

Political Science, B.S.

Program Description

Political Science is the study of the formal institutions of government and the actual behavior of people in public life. It examines both the institutions and processes of government using both empirical and normative research methodologies. A degree with a major in political science is of value to all persons who take the responsibilities and opportunities of membership in a democratic society seriously. Specifically, political science is the undergraduate major of a majority of persons who attend law school; serves as prerequisite for graduate study in a number of social science disciplines; and is an ideal liberal arts major for careers in business, journalism, public and international affairs, the federal government, state and local government, teaching, interest groups, campaign management, communications, and many others.

Supervised internships and cooperative study programs at sites in business, industry and government are available and students are strongly urged to participate.



This program is a part of the Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Admission, Enrollment, and Graduation Policies

Admissions Requirements

This program does not have specific admission requirements and only admission to Kennesaw State University is required. For more information, please visit the Admissions section of the Catalog.

Graduation Requirements

Each student is expected to meet the requirements outlined in Academic Policies 5.0 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & GRADUATION.

Program Course Requirements

Core IMPACTS Curriculum (42 Credit Hours)

General Education Core IMPACTS Curriculum

Core Field of Study (18 Credit Hours)

Students must earn a "C" or better in these courses.

- DATA 1501: Introduction to Data Science
- POLS 2101: Introduction to Political Science
- POLS 2240: Introduction to Comparative Politics
- POLS 2250: Introduction to International Relations
- POLS 2270: Political Ideologies
- POLS 2280: Research Methods

Major Requirements (21 Credit Hours)

Students must earn a "C" or better in these courses.

Senior Seminar (3 Credit Hours)

- POLS 4499: Senior Seminar

Subfields (18 Credit Hours)

Students must choose 3 credit hours from six of the following seven sub-fields.

Subfield 1: American Government and Politics

- POLS 3360: The United States Congress
- POLS 3365: United States Judiciary
- POLS 3370: The United States Presidency

Subfield 2: Political Behavior

- POLS 3380: Mass Media and Politics
- POLS 3385: Campaigns and Elections
- POLS 3387: Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Lobbying

Subfield 3: International Relations

- POLS 3350: American Foreign Policy
- POLS 4430: International Law and Organization
- POLS 4437: Global Security

Subfield 4: Comparative Politics

- POLS 4405: Comparative Legal Systems
- POLS 4436: Politics of Developing Areas

- POLS 4440: Comparative Democratization

Subfield 5: Political Theory

- POLS 4423: Great Political Thinkers
- POLS 4427: American Political Thought
- POLS 4428: Race, Gender, and the Politics of Difference

Subfield 6: Public Law and Administration

- POLS 3300: U.S. Constitution and Courts
- POLS 3312: Concepts in State and Local Government
- POLS 3343: Principles of Public Administration
- POLS 4412: Urban Politics

Subfield 7: Research Methods

- POLS 3313: Public Policy Analysis
- POLS 3320: Legal Research
- POLS 3394: Public Opinion
- POLS 4280: Political Data Analysis

Major Electives (27 Credit Hours)

Students must earn a "C" or better in these courses.

Upper-Division Major Electives (12 Credit Hours)

Select 12 credit hours of 3000–4000 level POLS or RES coursework, excluding POLS 3398.

Related Studies (15 Credit Hours)

Select 15 credit hours of 3000–4000 level coursework from the following prefixes: POLS, AADS, AMST, ANTH, ASIA, CHIN, COMM, CRJU, ENGL, ENVS, EUST, FILM, FREN, GEOG, GIS, GRMN, GWST, HIST, IAD, ISD, ITAL, JOUR, LALS, LDRS, LING, MENT, MILS, ORGC, PAX, PHIL, PORT, PR, PSYC, RES, SA, SOCI, SPAN, TCID, TCOM, or WRIT.

University Electives (12 Credit Hours)

In accordance with KSU Graduation Policy, students must earn a grade of "D" or better in these courses while maintaining a minimum 2.00 cumulative GPA.

Free Electives (12 Credit Hours)

Select 12 credit hours of 1000–4000 level coursework from the University Catalog. While not required, students are encouraged to take POLS 2220 Careers in Political Science as an elective course.

Program Total (120 Credit Hours)