics and Government of Southeast Asia</td>
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<td>POLS 370</td>
<td>Comparative Political Development in Latin America</td>
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<td>POLS 437</td>
<td>The United States and East Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 502</td>
<td>Topics in Comparative Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 563</td>
<td>Women in Developing Countries</td>
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</table>

### Political Theory

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
- POLS 386: Political Theory and Utopia
- POLS 387: American Utopian Communities
- POLS 388: Contemporary Political Theory
- POLS 404: Topics in Political Theory
- POLS 504: Topics in Political Theory
- POLS 568: Feminist Theory

### Political Science Electives

6 hours

### Supporting Courses

- ECON 202: Principles of Macroeconomics (3 hours)

### Electives in Social Sciences other than Political Science, with 9 hours

- Minimum Electives (14 hours)

### Minimum Total Hours

53 hours

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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

#### Year 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>GEN 100</td>
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<td>or GEN 101</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>or Student Success Center First Year Experience</td>
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<td>ENGL 101</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 201</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign Language 1</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education: Cardinal Core Oral Communication - OC</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>16-17</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 102</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 202</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign Language 2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
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#### Year 2

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<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education: Cardinal Core Social &amp; Behavioral Sciences Historical Perspective - SBH</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education: Cardinal Core Quantitative Reasoning - QR</td>
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<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>15-17</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 330</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Relations</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Humanities or Natural Science WR elective (300 level or above)</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences Lab - SL</td>
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<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
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#### Year 3

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<td>Political Science International Relations elective</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
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<td>POLS 390</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political Science Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
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Year 4

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| Fall     | Social Science elective (300 level or above) 3  
Political Science elective 3  
Humanities or Natural Science elective 3  
Political Science elective 3  
General elective 3  |
|          | **Hours** 15 |

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| Spring   | POLS 495 Senior Seminar 3  
Political Science elective 3  
General elective (300 level or above) 3  
General elective 3  |
|          | **Hours** 15 |

| Minimum Total Hours | 122-127 |

Track in Applied Politics

Academic Plan Code(s): POLSBA_APO

Year 1

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| Fall     | GEN 100 or GEN 101 Student Success Center First Year Experience or Arts & Sciences First Year Experience 1  
ENGL 101 Introduction to College Writing 3  
POLS 201 Introduction to American Government and Politics 3  
Foreign Language 1 3-4  
General Elective 3  |
|          | **Hours** 15-16 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course Details</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Spring   | ENGL 102 Intermediate College Writing 3  
POLS 202 Introduction to Comparative Politics 3  
General Education: Cardinal Core Oral Communication - OC 3  
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S 3  
Foreign Language 2 3-4  
General Elective 3  |
|          | **Hours** 15-16 |

| Minimum Total Hours | 121-126 |

Track in Global Politics and International Affairs

Academic Plan Code(s): POLSBA_GIA

Year 1

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Course Details</th>
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| Fall     | GEN 100 or GEN 101 Student Success Center First Year Experience or Arts & Sciences First Year Experience 1  
ENGL 101 Introduction to College Writing 3  
POLS 201 Introduction to American Government and Politics 3  
Foreign Language 1 3-4  
General Elective 3  |
|          | **Hours** 15-16 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course Details</th>
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</table>
| Spring   | ENGL 102 Intermediate College Writing 3  
POLS 202 Introduction to Comparative Politics 3  
General Education: Cardinal Core Oral Communication - OC 3  
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S 3  
Foreign Language 2 3-4  |
|          | **Hours** 15-16 |

| Minimum Total Hours | 15-16 |

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| Fall     | 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  |
|          | **Hours** 15-17 |

<table>
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| Spring   | ECON 202 Principles of Macroeconomics 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  |
|          | **Hours** 16-17 |

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<th>Year 2</th>
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| Fall   | 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  |
|        | **Hours** 15-17 |

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<td>ECON 202 Principles of Macroeconomics 3</td>
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| Minimum Total Hours | 15-16 |

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General elective (300 level or above) 3  
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities US Diversity - AHD1 3  |
|          | **Hours** 16-17 |

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<thead>
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General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities US Diversity - AHD1 3  |
|          | **Hours** 15-17 |

<p>| Minimum Total Hours | 121-126 |</p>
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<th>Humanities or Natural Science WR Elective (300 level or above)</th>
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**Year 3**

**Fall**

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**Spring**

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<th>POLS 390 Political Science Research Methods</th>
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**Year 4**

**Fall**

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<tr>
<th>Political Science International Relations course</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Political Science Comparative Politics course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanities or Natural Science elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political Science elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>General elective (300 level or above)</td>
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**Spring**

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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
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</table>

| **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.

**Flight Planner**

The Flight Planner tool is available for you to create a personalized Flight Plan to graduation. Advisors have access to review your Flight Planner and can help you adjust it to ensure you remain on track to graduate in a timely manner.

**To create these reports:**

a. Log into your ULink account.
b. Click on the Academic Progress tile.
c. Select the appropriate report.
   i. To run a Degree Audit report, click on "View my Degree Audit."
   ii. To create a What-if report, click on "Create a What-if Advisement Report."
   iii. To run a Flight Planner report, click on "Use My Flight Planner."