POLITICAL SCIENCE (BS)

This program was approved for students entering the university in the Summer 2026-Spring 2027 catalog year. For more information about catalog year, go to Catalog Year Information (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/university-wide-unit-specific-policies/catalog-year/).

Bachelor of Science in Political Science
Unit: College of Arts and Sciences (AS) (https://artsandsciences.louisville.edu/)
Department: Political Science (https://artsandsciences.louisville.edu/academics-programs/departments/political-science)
Academic Plan Code(s): POLSBS_LP

Program Information

The Bachelor of Science in Political Science program at UofL offers a single track in Law & Public Policy that 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

BS in Political Science, track in Law and Public Policy

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Requirements (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)		31
College/School Requirements		13-15
Program/Major Requirements		42
Supporting Courses		33-35
Minimum Total Hours		**121**

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

Accelerated 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 BS/MA take 9-12 credit hours (depending on the graduate option selected) as an undergraduate that apply toward both the bachelor's degree and the eventual master's degree.

Undergraduate students interested in participating in an accelerated dual bachelor's/master's degree offered through the Soaring Scholar program (https://graduate.louisville.edu/academics/programs/soaring) must first meet with their Academic Advisor and be accepted into the program. Once accepted, students will receive an official admission letter outlining program policies and details. They will then work with their department and academic advisor to register for classes each semester, ensuring they meet the milestones and academic progress requirements of the Soaring Scholar program.

A Soaring Scholar student is considered an undergraduate student until their bachelor's degree is conferred. In their final undergraduate semester, they are expected to apply for admission to their respective master's program.

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.

Accelerated BS/MA Admission Requirements

The Department of Political Science also offers its undergraduate majors an opportunity to earn both a BS degree and an MA degree at an accelerated pace. The non-thesis track of the program allows students to complete twelve (12) credit hours of graduate coursework while enrolled as undergraduate students. The thesis track of the program allows students to complete nine (9) credit hours of graduate coursework while enrolled as undergraduate students. Interested students should apply to the program during their Junior year (i.e., when they have accumulated 60-90 hours of credit). Students must be Political Science majors with a GPA of approximately 3.2 or higher.

To apply, students must obtain two letters of recommendation from faculty attesting to their ability to do high-quality academic work at the graduate level. Students must also write a personal statement where they describe their professional or occupational objectives, areas of interest in political science, and how the department's program (and specific faculty) will help to achieve those objectives. The GRE is not required. All application materials should be sent to the department's Director of Graduate Studies. See the department website for contact information.

General Education Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Requirements (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)		31
The following courses are required by the program or program tracks and can satisfy the respective General Education Requirement(s):		
POLS 201	Introduction to American Government and Politics - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	

POLS 202	Introduction to Comparative Politics - P2 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)
POLS 204	Introduction to International Relations - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)

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
Arts & Sciences Requirements		
GEN 100	Student Success Center First Year Experience	1
or GEN 101	Arts & Sciences First Year Experience	
Foreign Language [1]		6-8
Electives in Humanities or Natural Sciences at 300 level or above [2]		6
WR—two approved courses at the 300 level or above [3]		
Minimum Total Hours		**13-15**

Program/Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Department of Political Science		
POLS 201	Introduction to American Government and Politics - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
POLS 202	Introduction to Comparative Politics - P2 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
POLS 325	Public Administration	3
or POLS 326	Public Policy	
POLS 390	Political Science Research Methods	3
POLS 204	Introduction to International Relations - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
POLS 495	Senior Seminar - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Law and Jurisprudence Area		
Select three courses:		9
POLS 312	Constitutional Law	
POLS 313	Constitutional Law	
POLS 314	Judicial Politics	
POLS 315	Race, Law and Politics - P1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
POLS 316	Gender, Sexuality & Law	
POLS 320	Civil Rights and the Law II	
POLS 332	International Law - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) [5]	
POLS 342	American Law and Lawyering	
POLS 407	Topics in Law and Jurisprudence	
POLS 444	Law, Diplomacy and Power: The Foreign Relations of the U.S.	
Public Policy Area		
Select two courses:		6
POLS 302	Urban Political Economy	
POLS 304	Comparative Urban Politics	
POLS 305	Urban Politics	
POLS 310	Policy, Community & Service	
POLS 325	Public Administration [6]	
POLS 326	Public Policy [6]	
POLS 333	American Foreign Policy	
POLS 335	Global Environmental Politics	
POLS 348	Environmental Policy	
POLS 405	Topics in Public Policy	
POLS 505	Topics in Urban and Public Policy	
POLS 510	Louisville Metro Council Internship	
POLS 511	Internship II	
POLS 512	Frankfort Legislative Internship	
Political Science electives		9
Minimum Total Hours		**42**

