POLITICAL SCIENCE - B.A.

Description

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science empowers students to be engaged global citizens and informed consumers of information who are competitive in a range of careers. Graduates work in the public and private sectors across the United States and around the globe. Others go on to graduate programs or to law school.

Students in the major are provided internship and study abroad opportunities, including two semester-long, 15-credit hour internship programs, one in Washington, D.C., and one in Columbus, Ohio. In addition, the Department of Political Science offers study-abroad courses in multiple countries during the summer, and students often also take advantage of Kent State programs in Florence, Italy, and Geneva, Switzerland. More information can be found on the Department of Political Science website.

The Political Science major comprises the following concentrations:

- **The American Politics** concentration investigates the political context of life in the United States in courses on public opinion, elections and the media, as well as Congress, the presidency, and the courts.
- **The International Relations-Comparative Politics** concentration focuses on international policy and politics, including aid and development, energy and oil, human rights and regions of the world (e.g., Latin America, the Middle East and Russia).
- **The General** concentration allows students to design their own specialization rather than choosing a specific area to concentrate.
- **The Public Policy** concentration explores how governments address major policy questions such as health care, environmental protection and foreign policy. Courses introduce students not only to policy questions and implications, but also to the skills involved in policy analysis.

Fully Offered At:

- Kent Campus

Admission Requirements

The university affirmatively strives to provide educational opportunities and access to students with varied backgrounds, those with special talents and adult students who graduated from high school three or more years ago.

**Freshman Students on the Kent Campus:** The freshman admission policy on the Kent Campus is selective. Admission decisions are based upon the following: cumulative grade point average, ACT and/or SAT scores, strength of high school college preparatory curriculum and grade trends. The Admissions Office at the Kent Campus may defer the admission of students who do not meet admissions criteria but who demonstrate areas of promise for successful college study. Deferred applicants may begin their college coursework at one of seven regional campuses of Kent State University. For more information on admissions, including additional requirements for some academic programs, visit the admissions website for new freshmen.

**Freshman Students on the Regional Campuses:** Kent State campuses at Ashtabula, East Liverpool, Geauga, Salem, Stark, Trumbull and Tuscarawas, as well as the Regional Academic Center in Twinsburg, have open enrollment admission for students who hold a high school diploma, GED or equivalent.

**English Language Proficiency Requirements for International Students:** All international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions) by earning a minimum 525 TOEFL score (71 on the Internet-based version), minimum 75 MELAB score, minimum 6.0 IELTS score or minimum 48 PTE score, or by completing the ESL level 112 Intensive Program. For more information on international admission, visit the Office of Global Education's admission website.

**Transfer, Transitioning and Former Students:** For more information about admission criteria for transfer, transitioning and former students, please visit the admissions website.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Demonstrate critical thinking and analysis skills.
2. Demonstrate advanced written and oral communication skills.
3. Demonstrate advanced understanding of national and international issues and political systems.
5. Demonstrate competence with quantitative statistical and qualitative analysis tools.

University Requirements

All students in a bachelor's degree program at Kent State University must complete the following university requirements for graduation.

NOTE: University requirements may be fulfilled in this program by specific course requirements. Please see Program Requirements for details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Minimum Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kent Core (see table below)</td>
<td>36-37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing-Intensive Course (WIC)</td>
<td>1 course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiential Learning Requirement (ELR)</td>
<td>varies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Destination Kent State: First Year Experience   | 1 course      |
| Course is not required for students with 25 transfer credits, excluding College Credit Plus, or age 21+ at time of admission. |
| Diversity Domestic/Global (DIV/DIVG)            | 2 courses    |
| Students must successfully complete one domestic and one global course, of which one must be from the Kent Core. |
| Experiential Learning Requirement (ELR)          | varies        |
| Students must successfully complete one course or approved experience. |

Upper-Division Requirement

Students must successfully complete 39 upper-division (numbered 30000 to 49999) credit hours to graduate. Students in a B.A. and/or B.S. degree in the College of Arts and Sciences must complete 42 upper-division credit hours.
**Kent State University Catalog 2018-2019**

**Major Requirements**

**Program Requirements**

**Kent Core Requirements**

- Kent Core Composition (KCMP) 6
- Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning (KMCR) 3
- Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (KHUM/KFA) (min one course each) 9
- Kent Core Social Sciences (KSS) (must be from two disciplines) 6
- Kent Core Basic Sciences (KBS/KLAB) (must include one laboratory) 6-7
- Kent Core Additional (KADL) 6

Total Credit Hours: 36-37

**Kent Core Requirements**

- Kent Core Composition (KCMP)
- Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning (KMCR)
- Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (KHUM/KFA) (min one course each)
- Kent Core Social Sciences (KSS) (must be from two disciplines)
- Kent Core Basic Sciences (KBS/KLAB) (must include one laboratory)
- Kent Core Additional (KADL)

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 120

Some bachelor's degrees require students to complete more than 120 credit hours.

