

# POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Political Science major prepares students for a wide range of careers in government, non-governmental organizations, politics, law, and the private sector. Students take coursework in areas as diverse as American and comparative politics, political theory, international relations, public policy, and public administration.

## About this Program

- **College:** Liberal Arts and Sciences (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/>)
- **Degree:** Bachelor of Arts
- **Credits for Degree:** 120
- **More Info**

To graduate with this major, students must complete all university, college, and major requirements.

## Department Information

The Department of Political Science provides a high-quality educational program for undergraduate students as well as a rigorous honors program. The department also offers a highly selective graduate education ranging from innovative MA programs to a comprehensive PhD program.

**Website** (<https://polisci.ufl.edu/>)

## CONTACT

352.392.0262 (tel) | 352.392.8127 (fax)

P.O. Box 117325  
234 ANDERSON HALL  
GAINESVILLE FL 32611-7325  
Map (<http://campusmap.ufl.edu/#/index/0007>)

## Curriculum

- Combination Degrees
- International Relations Certificate
- Political Campaigning Certificate
- Political Science
- Public Affairs Certificate

Political Science majors are encouraged to serve in a political internship and participate in an overseas studies program. There are also numerous opportunities for students to conduct independent research with faculty. Recent graduates serve throughout federal, state and local government, attend law and graduate school, and work in the non-profit and private sectors.

Students leave the major with an understanding of how politics and government operate, an appreciation for the values governments pursue, and the critical and analytic skills necessary for understanding the empirical and normative dimensions of the political world.

## requirements for the Major

Majors must complete 30 credits of political science coursework, plus STA 2023.

*All major courses must be completed with minimum grades of C. A minimum of 15 credits of political science courses (of the 30 required) must be completed at UF, per the department's residency requirement.*

## Required Major Coursework

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Political Science Core Courses</b>		
Complete 3 of the 4 core courses:		
CPO 2001	Comparative Politics Introduction (Gen Ed Social and Behavioral Sciences and International)	9
INR 2001	Introduction to International Relations (Gen Ed Social and Behavioral Sciences and International)	
POS 2041	American Federal Government (Gen Ed Social and Behavioral Sciences)	
POT 2002	Introduction to Political Theory (Gen Ed Humanities)	
<b>Political Science Major Electives</b> <sup>1,2</sup>		
3000-level or higher Political Science courses		18
<i>Total Political Science Major Coursework: 30</i>		
<b>Required Related Coursework</b>		

**Total Credits****30**<sup>1</sup> No more than three credits of POS 4905 (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/search/?P=POS%204905>)<sup>2</sup> No more than three credits of POS 4940 (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/search/?P=POS%204940>) (graded S/U)**Recommended Coursework**

The following centers and programs are affiliated with the Department of Political Science. Many of them offer minors or certificates that complement a degree in Political Science.

**The Bob Graham Center for Public Service**

A community of students, scholars, and politically engaged citizens devoted to enhanced citizenship; the training of current and future public and civic leaders who can identify problems and spearhead change; and the development of policy on issues of importance to Florida, the United States, and the global community. The center offers a minor in Public Leadership, an interdisciplinary program of study that provides students with the skills and knowledge critical to serving as effective and ethical public leaders.

More Info ([https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/PBS\\_UMN/](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/PBS_UMN/))

**More Info**

The Bob Graham Center was established in 2006 with the goal of creating a community of students, scholars, and citizens who share a commitment to revitalizing the civic culture of Florida and the nation. Former Governor and U. S. Senator Bob Graham founded the Center as a place where students acquire the skills and knowledge to become informed citizens, with the expressed purpose of strengthening the nation's democratic institutions.

**Website** (<http://www.bobgrahamcenter.ufl.edu/>)

**CONTACT**

Email ([graham-events@clas.ufl.edu](mailto:graham-events@clas.ufl.edu)) | 352.846.1575

220 PUGH HALL

GAINESVILLE FL 32611-2030

Map (<http://campusmap.ufl.edu/#/index/0072>)

**Curriculum**

*No results were found.*

**The Center for African Studies**

Promotes excellence in teaching and research on Africa in all disciplines at the University of Florida. In addition to undergraduate education, the center promotes and supports graduate studies as essential for the development of a continuing community of Africanist scholars. The center has over 100 affiliated teaching and research faculty in a variety of fields, including languages, the humanities, the social sciences, agriculture, business, engineering, education, fine arts, environmental studies and conservation, journalism, and law. The center offers an African Studies minor that provides a multidisciplinary grounding in an important world area for those who want to pursue careers in a range of professions as well as for those who intend to go on to graduate school.

