

POLITICAL SCIENCE - B.A.

College of Sciences and Humanities
 Department of Political Science
 www.kent.edu/polisci

About This Program

The Bachelor of Arts in Political Science offers a broad understanding of the political system, both domestically and internationally. With a flexible curriculum, knowledgeable faculty and experiential learning opportunities, you will be equipped with the skills needed for a wide range of careers in the field. Read more...

Contact Information

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- Speak with an Advisor
- Chat with an Admissions Counselor

Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
 - Mostly online (General and Public Policy concentrations)
 - In person (all concentrations)
- **Location:**
 - Kent Campus

Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries*

Political scientists

- -3.1% decline
- 6,500 number of jobs
- \$139,380 potential earnings

Social science research assistants

- 4.4% about as fast as the average
- 40,600 number of jobs
- \$58,040 potential earnings

Political science teachers, postsecondary

- 2.0% slower than the average
- 21,800 number of jobs
- \$94,680 potential earnings

Secondary school teachers, except special and career/technical education

- -1.6% decline
- 1,094,500 number of jobs
- \$64,580 potential earnings

* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at

which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

Admission Requirements

The university affirmatively strives to provide educational opportunities and access to students with varied backgrounds, those with special talents and adult students.

First-Year Students on the Kent Campus: First-year admission policy on the Kent Campus is selective. Admission decisions are based upon cumulative grade point average, strength of high school college preparatory curriculum and grade trends. Students not admissible to the Kent Campus may be administratively referred to one of the seven regional campuses to begin their college coursework. For more information, visit the admissions website for first-year students.

First-Year Students on the Regional Campuses: First-year admission to Kent State's campuses at Ashtabula, East Liverpool, Geauga, Salem, Stark, Trumbull and Tuscarawas, as well as the Twinsburg Academic Center, is open to anyone with a high school diploma or its equivalent. For more information on admissions, contact the Regional Campuses admissions offices.

International Students: All international students must provide proof of proficiency of the English language (unless they meet specific exceptions) through the submission of an English language proficiency test score or by completing English language classes at Kent State's English as a Second Language Center before entering their program. For more information, visit the admissions website for international students.

Former Students: Former Kent State students who have not attended another institution since Kent State and were not academically dismissed will complete the re-enrollment process through the Financial, Billing and Enrollment Center. Former students who attended another college or university since leaving Kent State must apply for admissions as a transfer or post-undergraduate student.

Transfer Students: Students who attended an educational institution after graduating from high school or earning their GED must apply as transfer students. For more information, visit the admissions website for transfer students.

Admission policies for undergraduate students may be found in the University Catalog's Academic Policies.

Students may be required to meet certain criteria to progress in their program. Any progression requirements will be listed on the program's Coursework tab

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
POL 10004	COMPARATIVE POLITICS (KSS)	3
or POL 10500	WORLD POLITICS (KSS)	
POL 10101	AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (CIV) (KSS) ¹	3
or POL 10300	PUBLIC POLICY	
POL 30001	RESEARCH METHODS (ELR) ²	3
POL 30002	POLITICAL THOUGHT	3
or POL 30003	POLITICAL ECONOMY	

POL 40191	SEMINAR IN AMERICAN POLITICS (WIC) ³	3
or POL 40391	SEMINAR IN PUBLIC POLICY (WIC)	
or POL 40591	SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS-COMPARATIVE POLITICS (WIC)	
Political Science (POL) Elective		3
Political Science (POL) Upper-Division Elective (30000 or 40000 level)		3
Additional Requirements (courses do not count in major GPA)		
UC 10001	FLASHES 101	1
Foreign Language (see Foreign Language College Requirement below)		10-16
American Civic Literacy Requirement ⁴		3
Kent Core Composition		6
Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning		3
Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (minimum one course from each) ⁴		6-9
Kent Core Social Sciences (must be from two disciplines)		3
Kent Core Basic Sciences (must include one laboratory)		6-7
Kent Core Additional ^{1,4}		3-6
General Electives (total credit hours depends on earning 120 credit hours, including 39 upper-division credit hours)		40
Concentrations		
Choose from the following:		15
American Politics		
General		
International Relations - Comparative Politics		
Public Policy		
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		120

- ¹ Students who choose POL 10101 must take 3 credit hours of Kent Core Additional. Students who choose POL 10300 must take 6 credit hours of Kent Core Additional.
- ² Students in a double major with either Sociology or Criminology and Justice Studies may substitute SOC 32220 and SOC 32221 for POL 30001.
- ³ A minimum C grade must be earned to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement.
- ⁴ If students complete the American Civic Literacy requirement by taking HIST 12061, the course will apply to the Kent Core Humanities category. If they complete it with POL 10101, the course will apply to the Kent Core Additional category.

