

POLITICAL SCIENCE - B.A.

College of Arts and Sciences
 Department of Political Science
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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.
4. Demonstrate multicultural literacy.
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.

Destination Kent State: First Year Experience	1
Course is not required for students with 25 transfer credits, excluding College Credit Plus, or age 21+ at time of admission.	
Diversity Domestic/Global (DIVD/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.	
Kent Core (see table below)	36-37
Writing-Intensive Course (WIC)	1 course
Students must earn a minimum C grade in the course.	
Upper-Division Requirement	39 (or 42)
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.	

Total Credit Hour Requirement	120
Some bachelor's degrees require students to complete more than 120 credit hours.	

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

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
POL 10004 or POL 10500	COMPARATIVE POLITICS (DIVG) (KSS) WORLD POLITICS (DIVG) (KSS)	3
POL 10100 or POL 10300	AMERICAN POLITICS (DIVD) (KSS) ¹ PUBLIC POLICY	3
POL 30001	RESEARCH METHODS (ELR)	3
POL 30002 or POL 30003	POLITICAL THOUGHT POLITICAL ECONOMY	3
	Political Science (POL) Elective	3
	Political Science (POL) Upper-Division Elective (30000 or 40000 level) ²	3
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 ¹	3-6
	College General Requirements (must be from Kent Core Basic Sciences) ³	3
	College General Requirements (must be from Kent Core Social Sciences) ⁴	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

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.

² The following courses may be applied toward upper-division electives as approved by department: POL 40980; POL 40981; POL 40995; POL 40992 and POL 40996.

³ One additional course taken from the Kent Core Basic Sciences courses in the following Arts and Sciences disciplines: Anthropology (ANTH), Biological Sciences (BSCI), Chemistry (CHEM), Geography (GEOG), Geology (GEOL) or Physics (PHY). The course may not be from the student's major.

⁴ One additional course taken from the Kent Core Social Sciences courses in the following Arts and Sciences disciplines: Anthropology (ANTH), Geography (GEOG), Criminology and Justice Studies (CRIM), Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS), Political Science (POL), Psychology (PSYC) or Sociology (SOC). The course may not be from the student's major.

American Politics Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
POL 40191	SEMINAR IN AMERICAN POLITICS (WIC) ¹	3
	Concentration Electives, choose from the following:	15
POL 30000	MAY 4 1970 AND ITS AFTERMATH	
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 (DIVD)	
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 (DIVD)	
POL 40620	POLITICS OF SOCIAL MOVEMENTS (DIVD)	
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

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
	Political Science Upper-Division Electives (POL 30000 or 40000 level)	15
	Concentration Elective, choose from the following:	3
POL 40191	SEMINAR IN AMERICAN POLITICS (WIC) ¹	
POL 40391	SEMINAR IN PUBLIC POLICY (WIC) ¹	
POL 40591	SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS-COMPARATIVE POLITICS (WIC) ¹	
	Minimum Total Credit Hours:	18

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

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

International Relations— Comparative Politics Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
POL 40591	SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS-COMPARATIVE POLITICS (WIC) ¹	3
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		15
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 30570	PALESTINE AND ISRAEL	
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

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
POL 40391	SEMINAR IN PUBLIC POLICY (WIC) ¹	3
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		15
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	
POL 40470	WOMEN, POLITICS AND POLICY (DIVD)	
POL 40840	COMPARATIVE FOREIGN POLICY	
POL 40930	U.S. FOREIGN POLICY	
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		18

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Minimum Major GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
2.000	2.000

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.¹ To complete the requirement, students have the equivalent of Elementary I and II in any language, plus one of the following options:

- Intermediate I and II of the same language²
- Elementary I and II of a second language
- Any combination of two courses from the following list:

- Intermediate I of the same language
- MCLS 10001 INTRODUCTION TO STRUCTURAL CONCEPTS FOR LANGUAGE STUDENTS
- MCLS 20091 VARIABLE CONTENT SEMINAR IN GLOBAL LITERACY: CASE STUDIES
- MCLS 21417 MULTICULTURALISM IN TODAY'S GERMANY (DIVG)
- MCLS 28404 THE LATIN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE (DIVG)

¹ 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.

² 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.

General Electives	12
Credit Hours	15
Minimum Total Credit Hours:	120

Semester One		Credits
POL 10100	AMERICAN POLITICS (DIVD) (KSS)	3
or	or PUBLIC POLICY	
POL 10300		
UC 10097	DESTINATION KENT STATE: FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE	1
Foreign Language		4
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours		14
Semester Two		
POL 10004	COMPARATIVE POLITICS (DIVG) (KSS)	3
or	or WORLD POLITICS (DIVG) (KSS)	
POL 10500		
Foreign Language		4
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours		16
Semester Three		
POL 30002	POLITICAL THOUGHT	3
or	or POLITICAL ECONOMY	
POL 30003		
Foreign Language		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours		15
Semester Four		
Concentration Electives		6
Foreign Language		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours		15
Semester Five		
POL 30001	RESEARCH METHODS (ELR)	3
Concentration Electives		6
College General Requirement		3
College General Requirement		3
Credit Hours		15
Semester Six		
Political Science (POL) Elective		3
Concentration Elective		3
Kent Core Requirement or General Elective		3
General Electives		6
Credit Hours		15
Semester Seven		
Political Science (POL) Upper-Division Elective (30000 or 40000 level)		3
General Electives		12
Credit Hours		15
Semester Eight		
Concentration Seminar Requirement		3