

Political Science, BS

The Bachelor of Science in Political Science provides a set of introductory courses to the discipline, followed by methodology courses, electives, and a capstone course. Students explore and analyze the many facets of American government, comparative politics, international relations, and political philosophy. With elective courses, students may choose from among a number of concentrations or follow their own curricular path.

Program Requirements

- Concentrations and course offerings may vary by campus and/or by program modality. Please consult with your advisor or admissions coach for the course availability each term at your campus or within your program modality.
- Certain options within the program may be *required* at certain campuses or for certain program modalities. Please consult with your advisor or admissions coach for requirements at your campus or for your program modality.

Complete all courses listed below unless otherwise indicated. Also complete any corequisite labs, recitations, clinicals, or tools courses where specified and complete any additional courses needed beyond specific college and major requirements to satisfy graduation credit requirements.

Universitywide Requirements

All undergraduate students are required to complete the Universitywide Requirements (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/university-academics/university-wide-requirements/>).

NUpath Requirements

All undergraduate students are required to complete the NUpath Requirements (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/university-academics/nupath/>).

Introduction to College

Complete "Introduction to College" for your major.

Political Science Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Political Science Requirements		
POLS 1150	American Government	4
POLS 1155	Comparative Politics	4
POLS 1160	International Relations	4
POLS 2399	Research Methods in Political Science	4
POLS 2400	Quantitative Techniques	4
Political Theory		
Complete one of the following:		4
POLS 2325	Ancient Philosophy and Political Thought	
POLS 2330	American Political Thought	
POLS 2328	Modern Political Thought	
POLS 2332	Contemporary Political Thought	
Political Science Capstone		
POLS 4701 or POLS 4703	Political Science Senior Capstone Senior Thesis	4

Political Science Experiential Learning Requirement

Code	Title	Hours
Note: Up to two credit-bearing courses count toward political science electives.		
Complete one course or experience from the following:		4
POLS 4910	Model United Nations	
POLS 4915	Model Arab League	
POLS 4918	Model NATO	
POLS 4942	Internship in Politics	

Co-op or Study Abroad

Complete one cooperative education experience or one study-abroad experience.	4
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Political Science Electives

Note: You may use four courses from the elective area to fulfill a concentration.

Code	Title	Hours
Complete eight political science electives with a minimum of six numbered 2000 or above.		32

Political Science Concentrations (Optional)

If you are working toward one of the following concentrations, declare it with your adviser so that it may be added to your record. Requirements for the concentrations are listed below (p. 2).

- American Political Institutions (p. 2)
- Campaigns and Elections (p. 2)
- Comparative Politics (p. 3)
- Identity, Culture, and Politics (p. 3)
- International Relations and Diplomacy (p. 3)
- Law and Legal Studies (p. 4)
- Public Policy (p. 4)
- Security Studies (p. 4)

Political Science Major Credit Requirement

Complete 60 semester hours in the major.

Upper-Division Electives

Code	Title	Hours
Note: Courses used as upper-division electives do not count toward the major or the NU Core.		
Complete three general electives numbered 3000 or above.		12

Experiential Liberal Arts

All students in this College of Social Sciences and Humanities program are required to complete the Experiential Liberal Arts Requirement (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/social-sciences-humanities/#ela>).

Program Requirements

128 total semester hours required

Concentrations**CONCENTRATION IN AMERICAN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS**

Code	Title	Hours
Complete four of the following:		16
POLS 2350	State and Local Politics	
POLS 3300	The U.S. Congress	
POLS 3302	Judicial Process and Behavior	
POLS 3307	Public Policy and Administration	
POLS 3310	Public Opinion, Voting, and Elections	
POLS 3160	Campaign Strategy	

CONCENTRATION IN CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
POLS 3160	Campaign Strategy	4
POLS 3302	Judicial Process and Behavior	4
Campaigns and Elections Electives		
Complete two of the following:		8
POLS 2345	Urban Policies and Politics	

POLS 2350	State and Local Politics	
POLS 3162		
POLS 3310	Public Opinion, Voting, and Elections	
POLS 3320	Politics and Mass Media	

CONCENTRATION IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Code	Title	Hours
Theoretical Requirement		
Complete two of the following:		8
POLS 2282	The Holocaust and Comparative Genocide	
POLS 2356	Democratic Erosion	
POLS 2359	Immigration Politics	
POLS 2370	Religion and Politics	
POLS 3418	Nationalism	
POLS 3430	Revolution, Civil War, and Insurrection	
POLS 3487	Politics of Developing Nations	
Regional Requirements		
Complete one of the following:		4
POLS 3435	Politics and Governance of Europe and the European Union	
POLS 3465	Government and Politics in the Middle East	
Experiential/Practicum Requirement		
Complete one of the following:		4
POLS 4915	Model Arab League	
POLS 4918	Model NATO	
POLS 4937	Dialogue of Civilizations: Government and Politics Abroad	

