

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Undergraduate Study

Bachelor of Science in Political Science (Course 17)

The political science curriculum (<https://catalog.mit.edu/degree-charts/political-science-course-17>) for undergraduates combines professional social science training with opportunities for a broad liberal arts education. Students may choose subjects from a wide range of both undergraduate and graduate offerings, and are encouraged to engage in independent research projects. In addition, the department sponsors an internship program in which students work in governmental agencies, legislative offices, community associations, international organizations, and advocacy groups at all levels.

The undergraduate program prepares students for study in political science, law, public policy, and related fields, and for careers in government, business, law, research, teaching, or journalism. This program is also designed to give students, whatever their career objectives, an understanding of political institutions and processes. Some students want to focus on political systems themselves while others choose to concentrate on political behavior and public opinion, or on the public policies that emerge from political processes, such as policies on the environment, health, or international security. All of these perspectives are found in the program.

Subjects are offered by the department in the following fields: political theory, political economy, American politics, public policy, international relations and security studies, comparative politics, and models and methods. Students may arrange individualized programs with the assistance of a faculty advisor.

In the junior year students are introduced to the major theoretical and methodological themes of political science in two subjects:

17.801	Political Science Scope and Methods (typically fall term, junior year)	12
17.803	Political Science Laboratory (typically spring term, junior year)	15

The department believes that every political science major should have the experience of conducting and writing at least one substantial research project, a requirement that is fulfilled by 17.803. In addition, there are numerous other opportunities for students to pursue research interests. Students are eligible to receive academic credit or limited funding for expenses or wages through the Institute-wide Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) (<https://catalog.mit.edu/mit/undergraduate-education/academic-research-options/undergraduate-research-opportunities-program>).

Students should consult the department's UROP coordinator to discuss specific projects.

The undergraduate program also allows students to undertake a substantial, year-long independent research project under the guidance of a faculty thesis advisor. Students who choose this option must submit a viable research proposal by fall of the senior year and secure a faculty advisor; the student then registers for:

17.THT	Thesis Research Design Seminar (fall term, senior year)	12
17.THU	Undergraduate Political Science Thesis (spring term, senior year)	

Minor in Political Science

The objective of the minor is to deepen and expand student knowledge of the discipline of political science. It consists of six subjects divided into two tiers, selected from the discipline's subfields as listed in the online MIT Subject Listing & Schedule (<http://student.mit.edu/catalog>). The requirements of the minor are as follows:

Tier I

Select at least one but no more than two introductory classes, which are designated by two-digit numbers. These classes provide broad theoretical and/or empirical overviews of their subject matter. Examples include:

17.01[J]	Justice
17.20	Introduction to the American Political Process
17.40	American Foreign Policy: Past, Present, and Future
17.50	Introduction to Comparative Politics

Tier II

Select at least four but no more than five upper-level classes, which are designated by three-digit numbers. These specialized classes provide students with advanced and in-depth examination of their subject matter. Examples include:

17.317	US Social Policy
17.473	Nuclear Strategy and Proliferation
17.483	US Military Power
17.561	European Politics

Total Units **72**

For a listing of available subjects in these areas, consult Katherine Hoss in the Political Science Undergraduate Office, Room E53-484 or the SHASS Dean's Office, Room 4-240. Examples of subject selections (<http://web.mit.edu/polisci/undergraduate/minor>) for this minor are also available on the department's website.

Minor in Applied International Studies

The interdisciplinary HASS Minor in Applied International Studies (<https://catalog.mit.edu/interdisciplinary/undergraduate-programs/minors/applied-international-studies>), described in the Interdisciplinary Programs section, prepares students for an increasingly global business and research environment by integrating international learning into their course of study.

Minor in Public Policy

The Department of Political Science and Department of Urban Studies and Planning jointly offer a Minor in Public Policy (Course 11) (<https://catalog.mit.edu/interdisciplinary/undergraduate-programs/minors/public-policy>), described in the Interdisciplinary Programs section.