

# Political Science Major

## Major Requirements

Degree Type: B.A. or B.S.  
Minimum Credits Required: 120

### University Degree Requirements

For complete details on these and other university degree requirements, refer to the Degree and Graduation Requirements (<http://catalog.ndsu.edu/academic-policies/undergraduate-policies/degree-and-graduation/>) section in the University Catalog.

1. Minimum of 120 semester credits (some programs may exceed this minimum).
2. Complete the University General Education requirements.
3. Minimum institutional GPA of 2.00 based on work taken at NDSU.
4. Minimum of 30 credits in resident at NDSU.
5. Minimum of 36 upper level credits (courses numbered 300 or higher).
6. Students with transfer credit must meet the NDSU 30 credits in residence (#4). Of these 30 credits in residence, a minimum of 15 credits must be in courses numbered 300 or above, and 15 credits must be in the student's declared major curricula.

### University General Education Requirements

A list of university approved general education courses along with the administrative policies governing the requirement and the categories is available here (<http://catalog.ndsu.edu/academic-policies/undergraduate-policies/general-education/>).

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Category C: Communication</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Category R: Quantitative Reasoning</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Category S: Science and Technology</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>Category A: Humanities and Fine Arts</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Category B: Social and Behavioral Sciences</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Category W: Wellness</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>Category D: Cultural Diversity</b>		
<b>Category G: Global Perspectives</b>		
<b>Category L: Digital Literacy</b>		
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>39</b>

## Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Core Requirements</b>		
POLS 110 or POLS 115	Introduction to Political Science (May satisfy general education category B) American Government	3
POLS 220 or POLS 225	International Politics Comparative Politics	3
POLS 240	Political Ideologies	3
POLS 325	Applied Research Methods	3
POLS 470	Quantitative Methods for Political Science and Public Policy	3
Select a minimum of five courses from at least three of the four areas listed below (Area 1-4):		15
<b>Area 1:</b>		
POLS 351	Women and Politics	
POLS 420	Political Behavior-Executive-Legislative Process	
POLS 421	Political Behavior-Political Parties	
POLS 422	State and Local Politics	
POLS 423	Public Policy Analysis	
POLS 424	Inequality and Public Policy	
<b>Area 2:</b>		

POLS 424	Inequality and Public Policy
POLS 430	Constitutional Law-Civil Liberties
POLS 431	Constitutional Law-Criminal Justice
POLS 432	Crime and Public Policy
POLS 433	Law and Public Policy
POLS 447	U.S. National Security Law
<b>Area 3:</b>	
POLS 442	Global Policy Issues
POLS 444	International Law
POLS 445	Ethnic Conflicts
POLS 453	Environmental Policy and Politics
POLS 446	International Criminal Law
POLS 447	U.S. National Security Law
<b>Area 4:</b>	
POLS 442	Global Policy Issues
POLS 450	Politics of the Developing Countries
POLS 451	Politics of the Industrialized Countries
POLS 452	Comparative Political Economy
POLS 453	Environmental Policy and Politics
POLS 454	Comparative Democratic Institutions
Political Science Electives	
Any POLS prefix class (except POLS 397) and no more than 3 credits of POLS 494 and POLS 496.	
<b>Total Credits</b>	

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**Degree Notes:**

- An optional accelerated program in the B.S./B.A. in Political Science degree and the Masters in Public Policy (MPP) is available.
  - Students may apply for admission to the accelerated undergraduate political science program after completing a minimum of 60 undergraduate credits.
  - Students must have a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA for admission to the MPP graduate program. The GRE is not required for admission to the MPP program in this accelerated option.
  - Students admitted to the MPP program must complete a **Accelerated Degree Program Declaration Form** upon admission.
  - Students admitted in the accelerated program may count up to 15 graduate credits toward the undergraduate degree. These 15 credits must come from 600 and 700 level classes that fulfill requirements in the MPP program.

Code	Title	Credits
POLS 623	Public Policy Analysis (Use for Area I)	3
POLS 710	Global Public Policy (Use for Area IV)	3
POLS 705	Policy Design and Evaluation (Use for POLS elective)	3
POLS 724	Public Budgeting and Finance (Use for Area I)	3
POLS 726	Harm Reduction for Policymakers (Use for POLS elective)	3
POLS 670	Quantitative Methods for Political Science and Public Policy (Use for POLS elective)	3