

Political Science Major - Bachelor of Science (BS)

Political science is the study of governments, policies, institutions, and the behavior of participants in the political world. Using humanistic and scientific approaches, as well as qualitative and quantitative methods, the field of political science examines political structures both inside and outside government with the goal of better understanding how they function, and the ways in which they change the world over time. The study of political science includes four subfields of specialization: American government and politics, international relations, comparative politics, and political theory.

Online option

All courses required in the political science major are available to be taken online. Students interested in completing the major requirements online should contact the department for more information.

Major requirements

(All colleges, excluding teacher certification programs)

30 credits, at least 15 credits of which must be at the 300/400 level.

Code	Title	Credits
Political science foundation:		
POL 101	American National Government	3
Select one course from:		
POL 202	Contemporary Global Issues ¹	3
POL 234	Comparative Politics	
POL 244	International Relations	
POL 251	Political Theory	3
Select one course from:		
POL 261	Political Inquiry and Analysis ²	3
POL 361	Research Methods in Politics and Government ³	3
POL 494	Capstone Seminar in Politics and Government	3
Political science areas of inquiry:		
Select three credits at the 300/400 level in three of the following four areas of inquiry (see lists below):		9
American government		
Comparative politics		
International relations		
Political theory		
Political science electives:		
Select an additional six credits of electives from political science (POL) or public administration (PUB) courses not used to satisfy the above requirements.		6
Total Credits		30

¹ Students may not take POL 202 Contemporary Global Issues (3 cr.) if they have already taken ANT 202, ECO 202, GEO 202, HIS 202, or SOC 202 Contemporary Global Issues (3 cr.). Instead, these students must take either POL 234 Comparative Politics (3 cr.) or POL 244 International Relations (3 cr.) to satisfy this requirement.

- ² Students who complete POL 261 Political Inquiry and Analysis (3 cr.) to satisfy this requirement must take at least three credits of 300/400-level electives.
- ³ STAT 145 Elementary Statistics (4 cr.) is a required prerequisite of POL 361 Research Methods in Politics and Government (3 cr.).

A maximum of three credits from each repeatable political science (POL) or public administration (PUB) course may be applied to the political science major.

Political science majors may count a maximum of nine credits towards a public administration major or six credits towards a public administration minor.

American government

Code	Title	Credits
POL 301	American Presidency	3
POL 302	Legislative Process	3
POL 303	Wisconsin Government and Politics	3
POL 304	Politics and the Media	3
POL 305	Political Parties	3
POL 306	Judicial Process	3
POL 307	Political Language and Communications	3
POL 308	Interest Group Politics	3
POL 309	Identity Politics	3
POL 310	Public Opinion and Political Behavior	3
POL 326	Mock Trial I: Trial Advocacy	3
POL 329	Mock Trial II: Preparation	2
POL 370	Constitutional Law I: Powers of Government	3
POL 371	Constitutional Law II: The First Amendment	3
POL 372	Constitutional Law III: Racial, Gender and Targeted Group Discrimination	3
POL 373	Constitutional Law IV: Rights of the Accused	3
POL 374	Constitutional Law V: Right to Life	3
POL 375	Constitutional Law VI: Criminal Procedure	3
POL 376	Constitutional Law VII: Administrative Law	3
POL 377	Constitutional Law VIII: 1787 and Original Intent	3

Comparative politics

Code	Title	Credits
POL 330	Politics of Developing Areas	3
POL 331	Politics of Democratization	3
POL 333	Asian Government and Politics	3
POL 334	Post-Communist Politics	3
POL 336	Middle Eastern Government and Politics	3
POL 337	African Government and Politics	3
POL 338	European Government and Politics	3
POL 339	Contemporary Latin America	3
POL 433	Women and Politics in Asia	3
POL 436	Women and Politics in the Middle East	3
POL 437	Women and Politics in Africa	3
POL 439	Women and Politics in Latin America	3

International relations

Code	Title	Credits
POL 340	American Foreign Policy	3

POL 341	America and the World	3
POL 344	Global Governance	3
POL 345	International Law	3
POL 346	Model UN: The United Nations System	3
POL 446	Model UN: International Diplomacy	3

Political theory

Code	Title	Credits
POL 350	American Political Theory	3
POL 351	Classical Political Theory	3
POL 353	Modern and Contemporary Political Theory	3
POL 355	Political Ideologies	3