More Info ([https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/AFS\\_UMN/](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/AFS_UMN/))

**More Info**

As a National Resource Center for African Studies, the mission of the center is to promote excellence in teaching and research on Africa in all the disciplines at the University of Florida. The Center for African Studies also disseminates knowledge about Africa to the wider community through an integrated outreach program to schools, colleges, community groups, and businesses.

More Info (<https://africa.ufl.edu/>)

**CONTACT**

Email ([tleedy@ufl.edu](mailto:tleedy@ufl.edu)) | 352.392.2183 (tel.) | 352.392.2435 (fax)

PO Box 115560

427 GRINTER HALL

GAINESVILLE FL 32611-5560

Map (<http://campusmap.ufl.edu/#/index/0002>)

**Curriculum**

- African Studies Minor

**The Center for European Studies**

Designed to assist in the development of area and language skills among students through fostering rich academic and cultural environments, including broad language and areas studies courses, degree options, and study abroad opportunities. It also fosters greater international awareness in

the broader community through educational programs for state and local government, business organizations, K-12 students and teachers, the media and the general public. The center offers a

- European Union Studies certificate ([https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/LAS\\_UCT03/](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/LAS_UCT03/)) and minor ([https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/EUS\\_UMN/](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/EUS_UMN/)), which are designed to give students the opportunity to gain European Union expertise through multidisciplinary coursework.
- East-Central European Studies certificate ([https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/LAS\\_UCT02/](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/LAS_UCT02/)) and minor ([https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/EEU\\_UMN/](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/EEU_UMN/)), which give students the opportunity to study Eastern and Central Europe from an interdisciplinary perspective that incorporates both area and language studies.

## More Info

The Center for European Studies (CES), housed within the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (CLAS), is an interdisciplinary area studies center focused on the study of Europe, and facilitating the training of scholars and experts in European studies in the United States. In addition to the minors and certificates shown below, the center offers study abroad programs in Europe and various scholarships and grants for undergraduates.

**Website** (<https://ces.ufl.edu/>)

## CONTACT

Email ([academicprograms@ces.ufl.edu](mailto:academicprograms@ces.ufl.edu)) | 352.294.7142 (tel) | 352.392.8966 (fax)

P.O. Box 117342  
3324 TURLINGTON HALL  
GAINESVILLE FL 32611-7342  
Map (<http://campusmap.ufl.edu/#/index/0267>)

## Curriculum

- East-Central European Studies Minor
- European Union Studies Certificate
- European Union Studies Minor

## The Center for Jewish Studies

Provides an undergraduate, interdepartmental curriculum that serves as a basis for understanding the broad spectrum of Jewish culture, religion, and civilization. The center offers both a major and minor ([https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/JST\\_UMN/](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/JST_UMN/)) through the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. These may serve as preparation for graduate work in Jewish studies and the rabbinate, as background for a career in Jewish education or community service, or as an area of special interest which enriches the undergraduate experience.

## More Info

The Bud Shorstein Center for Jewish Studies promotes academic study of Jewish culture, history, and politics for all students at the University of Florida. The Center's curriculum encourages critical thinking, textual analysis, research, oral argumentation, and writing. The Center has scholarship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, as well as study abroad opportunities.

**Website** (<https://jst.ufl.edu/>)

## CONTACT

Center Email ([center@jst.ufl.edu](mailto:center@jst.ufl.edu)) | Director Email ([goda@ufl.edu](mailto:goda@ufl.edu)) | 352.392.9247

P.O. Box 118020  
1120 Turlington Hall  
GAINESVILLE FL 32611-8020  
Map (<http://campusmap.ufl.edu/#/index/0003>)

## Curriculum

- European Jewish Studies Certificate
- Hebrew
- Holocaust Studies Certificate
- Israel Studies Certificate
- Jewish Studies
- Jewish Studies Minor

## The Center for Latin American Studies

Advances knowledge about Latin America and the Caribbean and enhances the scope and quality of Latin American studies at the University of Florida. The center administers an interdisciplinary graduate and undergraduate academic program in Latin American Studies as well as a minor

([https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/LAM\\_UMN/](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/LAM_UMN/)) and certificate ([https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/LAS\\_UCT08/](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/LAS_UCT08/)).

