

# Political Science, BA (Boston)

The Bachelor of Arts 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. At the college level the Bachelor of Arts includes a foreign language requirement.

## Program Requirements

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/>).

## Introduction to College

Complete "Introduction to College" for your major.

## Political Science Major Requirements

| Code                                  | Title                                    | Hours |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------|
| <b>Political Science Requirements</b> |  |       |
| 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     |
| <b>Political Theory</b>               |  |       |
| 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           |       |
| <b>Political Science Capstone</b>     |  |       |
| Complete one of the following:        |  | 4     |
| POLS 4701                             | Political Science Senior Capstone        |       |
| POLS 4703                             | Senior Thesis                            |       |

## Political Science Experiential Learning Requirement

Complete one course or experience from the following options. *Note:* Up to two credit-bearing courses count toward political science electives.

| Code                           | Title                  | Hours |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------|
| <b>Courses</b>                 |                        |       |
| Complete one of 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.

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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 six political science electives with a minimum of four numbered 2000 or above. |       | 24    |

**Political Science Concentrations (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. 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. 3)
- Public Policy (p. 4)
- Security Studies (p. 4)

**Political Science Major Credit Requirement**

Complete 52 semester hours in the major.

**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

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**Concentrations****CONCENTRATION IN AMERICAN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS**

| Code                            | Title                                 | Hours |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Complete four of the following: |                                       | 16    |
| POLS 3160                       | Campaign Strategy                     |       |
| 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 |       |

**CONCENTRATION IN CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS**

| Code                                     | Title                                 | Hours |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------|
| <b>Required Courses</b>                  |                                       |       |
| POLS 3160                                | Campaign Strategy                     | 4     |
| POLS 3302                                | Judicial Process and Behavior         | 4     |
| <b>Campaigns and Elections Electives</b> |                                       |       |
| Complete two of the following:           |                                       | 8     |
| POLS 2345                                | Urban Policies and Politics           |       |
| POLS 3310                                | Public Opinion, Voting, and Elections |       |
| POLS 3320                                | Politics and Mass Media               |       |

**CONCENTRATION IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

| Code                                      | Title   | Hours |
|---|---|-------|
| <b>Theoretical Requirement</b>            |   |       |
| 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                            |       |
| <b>Regional Requirements</b>              |   |       |
| 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                |       |
| <b>Experiential/Practicum Requirement</b> |   |       |
| 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 |
|----------------------------------|---|-------|
| <b>Core Course</b>               |   |       |
| POLS 3418                        | Nationalism   | 4     |
| <b>Electives</b>                 |   |       |
| 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 |
|---|--|-------|
| <b>Experiential/Practicum Requirement</b> |  |       |
| Complete one of the following:            |  | 4     |
| POLS 4910                                 | Model United Nations                                     |       |
| POLS 4915                                 | Model Arab League  |       |
| POLS 4938                                 | Dialogue of Civilizations: International Politics Abroad |       |
| <b>Core Courses</b>                       |  |       |
| 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 3324                       | Law and Society               |       |

|           |                         |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| POLS 3406 | International Law       |
| POLS 4500 | U.S. Constitutional Law |
| POLS 4505 | U.S. Civil Liberties    |

CONCENTRATION IN PUBLIC POLICY

| Code                             | Title                                  | Hours |
|----------------------------------|--|-------|
| <b>Core Requirement</b>          |  |       |
| POLS 3307                        | Public Policy and Administration       | 4     |
| <b>Electives</b>                 |  |       |
| Complete three of the following: |  | 12    |
| POLS 2345                        | Urban Policies and 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  
Four Years, Two Co-ops in Summer Second Half/Fall

|                              |       |                              |       |            |       |            |       |
|------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|-------|
| Year 1                       |       |                              |       |            |       |            |       |
| Fall                         | Hours | Spring                       | Hours | Summer 1   | Hours | Summer 2   | Hours |
| POLS 1155                    |       | 4 POLS 1150                  |       | 4 Elective |       | 4 Vacation |       |
| Elective                     | 4     | MATH 1215                    | 4     | Elective   | 4     |            |       |
| Foreign language core course | 4     | POLS 1160                    | 4     |            |       |            |       |
| POLS 1000                    | 1     | Foreign language core course | 4     |            |       |            |       |
| ENGW 1111                    | 4     |                              |       |            |       |            |       |
|                              |       | 17                           |       | 16         |       | 8          | 0     |
| Year 2                       |       |                              |       |            |       |            |       |
| Fall                         | Hours | Spring                       | Hours | Summer 1   | Hours | Summer 2   | Hours |
| POLS 2399                    | 4     | POLS 2400                    | 4     | Elective   | 4     | Co-op      | 0     |
| Elective                     | 4     | Political Theory course      | 4     | Elective   | 4     |            |       |
| Elective                     | 4     | Elective                     | 4     |            |       |            |       |
| Foreign language core course | 4     | Elective                     | 4     |            |       |            |       |
| EESH 2000                    | 1     |                              |       |            |       |            |       |
|                              |       | 17                           |       | 16         |       | 8          | 0     |
| Year 3                       |       |                              |       |            |       |            |       |
| Fall                         | Hours | Spring                       | Hours | Summer 1   | Hours | Summer 2   | Hours |
| Co-op                        | 0     | ENGW 3315                    | 4     | Elective   | 4     | Co-op      | 0     |
|                              |       | ENVR 3300                    | 4     | Elective   | 4     |            |       |
|                              |       | ENVR 3301                    | 1     |            |       |            |       |
|                              |       | Elective                     | 4     |            |       |            |       |

|                  |       |  |       |          |       |
|------------------|-------|--|-------|----------|-------|
|                  |       | Elective                                       | 4     |          |       |
|                  |       | 0  | 17    | 8        | 0     |
| Year 4           |       |  |       |          |       |
| Fall             | Hours | Spring   | Hours | Summer 1 | Hours |
| Co-op            | 0     | POLS 4701 or 4703                              | 4     | Elective | 4     |
|                  |       | Elective                                       | 4     | Elective | 4     |
|                  |       | Experiential Learning<br>(Model or Internship) | 4     |          |       |
|                  |       | Elective                                       | 4     |          |       |
|                  |       | 0  | 16    | 8        |       |
| Total Hours: 131 |       |  |       |          |       |