Elective courses

Code	Title	Credits
POL 102	State and Local Government	3
POL 201	Introduction to Political Science	3
POL 205	Women and Politics	3
POL 212	Search for Economic Justice	3
POL 215	Politics and Film	3
POL 221	The American Legal System	3
POL 222	Law, Governance and Politics	3
POL 250	Leadership and Engagement	1-2
POL 400	Political Forum	2-3
POL 450	Internship in Political Science	1-12
POL 451	Internship in Criminal Justice	3
POL 498	Honors/Graduate Research in Politics and Government	2-3
POL 499	Independent Study in Political Science	1-3
PUB 210	Introduction to Public Administration	3
PUB 320	Public Budgeting and Finance	3
PUB 330	Public Policy	3
PUB 332	Urban Policy	3
PUB 334	Health Policy	3
PUB 338	Environmental Policy	3
PUB 340	Public Personnel Administration	3
PUB 342	Urban Administration	3
PUB 344	Health Administration	3
PUB 346	Ethical Decision Making in Government	3
PUB 450	Internship in Public Administration	1-12
PUB 451	Civic Engagement and the Wisconsin Idea	3
PUB 453	Nonprofit Organizations	3

Degree requirements

All students must complete the general education, college core, major/minor, and university degree requirements in order to qualify for a degree. The easiest way to track all of these requirements is to refer to the Advisement Report (AR) found in the Student Information System (WINGS) Student Center. All enrolled students have access to the AR.

- General education (<http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/generaleducation>)
- College core (p. 2)
- Baccalaureate degree requirements (p. 2)

College of Liberal Studies (CLS/SAC) Bachelor of Science core requirements

The following conditions apply to one or both Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees:

1. Students majoring in English or in a modern language must earn a Bachelor of Arts degree (education majors earn a Bachelor of Science degree).
2. Students majoring in other CLS programs may choose either a B.A. or a B.S. degree.
3. Language courses (CHI, FRE, GER, RUS, SPA, MLG) used to fulfill general education requirement: "Mathematical/logical systems and modern languages" (GE 02, category 2) may also be used to meet the B.A. and B.S. language requirements.
4. All other courses used to meet the requirements below must be in addition to the minimum 39 credits required in the General Education Program.
5. At least one course in the B.A. or B.S. college degree program (core requirements) must be a CLS designated diversity course.
6. Applicable courses may be found on the CLS B.A./B.S. Degree Option Course List (https://www.uwlax.edu/uploadedFiles/Academics/Colleges_Schools/CLS/CLS%20SAC%20BA%20BS%20Core%20Course%20List%20Updated%20-%20Fall%202015.pdf) or in the Advisement Report (AR) when the degree has been declared.

Courses used to fulfill general education requirements will not apply to core requirements except for language courses (CHI, FRE, GER, RUS, SPA, MLG) that count in the general education requirement: "Mathematical/logical systems and modern languages" (GE 02, category 2).

Bachelor of Science students complete four courses outside the department of the student's major as follows:

1. A lab science course (from the general education list); and
2. A social science course; and
3. Another social science or general education natural science, or math course, or an approved CLS alternative (ENV 201, PHL 334, PHL 339); and
4. One additional course in humanities or fine arts or complete a modern language course 102 level or higher.

In addition to all other College of Liberal Studies core requirements, all students in CLS must complete a second major, minor, or program option by satisfying one of the following:

1. Complete a minor (or second major) outside of the student's major program, consisting of at least 18 credits; or
2. Complete an emphasis, program or concentration of at least 18 credits outside the student's major program. General education courses may apply provided they are not being used to fulfill minimum general education requirements; or
3. Complete 18 credits in two or more departments or programs (at least 12 credits earned at the 300/400 level). These courses must be outside the student's major department and can be from any college. General education courses may apply provided they are not being used to fulfill minimum general education requirements.

