POLITICAL SCIENCE, BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS

The Department of Political Science offers a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science as well as elective courses in political science for program majors and non-majors.

The political science curriculum has two central objectives. It offers the student a broad liberal arts education along with a comprehensive understanding of the nature and the functioning of the political process and government. It also provides a sound foundation for graduate study in political science, public administration and nonprofit management, or for careers that require knowledge of governance and the political process, such as law.

Student learning outcomes
Upon completing this program, students will know and know how to do the following:

1. Assumptions, methods and analytical tools
   Students will demonstrate knowledge of the assumptions, methods and analytical tools of the discipline of political science.

2. Current political and policy issues
   Students will demonstrate knowledge of current political and policy issues.

3. Theory and principles of four subfields
   Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic theory and conceptual principles of political science in the four subfields of American government, political theory, international relations and comparative politics.

4. Advanced understanding of one subfield
   Students will demonstrate an advanced understanding of current theoretical and empirical study in one subfield.

5. Expository and analytic writing
   Students will demonstrate skill in expository and analytic writing in the political science discipline.

6. Political behavior
   Students will demonstrate knowledge of the ways in which individuals, national governmental organizations, political movements and parties, nation-states, and intergovernmental institutions work to achieve their political objectives.

Honors in political science
Political science majors can earn honors in political science. Students earn honors status when they complete POLI 490 Senior Seminar with an A grade and graduate with an overall 3.0 GPA and a 3.3 GPA in political science.

Special requirements
To graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, students must complete 45 upper-level credits (including upper-level course work in the major) and maintain a cumulative and major GPA of 2.0. Students may count a maximum of nine credits from internships, mentorships, or independent studies toward the major. Students may also apply three credits from courses in other departments toward the major with prior approval from the department chair.

Degree requirements for Political Science, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) with a concentration in comparative politics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General education (<a href="http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/">link</a>)</td>
<td>Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an adviser.</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Major requirements</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Major core requirements</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI 107</td>
<td>Political Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI 109</td>
<td>Comparative Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI 320</td>
<td>Play course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI 490</td>
<td>Senior Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Concentration requirements</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select courses from list below.</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Major electives</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI electives</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ancillary requirements</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUMS 202</td>
<td>Choices in a Consumer Society</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI 103</td>
<td>U.S. Government and Politics (satisfies general education BOK for social/behavioral sciences and AOI for diversities in the human experience)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI/INTL 105</td>
<td>International Relations (satisfies general education BOK for social/behavioral sciences and AOI for global perspectives)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiential fine arts</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language through the 102 level (by course or placement)</td>
<td>0-6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open electives</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select any course.</td>
<td></td>
<td>50-58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1

Course offered by the School of the Arts

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.

Electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select four comparative politics concentration electives from the following:</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI/AFAM/ GSWS 318</td>
<td>Politics of Race, Class and Gender</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI 350</td>
<td>Democratic and Authoritarian Rule</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI/INTL 351</td>
<td>Middle Eastern Government and Politics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Political Science, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) with a concentration in comparative politics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI/INTL 352</td>
<td>European Governments and Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI/INTL 353</td>
<td>Latin American Governments and Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI/INTL 354</td>
<td>Russian and Eurasian Government and Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI/INTL 355</td>
<td>Asian Governments and Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI/AFAM/INTL 356</td>
<td>African Government and Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI/INTL 358</td>
<td>Concepts of Comparative Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI 359</td>
<td>The Politics of Developing Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI 360/ INTL 480</td>
<td>China in Transition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI 379</td>
<td>African Development and Democracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI 387</td>
<td>Politics of the European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI 389</td>
<td>Politics of Immigration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What follows is a sample plan that meets the prescribed requirements within a four-year course of study at VCU. Please contact your adviser before beginning course work toward a degree.

**Freshman year**

**Fall semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI 103</td>
<td>U.S. Government and Politics (satisfies general education BOK for social/behavioral sciences and AOI for diversities in the human experience)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 101</td>
<td>Introduction to the University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 111</td>
<td>Focused Inquiry I (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 111</td>
<td>Play course video for Focused Inquiry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiential fine arts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language 101</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General education course (select quantitative foundations)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:** 14-16

**Spring semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HUMS 202</td>
<td>Choices in a Consumer Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI/INTL 105</td>
<td>International Relations (satisfies general education BOK for social/behavioral sciences and AOI for global perspectives)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 112</td>
<td>Focused Inquiry II (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language 102</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General education course (select AOI for scientific and logical reasoning)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:** 16

**Sophomore year**

**Fall semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI 107</td>
<td>Political Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI 109</td>
<td>Comparative Politics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:** 15

**Junior year**

**Fall semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentration elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:** 15

**Spring semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concentration elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General education course (select BOK to complete breadth of knowledge requirement)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:** 15

**Senior year**

**Fall semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI 490</td>
<td>Senior Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentration elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:** 15

**Spring semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:** 15

**Total Hours:** 120-122

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.

