POLITICAL SCIENCE, BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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 how to do the following:

Political science core outcomes

• Assumptions, methods and analytical tools
  Demonstrate knowledge of the assumptions, methods and analytical tools of the discipline of political science

• Current political and policy issues
  Demonstrate knowledge of current political and policy issues

• Theory and principles of four subfields
  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

• Advanced understanding of one subfield
  Demonstrate an advanced understanding of current theoretical and empirical study in one subfield

• Expository and analytic writing
  Demonstrate skill in expository and analytic writing in the political science discipline

• Political behavior
  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

International relations concentration-specific outcome

• Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the theoretical and policy principles and dilemmas of the sub-field of international relations

Honors in political science

Political science majors can earn honors in political science. Students earn honors status when they complete POLI 490 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 six internship and three independent study credits 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 international relations

<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/">http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/</a>)</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an adviser.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major requirements</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 Play course Research Methods in Political Science video for Research Methods in Political Science</td>
<td></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>Ancillary requirements</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 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language through the 102 level (by course or placement)</td>
<td></td>
<td>0-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select any course.</td>
<td></td>
<td>50-58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</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 international relations concentration electives from the following:</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI/INTL 361</td>
<td>Issues in World Politics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
POLI/INTL 362  International Organizations and Institutions
POLI/INTL 363  U.S. Foreign Policy
POLI/INTL 364  Vietnam
POLI/INTL 365  International Political Economy
POLI/GSWS 366/INTL 368  Women and Global Politics
POLI 367/HSEP 301  Terrorism
POLI 377  European Security
POLI 378  East Asian International Relations
POLI 381  The Politics of Genocide
POLI 382  Politics of Global Health
POLI 384  International Law
POLI 385  International Security
POLI 388  International Relations Theory

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall semester</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI 103 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>UNIV 101 Introduction to the University</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 111 Focused Inquiry I (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiential fine arts</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language 101</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General education course (select quantitative foundations)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Spring semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours: 14-16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall semester</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HUMS 202 Choices in a Consumer Society</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI/INTL 105 International Relations (satisfies general education BOK for social/behavioral sciences and AOI for global perspectives)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 112 Focused Inquiry II (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language 102</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General education course (select AOI for scientific and logical reasoning)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Junior year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall semester</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concentration electives</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Spring semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours: 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall semester</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concentration elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General education course (select BOK to complete breadth of knowledge requirement)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Senior year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall semester</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI 490 Senior Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentration elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Spring semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours: 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours: 120-122</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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-reg/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, that is, before the end of the fall semester of the senior year. In order to continue pursuing the master’s degree after the baccalaureate degree is conferred, accelerated students must follow the admission to graduate study requirements outlined in the VCU Bulletin.

Degree requirements

The Bachelor of Arts in Political Science degree will be awarded upon completion of a minimum of 120 credits and the satisfactory completion of all undergraduate degree requirements as stated in the Undergraduate Bulletin.

A maximum of 12 graduate credits may be taken prior to completion of the baccalaureate degree. These graduate credits may be used to satisfy required major electives or open elective credits for the undergraduate degree. These courses are shared credits with the graduate program, meaning that they will be applied to both undergraduate and graduate degree requirements.

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>Principles of Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 602</td>
<td>Public Administration Theory</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>Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following:

- PADM 624 Quantitative Methods for Public Administration 3
- Or a PADM elective course (elective requirement for the M.P.A. and elective for the undergraduate major)
- PADM 650 Principles of Nonprofit Management 3

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>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>15-16</td>
<td></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>3</td>
<td></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>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>15-16</td>
<td></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>Principles of Public Administration (may count for both undergraduate and graduate credits in accelerated program)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 602</td>
<td>Public Administration Theory (may count for both undergraduate and graduate credits in accelerated program)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring semester</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Political Science, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) with a concentration in international relations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</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>Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs (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>

#### Fifth year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>PADM 609</td>
<td>Financial Management in Government</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PADM 624</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods for Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PADM 625</td>
<td>Public Policy Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>500- to 600-level PADM, CRJS, GVPA, HSEP or URSP elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>GVPA 693</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PADM 627</td>
<td>Workshop in Policy Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PADM 689</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Administration: Integration of 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>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12-15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>