

Political Science, BS (Boston)

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

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 |

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. 2)
- 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 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 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 |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------|
| 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 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 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 |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Core Requirement | | |
| POLS 3307 | Public Policy and Administration | 4 |
| Electives | | |
| 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**Five Years, Three 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 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 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 4703 | 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 First Half**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 | | | | | |
| 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 | 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