Code	Title	Hours
Supporting Courses		
ECON 201	Principles of Microeconomics - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
ECON 202	Principles of Macroeconomics - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Electives in Social Science other than Political Science, with 6 hours at the 300 level or above		12
Minimum Electives		15-17
Minimum Total Hours		**33-35**

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

Code	Title	Hours
Culminating Undergraduate Experience (Graduation requirement)		
Requirement fulfilled by completing:		

POLS 495	Senior Seminar - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)

1 Completion of the second semester of a single foreign language; hours will vary depending on the language taken
2 In addition to courses counted toward General Education
3 May be incorporated into other degree requirements
4 Fulfills general education requirement.
5 Fulfills WR requirement.
6 May not be double-counted for public policy area requirement if used for core requirement or for both a programmatic and supporting course.

Flight Plan*

Year 1		
Fall		**Hours**
GEN 101 or GEN 100	Arts & Sciences First Year Experience or Student Success Center First Year Experience	1
ENGL 101	Introduction to College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
POLS 201	Introduction to American Government and Politics - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences Lab - SL		1
Foreign Language 1		3-4
	Hours	**15**
Spring		
ENGL 102	Intermediate College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Quantitative Reasoning - QR		3-4
General Elective		3
Foreign Language 2		3-4
	Hours	**16-17**
Year 2		
Fall		
POLS 202	Introduction to Comparative Politics - P2 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
POLS 204	Introduction to International Relations - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Social Science elective (300 level or above)		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Oral Communication - OC		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities - AH		3
	Hours	**15**
Spring		
POLS 325 or POLS 326	Public Administration or Public Policy	3
ECON 201	Principles of Microeconomics - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Social & Behavioral Sciences Historical Perspective - SBH		3
Political Science Law & Jurisprudence course		3
General elective		3
	Hours	**15**
Year 3		
Fall		
Humanities or Natural Sciences WR elective (300 level or above)		3
ECON 202	Principles of Macroeconomics - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Political Science Law & Jurisprudence course		3
Political Science Public Policy course		3
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities US Perspectives - AHP1		3
	Hours	**15**
Spring		
Humanities or Natural Science elective (300 level or above)		3
Social Science elective		3
Political Science Law & Jurisprudence course		3
POLS 390	Political Science Research Methods	3
Social Science elective		3
	Hours	**15**
Year 4		
Fall		
Political Science Public Policy course		3
Political Science elective		3
Social Science elective (300 level or above)		3
General elective (300 level or above)		3
General elective (300 level or above)		3
	Hours	**15**
Spring		
POLS 495	Senior Seminar - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
Political Science elective		3
Political Science elective		3
General elective		3
General elective		3
	Hours	**15**
	Minimum Total Hours	**121-122**

*Students in the BS/MA Accelerated Option should consult their advisor about modifying this flight plan for their specific needs.

The Flight Plan outlined above is intended to demonstrate one possible path to completing the degree within four years. Course selection and placement within the program may vary depending on course offerings and schedule, elective preferences, and other factors (study abroad, internship availability, etc.). Please consult your advisor for additional information about building a flight plan that works for you.

Degree Audit Report

Degree Audit reports illustrate how your completed courses fulfill the requirements of your academic plan, and which requirements are still outstanding. Degree audits also take transfer credits and test credits into account. "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 these reports:

1. Log into your ULink account.
2. Click on the Academic Progress tile.
3. Select the appropriate report.
    a. To run a Degree Audit report, click on "View my Degree Audit."
    b. To create a What-if report, click on "What-if Advisement Report."

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

Accelerated BS/MA in Political Science

Students in the Accelerated Pathway should take 9 hours (thesis track) or up to 12 hours (non-thesis track) of graduate courses listed below:

Code	Title	Hours
POLS 670	Research Design	3
POLS 619	Seminar in Public Policy [1]	3
POLS 629	Seminar in American Politics [1]	3
POLS 639	Seminar in International Relations [1]	3
POLS 649	Seminar in Comparative Politics [1]	3

[1] Other 500- or 600-level graduate POLS classes may be substituted, depending on what is needed to complete the undergraduate major, the timing of graduate offerings, and when the student enters the Accelerated Pathway. Political Science courses at the 500- or 600- level that were taken before a student was admitted into the Accelerated Pathway cannot be double counted. Students should consult with the Director of Graduate Studies in Political Science and their undergraduate advisor to ensure that degree requirements for both programs are met.