## More Info

The Center for Latin American Studies advances knowledge about Latin America and the Caribbean and its peoples throughout the Hemisphere, enhances the scope and quality of research, teaching, and outreach in Latin American, Caribbeans and Latinx Studies.

**Website** (<http://www.latam.ufl.edu/>)

## CONTACT

Email ([Communications@latam.ufl.edu](mailto:Communications@latam.ufl.edu)) | 352.273.4705 (tel) | 352.392.7682 (fax)

P.O. Box 115530  
319 GRINTER HALL  
GAINESVILLE FL 32611-5530  
Map (<http://campusmap.ufl.edu/#/index/0002>)

## Curriculum

- [/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/IDS\\_BA\\_BS/IDS\\_BA12/](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/IDS_BA_BS/IDS_BA12/)
- Combination Degrees
- Latin American Studies Certificate
- Latin American Studies Minor

## The Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Research

An interdisciplinary forum for the study of gender and sexualities, their intersections with race/ethnicity, class, and other sociocultural systems. The Center's core faculty members have expertise in gender, race/ethnicity, and sexualities/LGBTQ+ studies; feminist intersectional analysis; transnational and postcolonial feminist analysis; Chicana/o, Latina/o, Afro-Latino Studies, Haitian and Caribbean studies; and cultural and literary studies. They apply this expertise in the study of critical domains such as collective identity and activism, health and medicine, law and politics, immigration, work, leadership and business, history, literatures and cultures, media and art, and social movements. In addition, the Center has over 100 affiliate faculty members with wide-ranging expertise and course offerings. Besides the major ([https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/WMS\\_BA/](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/WMS_BA/)) in Women's Studies, students may pursue one of three minors: Women's Studies ([https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/WMS\\_UMN/](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/WMS_UMN/)), Theories and Politics of Sexuality ([https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/TPS\\_UMN/](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/TPS_UMN/)), and Health Disparities in Society ([https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/HDS\\_UMN/](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/HDS_UMN/)).

## More Info

The Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies offers academic programs, grants graduate and undergraduate degrees, and advances research in the discipline. Faculty in the department successfully compete for national fellowships and grants, win research and teaching awards, and produce rigorous and transformative research.

**Website** (<http://wst.ufl.edu/>)

## CONTACT

Email ([undergrad@wst.ufl.edu](mailto:undergrad@wst.ufl.edu)) | 352.392.3365 (tel) | 352.392.4873 (fax)

P.O. Box 117352  
200 USTLER HALL  
GAINESVILLE FL 32611-7352  
Map (<http://campusmap.ufl.edu/#/index/0014>)

## Curriculum

- Combination Degrees
- Community Engagement Certificate
- Data, Science, and Technology in Sociocultural Contexts Certificate
- Health Disparities in Society Minor
- Theories and Politics of Sexuality Minor
- Violence Against Women Certificate
- Women's Studies
- Women's Studies Minor

## Combination Degree Program

The combination bachelor's/master's degree program is designed for superior students who have the ability to pursue an accelerated program in political science leading to the Master of Arts in Political Science. This program is not generally recommended for students considering a PhD

program in Political Science at UF. Admission to the combination-degree program is highly competitive and therefore very limited numbers of students are approved for this program.

Students in the combination program may pursue the general MA in Political Science or certificates in Public Affairs or Political Campaigning. Up to 12 semester credits of approved graduate-level political science courses can be used as dual credit for both degrees. All other requirements for the bachelor's and the master's degrees must be satisfied. For more application process information, contact the undergraduate and graduate coordinators in the Department of Political Science.

- Combination Degrees

## Overseas Studies

Majors are encouraged to seek out opportunities for international study, during the summer or for the academic year. The credit generally will be applied toward the major and the degree. Contact the undergraduate coordinator about credit for study abroad. Visit the UF International Center in room 170 of the Hub for more information.

## Relevant Minors and Certificates

### International Relations Certificate

Political Science and non-major students who are interested in international relations can pursue undergraduate training in two ways: through an interdisciplinary major in International Studies that includes courses on comparative politics and international relations or through a certificate in international relations. Credits earned toward the certificate also count toward the political science major. More information can be found under interdisciplinary studies majors listing and certificate programs.