**American Politics Concentration Requirements**

**Additional Requirements (courses do not count in major GPA)**

- UC 10097 DESTINATION KENT STATE: FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE 1
- Foreign Language (see Foreign Language College Requirement below) 14-16
- Kent Core Composition 6
- Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning 3
- Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (minimum one course from each) 9
- Kent Core Social Sciences (must be from two disciplines) 3
- Kent Core Basic Sciences (must include one laboratory) 6-7
- Kent Core Additional 3-6
- College General Requirements (must be from Kent Core Basic Sciences) 3
- College General Requirements (must be from Kent Core Social Sciences) 3
- General Electives (total credit hours depends on earning 120 credit hours, including 42 upper-division credit hours) 33

**Concentrations**

- Choose from the following: 18
  - American Politics
  - General
  - International Relations - Comparative Politics
  - Public Policy

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 120

**Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)**

- POL 40191 SEMINAR IN AMERICAN POLITICS (WIC) 3

Concentration Electives, choose from the following:

- POL 30000 MAY 4 1970 AND ITS AFTERMATH 15
- POL 30100 AMERICAN POLITICAL THEORY
- POL 30110 THE CONGRESS
- POL 30120 PRESIDENCY AND EXECUTIVE BUREAUCRACY
- POL 30130 THE JUDICIAL PROCESS
- POL 30430 OHIO POLITICS
- POL 30450 URBAN POLITICS AND POLICY
- POL 30460 STATE POLITICS AND POLICY
- POL 40112 POLITICS AND THE MASS MEDIA
- POL 40116 PUBLIC OPINION AND POLITICAL BEHAVIOR
- POL 40118 POLITICAL PARTIES AND INTEREST GROUPS
- POL 40182 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW:GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURES AND FUNCTIONS
- POL 40183 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW:CIVIL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES (DVID)
- POL 40410 REGULATORY POLICY
- POL 40440 U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICIES
- POL 40450 HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL POLICY
- POL 40470 WOMEN, POLITICS AND POLICY (DVID)
- POL 40620 POLITICS OF SOCIAL MOVEMENTS (DVID)
- POL 40930 U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 18

1 A minimum C grade must be earned to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement.

**General Concentration Requirements**

**Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)**

- POL 40191 SEMINAR IN AMERICAN POLITICS (WIC) 3

Concentration Elective, choose from the following:

- POL 40980 U.S. FOREIGN POLICY
- POL 40981 U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICIES
- POL 40992 U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

1 Students who choose POL 10100 will need to take 3 credit hours of Kent Core Additional. Students who do not choose POL 10100 will need to take 6 credit hours of Kent Core Additional.
### International Relations—Comparative Politics Concentration Requirements  
**[BA-POL-IRCP]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POL 40591</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS-COMPARATIVE POLITICS (WIC)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Concentration Electives, choose from the following:  

- POL 30500: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY  
- POL 30520: EUROPEAN POLITICS (DIVG)  
- POL 30530: ASIAN POLITICS (DIVG)  
- POL 30540: AFRICAN POLITICS (DIVG)  
- POL 30550: LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS (DIVG)  
- POL 30560: MIDDLE EAST POLITICS (DIVG)  
- POL 30810: POLITICS OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY  
- POL 30820: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND LAW  
- POL 30840: NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS  
- POL 40530: POLITICS OF WAR  
- POL 40540: POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT (DIVG)  
- POL 40560: HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (DIVG)  
- POL 40620: POLITICS OF SOCIAL MOVEMENTS (DIVD)  
- POL 40840: COMPARATIVE FOREIGN POLICY  
- POL 40930: U.S. FOREIGN POLICY  

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 18

1. A minimum C grade must be earned to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement.

### Public Policy Concentration Requirements  
**[BA-POL-PPOL]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POL 40391</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN PUBLIC POLICY (WIC)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Concentration Electives, choose from the following:  

