

# Political Science Major

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Political Science is a scientific and humanistic discipline that attempts to explain and evaluate politics and political systems in terms of fundamental empirical theories and general normative principles. Political science thus seeks not only to understand the struggles for power and influence that determine who gets what, when and how, but also to ascertain the best or most appropriate way for human beings to live together both within societies and the world community. Both the major and minor in political science are designed to give students a solid grounding in the three main sub-fields of the discipline: American government and politics; comparative politics; and international relations and security. The major program is further structured into three “tracks” to allow students to pursue a more advanced study of politics and government in a manner that is most conducive to their particular interests and professional goals.

All students majoring in political science must complete the three introductory courses. They are urged to take POL 112 and 211 before POL 212. All three introductory courses should be completed by the end of the sophomore year.

Students contemplating graduate school in political science are strongly encouraged to take at least two semesters of a foreign language, Introduction to Computers, an advanced course in statistics, and a relevant methods course such as MAT 313, PSY 270, PSY 274, or ECN 367, or preferably POL/SOC 300, Social Science Research Methods.

All departmental majors must have an overall 2.0 average or better in all courses presented to satisfy the major requirements, including courses in the Pre-Law and Security Studies minors for the tracks two and three.

Westminster College and Missouri State University have entered into an agreement whereby Westminster students, majoring in either Security Studies or Political Science with a Security Studies track, may take courses through Missouri State’s Defense and Strategic Studies Graduate Department. These may include Seated courses, Internet courses, and Web Conference courses. Permission to take these courses must be granted by Westminster College before students may enroll. The College will annually determine with Missouri State annual costs for these courses.

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY SHEET**

**ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025**

Major: POLITICAL SCIENCE

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Student's Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial
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Advisor	Date Major Declared
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Course Code	Title	Hours	Semester	Grade
<b>Required Introductory Courses for all tracks (9 hours):</b>				
POL 112	Introduction to Political Science	3		
POL 211	American Government and Politics	3		
POL 212	Introduction to International Relations	3		
or SEC 201	Introduction to Security Studies	3		
Choose 3 elective POL courses for all tracks from any subfield; may include POL 320 (9 hours)				
POL 3xx/4xx		3		
POL 3xx/4xx		3		
POL 3xx/4xx		3		
In addition to completing 18 hours of introductory and elective courses, all POL majors must complete either the Pre-Law Track, the Security Studies track, or the General Political Science Track.				
<b>Track One: General Political Science Track (18 hours)</b>				
<i>Required: Choose one upper-level course from each of the three subfields (9 hours):</i>				
American Politics		3		
Comparative Politics		3		
International Relations and Security		3		
Choose three other classes from either American Politics, Comparative Politics, or International Relations and Security (9 hours) (Note: Up to 3 credit hours can be satisfied by an internship)				
<i>American Politics Subfield Courses</i>				
POL 301	The American Presidency	3		
POL 304	American Political Theory	3		
POL 311	Political Parties, Voting & Campaign	3		

Course Code	Title	Hours	Semester	Grade
POL 314	American Constitutional Law & Politics	3		
POL 316	American Jurisprudence	3		
POL 328	National Security Agencies	3		
POL 332	National Security Law I	3		
POL 342	The Supreme Court	3		
<i>Comparative Politics Subfield Courses</i>				
GTS/POL 325	Middle East and North African Politics	3		
POL 306	West European Government & Politics	3		
POL 308	Post-Soviet Politics	3		
POL 335	Politics & Security of Developing Nations	3		
POL 351	Women & Politics	3		
GTS/SEC 346	Chinese Politics and Influence	3		
<i>International Relations &amp; Security Subfield Courses</i>				
POL 305	International Law & Organizations	3		
POL 326	Environmental Politics and Policy	3		
POL 337	Human Rights & Security	3		
POL 362	American Foreign Policy	3		
SEC 312	Terrorism	3		
<b>Track Two: The Pre-Law Track (21 hours)</b>				
Complete the Pre-Law Minor				
<b>Track Three: The Security Studies Track (18 hours)</b>				
Complete the Security Studies Minor				
<b>TOTAL HOURS FOR MAJOR (General Track)</b>		<b>36</b>		
<b>TOTAL HOURS FOR MAJOR (Security Studies Track)</b>		<b>36</b>		
<b>TOTAL HOURS FOR MAJOR (Pre-Law Track)</b>		<b>39</b>		

If any substitutions or waivers of requirements are allowed, please list below and initial.

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Advisor Signature

Department Chair Signature