- International Relations Certificate

### Political Campaigning Certificate

The Department of Political Science offers a certificate in Political Campaigning to its undergraduate majors. The certificate is designed for students who may wish to consider pursuing careers in practical politics, including campaign management, lobbying, issue advocacy, and others. Credits earned toward the certificate also count toward the political science major. Additional information is available on the department website.

- Political Campaigning Certificate

### Public Affairs Certificate

The certificate in Public Affairs is designed for those students interested in a career in or near government. Students take courses in public administration, policy process, policy analysis and one or more substantive policy courses in foreign policy, education, health, immigration, civil rights, welfare, or environmental protection. Credits earned toward the certificate also count toward the political science major. The certificate is open to non-Political Science majors as well. Additional information is available on the department website.

- Public Affairs Certificate

## Critical Tracking

Critical Tracking records each student's progress in courses that are required for entry to each major. Please note the critical-tracking requirements below on a per-semester basis.

**For degree requirements outside of the major, refer to CLAS Degree Requirements: Structure of a CLAS Degree.**

Equivalent critical-tracking courses as determined by the State of Florida Common Course Prerequisites (<https://cpm.flvc.org/advance-search/>) may be used for transfer students.

## Semester 1

- Complete 1 of 4 political science critical-tracking courses: CPO 2001, INR 2001, POS 2041, or POT 2002
- 2.0 UF GPA required

## Semester 2

- Complete 1 additional political science critical-tracking course or STA 2023 with a 2.25 critical-tracking GPA
- 2.0 UF GPA required

## Semester 3

- Complete 1 additional political science critical-tracking course or STA 2023 with a 2.5 critical-tracking GPA
- 2.0 UF GPA required

## Semester 4

- Complete 3 of 4 political science critical-tracking courses and STA 2023 with a 2.5 critical-tracking GPA
- 2.0 UF GPA required

## Semester 5

- Complete 1 additional political science course at the 3000 level or higher with a minimum grade of C and maintain a 2.5 critical-tracking GPA
- 2.0 UF GPA required

## Semester 6

- Complete 1 additional political science course at the 3000 level or higher with a minimum grade of C and maintain a 2.5 critical-tracking GPA
- 2.0 UF GPA required

## Semester 7

- Complete 1 additional political science course at the 3000 level or higher with a minimum grade of C and maintain a 2.5 critical-tracking GPA
- 2.0 UF GPA required

## Semester 8

- Complete 1 additional political science course at the 3000 level or higher with a minimum grade of C and maintain a 2.5 critical-tracking GPA
- 2.0 UF GPA required

### Model Semester Plan

Students are expected to complete the Writing, Civic Literacy, summer enrollment, and Quest requirements while in the process of taking the courses below. Students are also expected to complete the General Education International (GE-N) requirements concurrently with another General Education requirement (typically, GE-C, H, or S) as part of the CLAS Basic Distribution requirements. One of the two general education mathematics courses must be a pure math course.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences allows students additional flexibility in its Distribution Requirements. Students may count a maximum of 6 credits TOTAL from the CLAS Distribution course lists towards Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, or Biological and Physical Sciences, with no more than 3 credits of Humanities, 3 credits of Social and Behavioral Sciences, or 6 credits of Biological or Physical Sciences.

The full list of major-specific requirements for this major can be found on the Overview tab. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences degree requirements can be found on the college's degree requirements page (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/#degreerequirementstext>).

To remain on track, students must complete the appropriate critical-tracking courses, which appear in bold. These courses must be completed by the terms as listed above in the Critical Tracking criteria.

*This semester plan represents an example progression through the major. Actual courses and course order may be different depending on the student's academic record and scheduling availability of courses. Prerequisites still apply.*

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Semester One</b>		
Select one political science core course ( <b>Critical Tracking</b> ):		3
CPO 2001	Comparative Politics Introduction (Gen Ed Social and Behavioral Sciences)	
INR 2001	Introduction to International Relations (Gen Ed Social and Behavioral Science)	
POS 2041	American Federal Government (State Core Gen Ed Social and Behavioral Sciences ( <a href="https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-programs/general-education/#genedcoursestext">https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-programs/general-education/#genedcoursestext</a> ))	
POT 2002	Introduction to Political Theory (Gen Ed Humanities)	
State Core Gen Ed Composition ( <a href="https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-programs/general-education/#genedcoursestext">https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-programs/general-education/#genedcoursestext</a> ); Writing Requirement		3
State Core Gen Ed Mathematics ( <a href="https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-programs/general-education/#genedcoursestext">https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-programs/general-education/#genedcoursestext</a> )		3
CLAS Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement <sup>1</sup>		4-5
		<b>13-14</b>
<b>Semester Two</b>		
Quest 1		3
Political science core course ( <b>Critical Tracking</b> )		3

