The Master of Arts program focuses on the core scholarly areas of political science. Students specialize in one of five concentration areas: American government and politics, comparative government and politics, international relations, public policy, and security studies. Courses in the MA program serve as a foundation for work in a doctoral program or as preparation for careers in government, nonprofit organizations, or related work in the private sector.

To earn the Master of Arts in Political Science degree at Northeastern, you must successfully complete 32 semester hours (typically eight courses) of credit. Full-time students can expect to complete the degree within two academic years. Course work consists of 4 semester hours in a required statistics course, 12 semester hours within a chosen concentration, and 16 semester hours of electives (including the experiential education requirement). To see the full breakdown, click the Program Requirements tab above.

**Academic Standing/Progress**

Satisfactory progress in the MA program includes maintaining a grade point average (GPA) of 3.000 overall as well as in the student’s concentration area. A final cumulative GPA of at least 3.000 in all course work is required to qualify for the Master of Arts degree. Any course in which a student earns lower than a C grade cannot be used to fulfill concentration area requirements. A student who fails to make satisfactory progress is placed on academic probation, which is a warning that the student may not be allowed to continue in the graduate program unless the deficiency is addressed.

**Experiential Education Requirement**

In addition to in-class course work, students are required to complete an experiential education component that advances their learning, research, and/or career objectives. Experiential education offers MA students a direct experience with focused reflection relevant to their academic studies. For students with research interests, the experience focuses on related activities, such as primary source analysis and data gathering. For other students, the experience involves engagement with areas of practice and policy, such as an internship. Students register for the relevant course with a minimum of 4 semester hours and maximum of 8 semester hours to satisfy the experiential education requirement.

An optional cooperative education experience (co-op) can also satisfy the experiential education requirement. Cooperative education is central to both the Northeastern experience and to the College of Social Sciences and Humanities Experiential Liberal Arts framework. Northeastern’s signature co-op ecosystem provides qualified master’s students with six-month work experiences in businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies in Boston and across the United States. Graduate students take their work from campus learning spaces, apply their knowledge outside of the classroom, and then bring knowledge and skills gained in community learning spaces back to our campus learning spaces during the cocurricular experiential integration course.

**Program Requirements**

Complete all courses and requirements listed below unless otherwise indicated.

**Core Requirement**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLS 7202</td>
<td>Quantitative Techniques</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Concentrations**

- American Government (p. 1)
- International Relations (p. 1)
- Comparative Politics (p. 2)
- Public Policy (p. 2)
- Security Studies (p. 2)

**AMERICAN GOVERNMENT CONCENTRATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLS 7205</td>
<td>Seminar in American Government and Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**American Government Courses**

Complete 8 semester hours from the following: 8

- POLS 7251 Congress and Policy
- POLS 7313 State Government
- POLS 7341 Security and Resilience Policy
- PPUA 6502 Economic Institutions and Analysis
- PPUA 6505 Public Budgeting and Financial Management
- PPUA 6530 State and Local Public Finance
- PPUA 7240 Health Policy and Politics
- PPUA 7245 Education Policy in the United States

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CONCENTRATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLS 7207</td>
<td>Seminar in International Relations</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**International Relations Courses**

Complete 8 semester hours from the following: 8

- POLS 7325 Contemporary Issues in Third World Development
- POLS 7341 Security and Resilience Policy
- POLS 7369 International Security
- POLS 7376 Government and Politics of the Middle East
- POLS 7394 Topical Seminar in International Relations
- PPUA 7243 International Development Administration and Planning
## Comparative Politics Concentration

### Code | Title | Hours
--- | --- | ---
**Seminar**
POLS 7206 | Seminar in Comparative Politics | 4

### Comparative Politics Courses
Complete 8 semester hours from the following:
- POLS 7325: Contemporary Issues in Third World Development
- POLS 7333: Science, Technology, and Public Policy
- POLS 7352: Democratization: Basic Approaches
- POLS 7362: Nationalism
- POLS 7366: Genocide in a Comparative Perspective
- POLS 7370: Europe and European Union Governance
- PPUA 7244: Comparative Public Policy and Administration

## Public Policy Concentration

### Code | Title | Hours
--- | --- | ---
**Seminar**
POLS 7204 | Seminar in Public Policy | 4
or PPUA 6506 | Techniques of Policy Analysis | 

### Public Policy Courses
Complete 8 semester hours from the following:
- POLS 7251: Congress and Policy
- POLS 7333: Science, Technology, and Public Policy
- POLS 7341: Security and Resilience Policy
- POLS 7362: Nationalism
- PPUA 6506: Techniques of Policy Analysis
- PPUA 6507: Institutional Leadership and the Public Manager
- PPUA 6509: Techniques of Program Evaluation
- PPUA 6552: The Nonprofit Sector in Civil Society and Public Affairs
- PPUA 7239: Problems in Metropolitan Policymaking
- PPUA 7240: Health Policy and Politics
- PPUA 7244: Comparative Public Policy and Administration
- PPUA 7245: Education Policy in the United States

## Security Studies Concentration

### Code | Title | Hours
--- | --- | ---
**Seminar**
POLS 7341 | Security and Resilience Policy | 4

### Security Studies Courses
Complete 8 semester hours from the following:
- POLS 7343 to POLS 7349

### Electives
Complete 16 semester hours in the following range:
- POLS 5100 to POLS 7990

## Optional Co-op Experience

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLS 6964</td>
<td>Co-op Work Experience and Experiential Integration</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Program Credit/GPA Requirements

- Complete two consecutive semesters of Co-op Work Experience and Experiential Integration:
- Minimum 3.000 GPA required

1. Students who do not complete the Optional Co-Op Experience are required to complete 4-8 semester hours from POLS 7407, POLS 7976, POLS 7980, or POLS 7990 to complete the Experiential Education Requirement.