American Politics Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		15
POL 10200	INTRODUCTION TO THE AMERICAN LEGAL PROFESSION	
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	
POL 40440	U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICIES	
POL 40450	HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL POLICY	
POL 40470	WOMEN, POLITICS AND POLICY	
POL 40620	POLITICS OF SOCIAL MOVEMENTS	
POL 40930	U.S. FOREIGN POLICY	
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		15

General Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
Political Science (POL) Upper-Division Electives (30000 or 40000 level)		15
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		15

International Relations - Comparative Politics Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		15
POL 30500	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY	
POL 30520	EUROPEAN POLITICS	
POL 30530	ASIAN POLITICS	
POL 30540	AFRICAN POLITICS	
POL 30550	LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS	
POL 30560	MIDDLE EAST POLITICS	
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	
POL 40560	HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE	
POL 40620	POLITICS OF SOCIAL MOVEMENTS	
POL 40840	COMPARATIVE FOREIGN POLICY	
POL 40930	U.S. FOREIGN POLICY	
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		15

Public Policy Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		15
POL 10200	INTRODUCTION TO THE AMERICAN LEGAL PROFESSION	
POL 30301	INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	
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 40440	U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICIES
POL 40450	HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL POLICY
POL 40470	WOMEN, POLITICS AND POLICY
POL 40840	COMPARATIVE FOREIGN POLICY
POL 40930	U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 15

Graduation Requirements

Minimum Major GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
2.000	2.000

Foreign Language College Requirement, B.A.

Students pursuing the Bachelor of Arts degree* in the College of Sciences and Humanities must complete the following:

1. Elementary I and II of any language (or equivalent) **and**
2. One of the following options:
 - a. Intermediate I and II of the same language
 - b. Elementary I and II of a second language
 - c. Any combination of two courses from the following list:
 - i. Intermediate I of the same language
 - ii. One to two college-level course(s) completed outside the United States
 - iii. Courses: ARAB 21401, ASL 19401, CHIN 25421, MCLS 10001, MCLS 20001, MCLS 20091, MCLS 21417, MCLS 21420, MCLS 22217, MCLS 28403, MCLS 28404

*The Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies is exempt from the foreign language requirement until fall 2028 due to its previous longstanding academic placement in the College of Communication and Information, which does not have a foreign language requirement.

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 start beyond the Elementary I level and will complete the requirement with fewer courses. This may be accomplished in one of three ways:

1. Passing a course beyond Elementary I through Intermediate II level
2. Receiving credit through one of the alternative credit programs offered by Kent State University
3. Demonstrating language proficiency comparable to Elementary II of a foreign language

Certain programs 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 a particular language proficiency.

Roadmap

This roadmap is a recommended semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. Students will work with their advisor to develop a sequence based on their academic goals and history. Courses designated as critical (!) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation.

Semester One		Credits
POL 10101	AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (CIV) (KSS) or or PUBLIC POLICY	3
POL 10300		
UC 10001	FLASHES 101	1
Foreign Language		4
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours		14

Semester Two		Credits
POL 10004	COMPARATIVE POLITICS (KSS) or or WORLD POLITICS (KSS)	3
POL 10500		
Foreign Language		4
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours		16

Semester Three		Credits
POL 30002	POLITICAL THOUGHT or or POLITICAL ECONOMY	3
POL 30003		
Foreign Language and/or General Elective		3
American Civic Literacy Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours		15

Semester Four		Credits
Concentration Electives		6
Foreign Language and/or General Elective		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Credit Hours		15

Semester Five		Credits
POL 30001	RESEARCH METHODS (ELR)	3
Concentration Electives		6
General Electives		6
Credit Hours		15

Semester Six		Credits
Political Science (POL) Elective		3
Concentration Elective		3
Kent Core Requirement or General Elective		3
General Electives		6
Credit Hours		15

Semester Seven		Credits
Political Science (POL) Upper-Division Elective (30000 or 40000 level)		3
General Electives		12
Credit Hours		15

Semester Eight		Credits
POL 40191	SEMINAR IN AMERICAN POLITICS (WIC) or or SEMINAR IN PUBLIC POLICY (WIC)	3
POL 40391	or SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS- COMPARATIVE POLITICS (WIC)	
POL 40591		

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

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.

Flashes 101 (UC 10001)	1 credit hour
Course is not required for students with 30+ transfer credits (excluding College Credit Plus) or age 21+ at time of admission.	
American Civic Literacy	3 credit hours
Experiential Learning Requirement (ELR)	varies
Students must successfully complete one course or approved experience.	
Kent Core (see table below)	36-37 credit hours
Writing-Intensive Course (WIC)	1 course
Students must earn a minimum C grade in the course.	
Upper-Division Requirement	39 credit hours
Students must successfully complete 39 upper-division (numbered 30000 to 49999) credit hours to graduate.	
Total Credit Hour Requirement	120 credit hours

Kent Core Requirements

Kent Core Composition (KCOMP)	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 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.

Program Policies

Foreign Language Requirements

In general, students may elect any foreign language taught through the Department of Modern and Classical Language Studies. However, certain

majors, concentrations and minors require specific languages or limit the languages from which students may choose. In addition, students who plan to pursue graduate study may need particular languages for that study. In such cases, students should seek the advice of the appropriate department before selecting a language.

Progress Toward Fulfillment

College of Sciences and Humanities students are encouraged to begin meeting the foreign language requirement as early as possible in their program to ensure timely degree completion.

Mandatory Outcomes Assessment

In addition to the other General Requirements of the college, candidates for an undergraduate degree in the College of Sciences and Humanities are required, as a condition of graduation, to participate in an outcomes assessment. These outcomes assessments are conducted by each undergraduate degree program in the College of Sciences and Humanities.

Full 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. Many also 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, Middle East, 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.