- POL 30300: PUBLIC POLICY THEORY  
- POL 30301: INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
- POL 30310: PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS  
- POL 30350: ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION  
- POL 30430: OHIO POLITICS  
- POL 30450: URBAN POLITICS AND POLICY  
- POL 30460: STATE POLITICS AND POLICY  
- POL 30810: POLITICS OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY  
- POL 30820: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND LAW  
- POL 30840: NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS  
- POL 40320: ETHICS AND PUBLIC POLICY  
- POL 40410: REGULATORY POLICY  
- POL 40440: U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICIES  
- POL 40450: HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL POLICY  

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 18

1. A minimum C grade must be earned to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement.

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum Major GPA</th>
<th>Minimum Overall GPA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.000</td>
<td>2.000</td>
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</table>

**Foreign Language College Requirement**

Students pursuing the Bachelor of Arts degree in the College of Arts and Sciences must complete 14-16 credit hours of foreign language.  

To complete the requirement, students have the equivalent of Elementary I and II in any language, plus one of the following options:

1. Intermediate I and II of the same language  
2. Elementary I and II of a second language  
3. Any combination of two courses from the following list:

- MCLS 10001: INTRODUCTION TO STRUCTURAL CONCEPTS FOR LANGUAGE STUDENTS  
- MCLS 20000: GLOBAL LITERACY AND CULTURAL AWARENESS  
- MCLS 20091: VARIABLE CONTENT SEMINAR IN GLOBAL LITERACY: CASE STUDIES  
- MCLS 21417: MULTICULTURALISM IN TODAY’S GERMANY (DIVG)  
- MCLS 22217: DIVERSITY IN TODAY’S RUSSIA (DIVG)  
- MCLS 23217: THE FRANCOPHONE EXPERIENCE (DIVG)  
- MCLS 28404: THE LATIN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE (DIVG)  
- MCLS 28405: THE SPANISH EXPERIENCE (DIVG)

All students with prior foreign language experience should take the foreign language placement test to determine the appropriate level at which to start. Some students may begin beyond the Elementary I level and will complete the requirement with fewer credit hours and fewer courses. This may be accomplished by (1) passing a course beyond Elementary I through Intermediate II level; (2) receiving credit through Credit by Exam (CBE), Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) or College Level Examination Program (CLEP); or (3) being designated a "native speaker" of a non-English language (consult with the College of Arts and Sciences Advising Office for additional information). When students complete the requirement with fewer than 14 credit hours and four courses, they will complete remaining credit hours with general electives.

Certain majors, concentrations and minors may require specific languages, limit the languages from which a student may choose or require coursework through Intermediate II. Students who plan to pursue graduate study may need particular language coursework.
## Roadmap

This roadmap is a recommended semester-by-semester plan of study for this major. However, courses designated as critical (!) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester One</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL 10100</td>
<td>AMERICAN POLITICS (DIVD) (KSS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>POL 10300</td>
<td>or PUBLIC POLICY</td>
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<tr>
<td>UC 10097</td>
<td>DESTINATION KENT STATE: FIRST YEAR</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>Kent Core Requirement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kent Core Requirement</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Credit Hours</strong></td>
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<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Semester Two</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>POL 10004</td>
<td>COMPARATIVE POLITICS (DIVG) (KSS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>POL 10500</td>
<td>or WORLD POLITICS (DIVG) (KSS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent Core Requirement</td>
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<td>Kent Core Requirement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kent Core Requirement</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Credit Hours</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Semester Three</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>POL 30002</td>
<td>POLITICAL THOUGHT</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POL 30003</td>
<td>or POLITICAL ECONOMY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kent Core Requirement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kent Core Requirement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kent Core Requirement</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Credit Hours</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Semester Four</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Concentration Electives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kent Core Requirement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kent Core Requirement</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Credit Hours</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Semester Five</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>POL 30001</td>
<td>RESEARCH METHODS (ELR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concentration Electives</td>
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<tr>
<td>College General Requirement</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>College General Requirement</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Credit Hours</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Semester Six</strong></td>
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<td>Political Science (POL) Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concentration Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kent Core Requirement or General Elective</td>
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<td>General Electives</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Credit Hours</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Semester Seven</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Political Science Upper-Division Elective (POL 30000 or 40000 level)</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Electives</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Credit Hours</strong></td>
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</table>

**Minimum Total Credit Hours:** 120