CONCENTRATION IN IDENTITY, CULTURE, AND POLITICS

Code	Title	Hours
Core Course		
POLS 3418	Nationalism	4
Electives		
Complete three of the following:		12
POLS 2359	Immigration Politics	
POLS 2368	Music and Politics in America and Abroad	
POLS 2370	Religion and Politics	
POLS 3309	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues in Public Policy	
POLS 3324	Law and Society	

CONCENTRATION IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY

Code	Title	Hours
Experiential/Practicum Requirement		
Complete one of the following:		4
POLS 4910	Model United Nations	
POLS 4915	Model Arab League	
POLS 4938	Dialogue of Civilizations: International Politics Abroad	
Core Courses		
Complete three of the following:		12
POLS 3405	International Political Economy	
POLS 3406	International Law	
POLS 3435	Politics and Governance of Europe and the European Union	
POLS 5408	International Security	

CONCENTRATION IN LAW AND LEGAL STUDIES

Code	Title	Hours
Complete four of the following:		16
POLS 2330	American Political Thought	
POLS 3300	The U.S. Congress	
POLS 3302	Judicial Process and Behavior	
POLS 3323	Race, Inequality, and the Law	
POLS 3324	Law and Society	
POLS 3406	International Law	
POLS 3409	Global Governance	
POLS 4500	U.S. Constitutional Law	
POLS 4505	U.S. Civil Liberties	

CONCENTRATION IN PUBLIC POLICY

Code	Title	Hours
Core Requirement		
POLS 3307	Public Policy and Administration	4
Electives		
Complete three of the following:		12
POLS 2345	Urban Policies and Politics	
POLS 2350	State and Local Politics	
POLS 2390	Science, Technology, and Public Policy	
POLS 2395	Environmental Politics and Policy	
POLS 3425	U.S. Foreign Policy	

CONCENTRATION IN SECURITY STUDIES

Code	Title	Hours
Complete four of the following:		16
POLS 3420	U.S. National Security Policy	
POLS 3423	Terrorism and Counterterrorism	
POLS 3425	U.S. Foreign Policy	
POLS 3430	Revolution, Civil War, and Insurrection	
POLS 3487	Politics of Developing Nations	
POLS 5408	International Security	

Plan of Study**Five Years, Three Co-ops in Summer 2/Fall**

Year 1								
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours	Hours
POLS 1155		4 POLS 1150		4 Vacation		0 Vacation		0
Elective		4 MATH 1215		4				
Elective		4 Elective		4				
POLS 1000		1 POLS 1160		4				
ENGW 1111		4						
		17			16			0
Year 2								
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours	Hours
POLS 2399		4 POLS 2400		4 Vacation		0 Co-op		0
POLS intermediate/ advanced undergraduate elective		4 Elective		4				
Elective		4 POLS intermediate/ advanced undergraduate elective		4				

Elective	4	Elective	4
EESH 2000	1	EESH 2000	1
17		17	
		0	
		0	

Year 3

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
Co-op	0	Political theory course		4 POLS intermediate/ advanced undergraduate elective		4 Co-op	0
		POLS intermediate/ advanced undergraduate elective		4 Elective		4	
		Elective		4			
		Elective		4			
0		16		8		0	

Year 4

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
Co-op	0	ENGW 3315		4 Upper-division elective		4 Co-op	0
		POLS intermediate/ advanced undergraduate elective		4 POLS intermediate/ advanced undergraduate elective		4	
		Upper-division elective		4			
		Elective		4			
0		16		8		0	

Year 5

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
Co-op	0	POLS 4701 (or POLS 4703 Senior Thesis)	4
		POLS intermediate/ advanced undergraduate elective	4
		Upper-division elective	4
		Elective	4
0		16	

Total Hours: 131

Five Years, Three Co-ops in Spring/Summer 1

Year 1

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
POLS 1155	4	POLS 1150	4	Vacation		0 Vacation	0
Elective	4	MATH 1215	4				
Elective	4	Elective	4				
POLS 1000	1	POLS 1160	4				
ENGW 1111	4						
17		16		0		0	

Year 2

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
POLS 2399	4	Co-op	0	Co-op	0	Elective	4
Elective	4					Elective	4
		POLS intermediate/ advanced undergraduate elective	4				
		POLS intermediate/ advanced undergraduate elective	4				

6 Political Science, BS

EESH 2000		1						
		17			0		0	8
Year 3								
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours	
Political theory course	4	Co-op		0 Co-op		0 POLS intermediate/ advanced undergraduate elective		4
Elective	4					Elective		4
Elective	4							
POLS 2400	4							
		16			0		0	8
Year 4								
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours	
ENGW 3315	4	Co-op		0 Co-op		0 Vacation		0
POLS intermediate/ advanced undergraduate elective	4							
Upper-division elective	4							
Elective	4							
		16			0		0	0
Year 5								
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours					
POLS intermediate/ advanced undergraduate elective	4	POLS 4701 (or POLS 4703 Senior Thesis)	4					
POLS intermediate/ advanced undergraduate elective	4	POLS intermediate/ advanced undergraduate elective	4					
Upper-division elective	4	Upper-division elective	4					
Elective	4	Elective	4					
		16	16					

Total Hours: 130