Baccalaureate degree requirements

Candidates for the Bachelor of Arts or the Bachelor of Science degrees must accomplish the following:

1. Fulfill the general education requirements.
2. Complete at least one ethnic studies (diversity) course.
3. Complete the courses prescribed by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee for the degree desired in the respective school or college. (No substitutions for graduation may be made in course requirements for a major or minor after the fourth week of the last semester of the senior year.)
4. Earn a minimum of 120 semester credits with at least a 2.00 cumulative GPA.¹ At least 40 credits must be earned in 300/400 (senior college) level courses. Courses earned at the 100/200 level that transferred to UWL as 300/400 level courses do not apply to this requirement nor do courses from two-year schools.
5. Complete major and minor requirements with at least a 2.00 GPA¹ in each major and minor (and concentration or emphasis, if selected).
6. A minimum of 30 semester credits in residence at UWL is required for graduation. (See undergraduate resident requirement (<http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/academicpolicies/graduation/#undergraduate-residence-requirement>)).
7. Submit an application for graduation via the "Apply for Graduation" link in the WINGS Student Center as soon as the student has registered for his or her final semester or summer term in residence. December and winter intersession graduates should apply by May 1. May and summer graduates should apply by December 1.

¹ Grade point average requirements for some programs will be considerably higher than 2.00. Re-entering students may be required to earn credits in excess of the 120 needed for graduation in any curriculum in order to replace credits earned in courses in which the content has changed substantially in recent years. Each case will be judged on its own merit.

No degree will be awarded unless all requirements are fulfilled and recorded within 30 days after the official ending date of each term.

Sample degree plan

Below is a sample degree plan that can be used as a guide to identify courses required to fulfill the major and other requirements needed for degree completion. A student's actual degree plan may differ depending on the course of study selected (second major, minor, etc.). Also, this sample plan assumes readiness for each course and/or major plan, and some courses may not be offered every term. Review the course descriptions or the class timetable (<http://www.uwlax.edu/Records/registration>) for course offering information.

The sample degree plans represented in this catalog are intended for first-year students entering UWL in the fall term. Students should use the Advisement Report (AR) in WINGS (<https://wings.uwlax.edu/psprod/?cmd=login&languageCd=ENG&>) and work closely with their faculty advisor(s) and college dean's office to ensure declaration and completion of all requirements in a timely manner.

General Education Program

The general education curriculum (Gen Ed) is the common educational experience for all undergraduates at UWL. Sample degree plans include Gen Ed placeholders to ensure completion of the general education requirements. Courses may be rearranged to fit the needs or recommendations of the student's program of study. Gen Ed courses may be taken during winter term (January between the semesters) and summer to reduce the course load during regular terms (fall and spring).

Students should consult with their advisor and/or the assistant to the dean of their college for assistance with course and schedule planning. Refer to the general education requirements (<http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/generaleducation>) for more specific details.

Note: at least 40 credits of the 120 credits required must be earned at the 300/400 level.

This sample degree plan does not establish a contractual agreement. It identifies the minimum requirements a student must successfully complete, to qualify for a degree, in a format intended to assist the student plan their academic career. Actual degree plans may differ.

Year 1		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
POL 101 (Gen Ed Self & Society)	3 POL 251	3
Gen Ed Health & Well Being	3 Gen Ed Minority Cultures	3
Gen Ed Arts	2-3 ENG 110 or 112 (Gen Ed Literacy - Written)	3
STAT 145 (Gen Ed Math)	4 HIS 101, 102, or ARC 200	3
CST 110 (Gen Ed Literacy - Oral)	3 Gen Ed Natural Lab Science	4
15		16
Year 2		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
POL 234 or 202 (or POL 244 (Gen Ed Global Studies))	3 POL 361 or 261 ¹	3
CLS Core Course	3 CLS Core Course	3
Gen Ed Elective	3 Minor Course	3
Gen Ed Lang/Logical Systems	3-4 Gen Ed Elective	3
Gen Ed Arts	2-3 University Elective	3
16		15
Year 3		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Gen Ed Hum-Lit	3 Minor Course	3
Minor Course	3 POL Elective	3
CLS Core Course (Natural Lab Science)	4 Minor Course	3
POL 300/400 Areas of Inquiry	3 CLS Core Course	3
University Elective	3 POL 300/400 Areas of Inquiry	3
16		15
Year 4		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Minor Course	3 POL 494	3
POL 300/400 Elective	3 University Elective	3
University Elective	3 Minor Course	3
POL 300/400 Areas of Inquiry	3 University Elective	3
	University Elective	3
12		15
Total Credits: 120		

¹ Political science majors have the option of taking POL 261 or POL 361; however, students considering graduate school are encouraged to take both.