

## Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Political Science is the academic study of governments, public policies and political behavior. The Political Science major is designed for students interested in domestic and foreign policy issues, politics, public administration, and related areas like policy analysis and policy advocacy. Political scientists use both scientific skills and humanistic perspectives to study political decision-making in the United States and other countries and regions of the world.



### Contact

*Administrative Support Assistant*

Autumn Kreider

[aqk5884@psu.edu](mailto:aqk5884@psu.edu)

+1 717 948 6779

*Program Coordinator*

Juliette Tolay, Ph.D.

Content reviewed and approved Fri September 1, 2023 11:16:26 am



**PennState**  
Harrisburg

777 West Harrisburg Pike  
Middletown, PA 17057  
Phone: 717-948-6058  
Fax: 717-948-6320  
[harrisburg.psu.edu](http://harrisburg.psu.edu)



**PennState**  
Harrisburg

**School of Public Affairs**

**Bachelor of Arts in  
Political Science**

## Curriculum

The Political Science major requires students to take four introductory courses, five advanced courses, as well as an additional 3 advanced courses in political science or related disciplines. Throughout the major, student will be exposed to at least one course to each of the following areas: American Government and Politics, International Relations, Comparative Politics, Political Theory and Methodology.

As students choose their advanced courses, they can select from the following concentrations (students should contact their academic adviser for more details on each concentration):

- U.S. Political Institutions and Processes
- Pre-law
- International Studies
- Security Studies

For a B.A. degree in Political Science, a minimum of 123 credits is required.

### Entry to the Major

Entry to the public policy major requires a 2.00 or higher cumulative grade-point average and an average of C (2.00) or better in any course already taken in the major.

## Courses

For a B.A. degree in Political Science, a minimum of 123 credits is required.

In addition to [General Education requirements](#) (45 credits), this major requires the following:

**ELECTIVES:** 18 credits

### BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE

**REQUIREMENTS:** 24 credits

(3 of these 24 credits are included in the REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR, GENERAL EDUCATION, or ELECTIVES and 0-12 credits are included in ELECTIVES if foreign language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.)

(See description of Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements in this bulletin.)

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR:** 36 credits<sup>[1]</sup>

### SUPPORTING COURSES AND RELATED AREAS (36 credits)

(In meeting these requirements, students must take at least one course at any level from the four fields offered in the department: Political Theory/Methodology, American Politics/Public Administration, Comparative Politics, and International Relations)

Select 12 credits from below the 400 level (Sem: 1-6)

Select 15 credits from the 400 level and above in political science (Sem: 3-8)

Select 9 credits in political science or in related disciplines from departmental list of approved courses. Substitutions may be made with the written permission of the faculty adviser. (Sem: 3-8)

*[1] A student enrolled in this major must receive a grade of C or better, as specified in Senate Policy 82-44.*

## Undergraduate Admissions Requirements

Minimum high school course requirements for admission to baccalaureate (four-year) degree programs are listed below. Keep in mind that specific programs may have additional requirements or recommendations.

### English

Four units, including one unit each in composition and literature, are required.

### Social Studies/Art/Humanities

Three units in any combination of social studies, arts, and humanities are required.

### World Language

Two units in a single world language other than English are required. However, a student may be admitted with fewer than two units in a world language other than English, but must correct this deficiency by the time s/he earns 60 credits or graduates from Penn State, whichever comes first. This deficiency may be corrected by passing one three- or four-credit college level world language course or by demonstrating proficiency equivalent to two units of high school world language study.

Either a third unit in the same language or an additional unit in a second world language other than English is recommended.

### Science

Three units of science are required. Preparation in chemistry and physics is recommended but not required for our Science and Engineering/Engineering Technology programs

### Math

Three units of mathematics are required (four are recommended), selected from any combination of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry. Some programs have additional mathematics requirements. Our Business, Engineering/Engineering Technology, and Science programs require one-half unit of trigonometry or higher level math within the required three units

Penn State requires proof of graduation or a GED for admission to four-year degree programs.

\*In most high school curricula, one unit = one year.

Visit Undergraduate Admissions: Admissions Requirements for more information (<http://goo.gl/eVGAMB>)