State Core Gen Ed Biological or Physical Sciences ( <a href="https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-programs/general-education/#genedcoursestext">https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-programs/general-education/#genedcoursestext</a> )	3
CLAS Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement <sup>1</sup>	3-5
Elective	3
<b>Credits</b>	<b>15-17</b>
<b>Semester Three</b>	
STA 2023 Introduction to Statistics 1 ( <b>Critical Tracking</b> ; Gen Ed Mathematics)	3
Political science core course ( <b>Critical Tracking</b> )	3
Quest 2	3
State Core Gen Ed Humanities	3
Elective (or CLAS Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement if 4-3-3 language option) <sup>1</sup>	3
<b>Credits</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Semester Four</b>	
State Core Gen Ed Social and Behavioral Sciences (if POS2041 not taken previously)	3
Gen Ed Humanities	3
Gen Ed Biological or Physical Sciences (area not taken in semester two)	3
Natural Science Laboratory <sup>2</sup>	1
Electives	6
<b>Credits</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Semester Five</b>	
Gen Ed Biological Sciences	3
Gen Ed Composition; Writing Requirement	3
Electives (3000 level or above, not in major)	3
Political science courses ( <b>Critical Tracking</b> ; 3000/4000 level)	6
<b>Credits</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Semester Six</b>	
Select one:	1
POS 4934 Honors Preparation (department honors, optional)	
Elective	
Gen Ed Physical Sciences	3
Political science courses (3000/4000 level; <b>Critical Tracking</b> )	6
Electives (3000 level or above, not in major)	3
Elective (or Gen Ed Humanities, if needed)	3
<b>Credits</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Semester Seven</b>	
Select one:	3
POS 4734 Research Methods in Political Science (department honors, optional)	
Political science course (3000/4000-level)	
Political science course (3000/4000 level; <b>Critical Tracking</b> )	3
Electives (3000 level or above, not in major) <sup>3</sup>	6
Elective	3
<b>Credits</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Semester Eight</b>	
Select one:	2-4
Political science course (3000/4000 level; <b>Critical Tracking</b> )	
POS 4970 Senior Thesis (department honors, optional)	
Electives (3000 level or above, not in major)	6
Elective (or Gen Ed Social and Behavioral Sciences, if needed)	3
Electives	4
<b>Credits</b>	<b>15-17</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>120</b>

<sup>1</sup> CLAS Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/#degreerequirementstext>)

<sup>2</sup> Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/#degreerequirementstext>)

## Academic Learning Compact

The major in Political Science provides an understanding of how government and politics operate in the US and elsewhere. Students will develop the critical analytic and research skills to study government and politics and be able to articulate information and ideas about government and politics.

## Before Graduating Students Must

- Complete 30 credits of political science coursework with minimum grades of C, including a minimum of 18 credits at the 3000/4000 levels.
- Complete an introductory statistics course.
- Complete two 3000/4000-level political science courses with a writing component, graded by department rubric.
- Complete requirements for the baccalaureate degree, as determined by faculty.

## Students in the Major Will Learn to

### Student Learning Outcomes | SLOs

#### Content

1. Identify, describe, and define basic factual information and analytical concepts concerning political systems.

#### Critical Thinking

2. Analyze political issues and phenomena using political science concepts, theories, and methods through internships and research projects.

#### Communication

3. Use argument and evidence effectively to communicate original analysis of political phenomena.

## Curriculum Map

*I = Introduced; R = Reinforced; A = Assessed*

Courses	SLO 1	SLO 2	SLO 3
CPO 2001	I	I	I
INR 2001	I	I	I
INR 3603	R	R	R
PAD 3003	R	R	R
PAD 4940	R, A	R, A	R, A
POS 2041	I	I	I
POS 3204	R	R	R
POS 4734	R, A	R, A	R, A
POS 4905	R, A	R, A	R, A
POS 4931	R, A	R, A	R, A
POS 4940	R, A	R, A	R, A
POS 4970	R, A	R, A	R, A
POT 2002	I	I	I

## Assessment Types

- Research project
  - Internship report
  - Thesis
-