

Political Science and Communication Studies, BA

The combined major in political science and communication studies offers students the opportunity to integrate the study of politics and government with different forms and mediums of communication. Students complete the core courses in political science along with core courses in communication studies that cover public speaking and persuasion. This combined major highlights the important role played by different forms of communication in shaping politics and government.

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/>).

BA Language Requirements

All BA students are required to complete the BA degree language requirements, for a total of 12 semester hours of language study or demonstrated equivalent proficiency, as described in Additional Requirements for BA students (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/university-academics/nupath/ba-requirements/>). Successful demonstration of proficiency does not reduce total minimum semester hours of study required to earn the BA degree.

NUpath Requirements

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

Political Science Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Core Courses in Political Science		
POLS 1150	American Government	4
POLS 1155	Comparative Politics	4
POLS 1160	International Relations	4
POLS 2400	Quantitative Techniques	4
Political Thought		
Complete one of the following:		4
POLS 2325	Ancient Philosophy and Political Thought	
POLS 2328	Modern Political Thought	
POLS 2330	American Political Thought	
POLS 2332	Contemporary Political Thought	
Methodology		
POLS 2399 or COMM 2301	Research Methods in Political Science Communication Research Methods	4
Political Science Electives		
<i>Note: Elective courses may also fulfill requirements of an optional concentration of this program.</i>		
Complete four courses in the following range:		16
POLS 2000 to POLS 5999		

Political Science Concentration (Optional)

If you are working toward one of the following concentrations, declare it with your advisor so that it may be added to your record. Requirements for the concentrations are listed below (p. 3).

- American Political Institutions (p. 3)
- Campaigns and Elections (p. 3)
- Comparative Politics (p. 4)
- Identity, Culture, and Politics (p. 4)
- International Relations and Diplomacy (p. 4)
- Law and Legal Studies (p. 4)
- Public Policy (p. 5)
- Security Studies (p. 5)

Communication Studies Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
COMM 1101	Introduction to Communication Studies	4
COMM 1112	Public Speaking	4
or COMM 2301	Communication Research Methods	

Communication Studies Electives

Code	Title	Hours
Foundation Course		
Complete one of the following:		4
COMM 1210	Persuasion and Rhetoric	
COMM 1225	Communication Theory	
COMM 1231	Principles of Organizational Communication	
COMM 1255	Communication in a Digital Age	
Cluster Course		
Complete one of the following:		4
COMM 1131	Sex, Relationships, and Communication	
COMM 2303	Global and Intercultural Communication	
COMM 2304	Communication and Gender	
COMM 2501	Communication Law	
COMM 2551	Free Speech in Cyberspace	
Writing-Intensive		
Complete two of the following:		8
COMM 3200	Mobile Communication	
COMM 3201	Health Communication	
COMM 3230	Interpersonal Communication	
COMM 3304	Communication and Inclusion	
COMM 3320	Political Communication	
COMM 3415	Communication Criticism	
COMM 3445	Public Relations Principles	
COMM 3500	Environmental Issues, Communication, and the Media	
COMM 3501	Free Speech: Law and Practice	
COMM 3530	Communication and Sexualities	
COMM 3532	Theories of Conflict and Negotiation	
COMM 4535	Nonverbal Social Interaction	
COMM 4605	Youth and Communication Technology	
COMM 4631	Crisis Communication and Image Management	

Communication Studies Electives

Complete three additional communication studies courses.

Integrative Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Integrative Courses		
POLS 3320	Politics and Mass Media	4
or COMM 3320	Political Communication	
Capstone Requirement		
Complete one of the following. This course also counts toward the political science or communication studies elective requirement:		4
COMM 4102	Health Communication Campaigns	
COMM 4530	Communication and Quality of Life	
COMM 4602	Contemporary Rhetorical Theory	
COMM 4608	Strategic Communication Capstone	
COMM 4625	Online Communities	
COMM 4755	Production Capstone	
POLS 4701	Political Science Senior Capstone	
POLS 4703	Senior Thesis	

Political Science and Communication Studies Combined Major Credit Requirement

Complete 84 semester hours in the major.

Communication Studies Major Grade Requirement

No more than two grades below a C in communication studies courses may be used to satisfy degree requirements.

Program Requirement

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:		
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

Sample Four Years, Two Co-ops

Year 1								
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours	
COMM 1101		4 COMM 1112 or 2301		4 Communication Studies Foundation Course		4 Communication Studies Cluster Course	4	
ENGW 1111		4 POLS 1155		4 Communication Studies Elective		4 Elective	4	
POLS 1000 or COMM 1000		1 Foreign Language 2		4				
POLS 1150		4 Elective		4				
Foreign Language 1		4						
		17			16			8
Year 2								
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours	
EESH 2000 or EEAM 2000		1 Co-op		0 Co-op		0 Communication Studies Writing Intensive	4	
POLS 1160		4				Elective	4	
POLS 2400		4						
Communication Studies Elective		4						
Foreign Language Culture Course		4						
		17			0			8

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Year 3								
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours	Hours
POLS 2399 or COMM 2301		4 Co-op		0 Co-op		0 Communication Studies Writing Intensive		4
Political Thought Course		4				Political Science Elective		4
Communication Studies Elective		4						
Political Science Elective		4						
		16		0		0		8
Year 4								
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours					
Integrative Course		4 Capstone		4				
Political Science Elective		4 Elective		4				
Political Science Elective		4 Elective		4				
Elective		4 Elective		4				
		16		16				

Total Hours: 130