### Accelerated B.A. and M.P.A.

The accelerated B.A. and M.P.A. program allows qualified students to earn both the B.A. in Political Science and the Master of Public Administration in a minimum of five years by completing approved graduate courses during the senior year of their undergraduate program. Students in the program may count up to 12 hours of graduate courses toward both the B.A. and M.P.A. degrees. Thus, the two degrees may be earned with a minimum of 144 credits rather than the 156 credits necessary if the two degrees are pursued separately. Students who do not have at least one year of professional-level experience in the public sector or in a nonprofit agency are required to earn three additional hours.
of credit in a public service practicum/internship. In this case, the two degrees may be earned with a minimum of 147 credits rather than the 159 credits necessary if the two degrees are pursued separately.

Students holding these degrees will demonstrate knowledge about the assumptions, methods and analytical tools of the discipline of political science and current political and policy issues; and they will be prepared, professional public managers, public officials and citizens who are able to meet the challenges of public service in both government and nonprofit sectors and serve the profession and local, state, federal and international communities.

Entrance to the accelerated program

Interested undergraduate students should consult with their adviser as early as possible to receive specific information about the accelerated program, determine academic eligibility and submit (no later than two semesters prior to graduating with a baccalaureate degree, that is, before the end of the spring semester of their junior year) an Accelerated Program Declaration Form to be approved by the graduate program director. Limited spaces may be available in the accelerated program. Academically qualified students may not receive approval if capacity has been reached.

Minimum qualifications for entrance to this accelerated program include completion of 90 undergraduate credit hours including a minimum of nine credit hours in political science courses; an overall GPA of 3.0; and a GPA of 3.3 in political science course work. Successful applicants would enter the program in the fall semester of their senior year. Students who do not meet the minimum GPA requirements may submit GRE scores to receive further consideration.

Once enrolled in the accelerated program, students must meet the standards of performance applicable to graduate students as described in the “Satisfactory academic progress (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/satisfactory-academic-progress/)” section of the Graduate Bulletin, including maintaining a 3.0 GPA. Guidance to students admitted to the accelerated program is provided by both the undergraduate political science adviser and the faculty adviser to the graduate program.

Admission to the graduate program

Entrance to the accelerated program enables the student to take the approved shared courses that will apply to the undergraduate and graduate degrees. However, entry into an accelerated program via an approved Accelerated Program Declaration Form does not constitute application or admission into the graduate program. Admission to the graduate program requires a separate step that occurs through a formal application to the master’s program, which is submitted through Graduate Admissions no later than a semester prior to graduation with the baccalaureate degree. These graduate credits may be used to satisfy major electives or open elective credits for the undergraduate degree requirement.

The graduate public administration courses that may be taken as an undergraduate, once a student is admitted to the program, are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM 601</td>
<td>Intro to Public Service and Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 602</td>
<td>Critical and Creative Thinking for Public Managers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 607</td>
<td>Public Human Resource Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 609</td>
<td>Financial Management in Government</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA/CRJS/URSP 623</td>
<td>Applied Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 624</td>
<td>Empirical Analysis for Evidence-Based Governance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Or a PADM elective course (elective requirement for the M.P.A. and elective for the undergraduate major)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 650</td>
<td>Principles of Nonprofit Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommended course sequence/plan of study

What follows is the recommended plan of study for students interested in the accelerated program beginning in the fall of the junior year prior to admission to the accelerated program in the senior year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall semester</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI elective</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved H&amp;S General Education elective</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td></td>
<td>15-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring semester</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI 490</td>
<td>Senior Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI elective</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved H&amp;S General Education elective</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td></td>
<td>15-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall semester</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 601</td>
<td>Intro to Public Service and Administration (may count for both undergraduate and graduate credits in accelerated program)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 602</td>
<td>Critical and Creative Thinking for Public Managers (may count for both undergraduate and graduate credits in accelerated program)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI elective</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Spring semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM 607</td>
<td>Public Human Resource Management (may count for both undergraduate and graduate credits in accelerated program)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 623</td>
<td>Applied Research Methods (may count for both undergraduate and graduate credits in accelerated program)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>POLI elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Fifth year

#### Fall semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM 609</td>
<td>Financial Management in Government</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 624</td>
<td>Empirical Analysis for Evidence-Based Governance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 625</td>
<td>Policy Insights: Assessing Public Policies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>500- to 600-level PADM, CRJS, GVPA, HSEP or URSP elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Spring semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GVPA 693</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 627</td>
<td>Workshop in Policy Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 689</td>
<td>Capstone: Bridging Theory and Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>500- to 600-level PADM, CRJS, GVPA, HSEP or URSP electives</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
<td><strong>12-15</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>