

Bachelor of Arts (BA)

Political Science (BA)

Political Science is the study of governments and governing processes. It focuses on the institutions of government and international relations, as well as such factors as interest groups, political parties, public opinion, political economy, voting behavior, constitutional law and political philosophy.

Areas of concentration include American government, comparative government and politics, international relations, public administration and political theory. Southeast's Political Science majors regularly intern with local, state and federal elected officials. Graduates with a degree in Political Science are employed in government and nonprofit administration, law, international affairs, political campaigns, lobbying and interest groups, journalism and media, academic research and teaching and are accepted to leading graduate schools.

Becoming Career Ready...

/ Exceptionally well qualified faculty members work closely with students in small class settings, challenging students to think systematically about national and international politics.

/ Political Science graduates work in political, financial, sales, marketing, and communication fields. Examples of job titles include public policy analyst, public administrator, lawyer, lobbyist, campaign manager, human resource specialist, politician, immigration officer, researcher and legislative assistant.

/ Students interested in law are encouraged and prepared by faculty to take the LSAT exam and apply to schools of law. Political Science students are also exceptionally well prepared for advanced studies in other disciplines. At least 95% of the Political Science majors who have applied to graduate school or law school since 2005 have been admitted.

/ Political Science students have access to specialized student organizations (e.g., the Law, Politics, and Society Club) and the student honorary society Pi Sigma Alpha.

/ 100% of Southeast programs offer real-world experience. Political Science students gain this experience through participation in local, state and national government internship programs and through participation in Model United Nations activities.

/ The path to a successful career starts with you! You can maximize your career development by working closely with Career Services and Southeast faculty – they are here to help you connect your passions, interests and skills to jobs and opportunities in the field. Career Services provides professional career counseling and coaching, resume critiques, practice interviews, job search strategies, career events, networking opportunities and more.

Advanced Degree Acceptances:

- University of Missouri Law School
- Washington University Law School
- St Louis University Law School
- Southern Illinois University- Carbondale Law School
- University of Indiana
- University of Missouri
- University of Florida

Internships:

- Office of the Governor
- Missouri State Senate
- Missouri House of Representatives
- United States District Court, Eastern District of Missouri
- Southeast Missouri Food Bank
- Safe House for Women

Transfer and Dual Credit Students

If you have dual credit or transfer credit, please visit our transfer course equivalencies guide at semo.edu/transfercredit.

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This is a guide based on the 2021-2022 Undergraduate Bulletin and is subject to change. The time it takes to earn a degree will vary based on several factors such as dual enrollment, remediation, and summer enrollment. Students will meet with an academic advisor each semester and use Degree Works to monitor their individual progress.

CURRICULUM CHECKLIST

Political Science – 30 Hours – Minor Required

Required Courses:

- ___ PS001 Senior Assessment (0)
- ___ PS240 Introduction to Political Science (3)
- ___ PS471 Senior Seminar in Political Science (3)

Choose one course:

- ___ PS103 U.S. Political Systems (3)
- ___ PS104 Comparative Political Systems (3)

Choose 15 hours:

- ___ 15 hours of political science courses (3 hours in each of the 5 subfields)

Choose 6 hours:

- ___ 6 additional hours of political science electives

(9 hours of political science courses must be 300-level or above)

Political Science Subfields:

- ___ American Government and Politics
- ___ Comparative Governments and Politics
- ___ International Politics
- ___ Political Theory
- ___ Public Administration

Additional Requirements:

- ___ 12 Hours in the same foreign language

A minor of 15-21 hours must be completed.

General Education Requirements – some requirements may be fulfilled by coursework in major program

- Social and Behavioral Sciences – 6 hours
- Constitution Requirement – 3 hours
- Written Communication – 6 hours
- Oral Communication – 3 hours
- Natural Sciences – 7 hours (from two disciplines, one to include a lab)
- Mathematics – 3 hours
- Humanities & Fine Arts – 9 hours (from at least two disciplines)
- Additional requirements – 5 hours (to include UI100 for native students)
- Civics examination

SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN

	Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
	Course #	Hrs	Course #	Hrs
FIRST YEAR	UI100	1	PS 240	3
	EN100	3	Foreign Language 1	3
	PS103 or PS104	3	General Education	3
	General Education	3	General Education	3
	General Education	3	General Education	3
	Total	16	Total	15
SECOND YEAR	American Government	3	Comparative Government	3
	Foreign Language 2	3	Foreign Language 3	3
	General Education	3	General Education	3
	General Education	3	Minor Course	3
	General Education	3	Elective	3
	Total	15	Total	15
THIRD YEAR	International Politics	3	Political Theory	3
	PS Elective	3	PS Elective	3
	Minor Course	3	Minor Course	3
	Foreign Language 4	3	Elective	3
	Elective	3	Elective	3
	Total	15	Total	15
FOURTH YEAR	Public Administration	3	PS001	0
	Minor Course	3	PS471	3
	Minor Course	3	Minor Course	3
	Elective	3	Elective	3
	Elective	3	Elective	3
			Elective	2
	Total	15	Total	14

Degree requirements for all students: a minimum of 120 credit hours, completion of the General Education program, and completion of 39 senior division hours (300-599). Refer to the Undergraduate Bulletin or Degree Works for additional graduation requirements for your program.

A minimum 2.00 GPA in the major and overall are required to graduate with a BS degree.