

POLITICAL SCIENCE: CIVIC LEADERSHIP, BALAS

for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts & Sciences Major in Political Science, Civic Leadership Concentration

The Civic Leadership concentration aims to provide students interested in careers in public life with an informed appreciation for American democracy, the values and structures on which it is based, and the challenges and opportunities it faces in the 21st century.

See the Political Science BALAS page (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/las/political-science-balas/>) for departmental distinction information.

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See the Political Science Distinction page (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/las/political-science-balas/>) for departmental distinction information.

Students may count a maximum of six (6) hours of credit of any combination of hours from PS 494 toward the advanced hours requirement. Not more than 6 hours of individual study courses in political science (PS 490) or 6 hours of internships (PS 491) or 6 hours of supervised research (PS 492) may be included in the major; a student with any mix of independent study hours and internship hours and supervised research hours may include a maximum of 9 hours of such credit in the major. (PS 496) is reserved for those seniors doing honors theses for distinction in political science and may not be counted in the 45-hour minimum required for the major.

General education: Students must complete the Campus General Education (<https://courses.illinois.edu/gened/DEFAULT/DEFAULT/>) requirements including the campus general education language requirement.

Minimum required major and supporting course work: Normally equates to 70 hours. Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level in the major must be taken on this campus.

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours.

Civic Leadership Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
PS 100	Intro to Political Science	3
PS 101	Intro to US Gov & Pol	3
Select one course from the following:		1-3
PS 125	Washington Experience	
PS 191	Topics in Civic Leadership	
Select any additional 100- or 200-level Political Science courses		6
Select one course from the following:		3
PS 291	Intro Internship Seminar	
PS 491	Internship	

Select 300- or 400-level Political Science courses, at least nine hours of which come from the Civic Leadership Concentration list (below). The other six hours may be any 300- or 400-level Political Science course.	15
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To reach 33 hours of Political Science coursework, select up to two additional hours of any Political Science course at any level.	0-2
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Students will select a second major, or a minor, or a set of courses of at least 12 hours of thematically-related coursework outside political science, developed in conjunction with an academic advisor.	12
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Total Hours	45
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Code	Title	Hours
Civic Leadership Course List		
PS 201	US Racial & Ethnic Politics	3
PS 202	Religion & Politics in the US	3
PS 220	Intro to Public Policy	3
PS 270	Intro to Political Theory	3
PS 300	Special Topics (as appropriate)	3
PS 315	African American Politics	3
PS 316	Latina/Latino Politics	3
PS 317	Asian American Politics	3
PS 321	Principles of Public Policy	3
PS 322	Law and Public Policy	3
PS 371	Classical Political Theory	3
PS 372	Modern Political Theory	3
PS 373	Democratic Theory	3
PS 374	Future Politics	3
PS 376	American Political Theory	3
PS 494	Junior Honors Seminar	3

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Sample Sequence

This sample sequence is intended to be used only as a guide for degree completion. All students should work individually with their academic advisors to decide the actual course selection and sequence that works best for them based on their academic preparation and goals. Enrichment programming such as study abroad, minors, internships, and so on may impact the structure of this four-year plan. Course availability is not guaranteed during the semester indicated in the sample sequence.

Students must fulfill their Language Other Than English requirement by successfully completing a fourth level of a language other than English. See the corresponding section on the Degree and General Education Requirements page (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/general-information/degree-general-education-requirements/>).

First Year

First Semester	Hours
Free Elective course	1
PS 100	3
PS 101	3
Language Other Than English (3rd level)	4

Composition I or General Education course	4
Total Hours	15

First Year

Second Semester	Hours
Political Science 100- or 200- level course	3
General Education course	3
Free Elective course	3
General Education course or Composition I	3
Language Other Than English (4th level)	4
Total Hours	16

Second Year

First Semester	Hours
Political Science 100- or 200- level course	3
Political Science 100- or 400-level course	2
General Education course	3
General Education course	3
Free Elective course	3
Free Elective course	3
Total Hours	17

Second Year

Second Semester	Hours
Civic Leadership 300- or 400-level course	3
Thematic related coursework	3
General Education course	3
General Education course	3
Free Elective course	3
Total Hours	15

Third Year

First Semester	Hours
PS 125 or 191	3
PS 291 or 491	3
Free Elective course	3
Free Elective course	3
Total Hours	12

Third Year

Second Semester	Hours
Civic Leadership 300- or 400- level course	3

Thematic related coursework	3
General Education course	3
General Education course	3
Free Elective course	3
Total Hours	15

Total Hours 15

Fourth Year

First Semester	Hours
Political Science 300- or 400-level course	3
Civic Leadership 300- or 400-level course	3
General Education course	3
Free Elective course	3
Free Elective course	3
Total Hours	15

Total Hours 15

Fourth Year

Second Semester	Hours
Political Science 300- or 400- level course	3
Thematic related coursework	3
Thematic related coursework	3
General Education course	3
Free Elective course	3
Total Hours	15

Total Hours 15

Total Hours: 120

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1. Students will be able to apply central concepts of the scientific method to the study of politics, and demonstrate an ability to draw inferences from data.
2. Students will have a foundational knowledge of facts, concepts, and typologies in their chosen subfield in political science.
3. Students will be able to demonstrate basic knowledge of central theories in their chosen subfield and show how to evaluate those theories.
4. Students will be able to define political science and its subfields, drawing contrasts with other social sciences.
5. Students will be able to apply concepts, methods, and theories to research projects, internships, and/or off-campus experiences.

Students completing the concentration will be able to **demonstrate an informed understanding of American democracy**, including its values, institutional structures, and contemporary challenges and opportunities for civic engagement.

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department website: <https://www.pol.illinois.edu>
department faculty: Political Science Faculty (<https://pol.illinois.edu/directory/faculty/>)
advising: Political Science advising (<https://pol.illinois.edu/academics/undergraduate-program/academic-advising/>)

overview of college admissions & requirements: Liberal Arts & Sciences (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/schools/las/academic-units/>)
college website: <https://las.illinois.edu/>