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 main sub-fields of the discipline. The major program is structured into two "tracks" (General and Pre-Law) 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 three introductory courses. They must complete POL 112, either POL 210 or POL 211, and either POL 212 or SEC 201. Students intending to complete the Pre-Law track must take POL 211 as a prerequisite for upper-level requirements. All introductory courses should be completed by the end of the sophomore year. Finally, all students majoring in Political Science must complete SSI 4xx Capstone.

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 minor for track two.

Westminster College and Missouri State University have entered into an agreement whereby Westminster students, majoring in either Security Studies or Political Science, 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 costs for these courses.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY SHEET **ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026**

Political Science Major

Student's Last Name First Name Middle Initial

Advisor Date Major Declared

Course Code	Course Title	Hours	Semester	Grade
Required Core Courses (12 hours)				
POL 112	Introduction to Political Science	3		
POL 210	Introduction to The Policy Process	3		
or POL 211	American Government and Politics	3		
POL 212	Introduction to International Relations	3		
or SEC 201	Introduction to Security Studies	3		
SSI 4xx	Capstone	3		
Elective Courses (Choose any two upper-level POL courses: 6 hours)				
POL 3xx		3		
POL 3xx		3		
In addition to completing 18 hours of Core courses and Elective courses, all students must complete either the General Political Science track or the Pre-Law track.				
Track One: General Political Science Track (18 hours) Choose three courses from each of the two subfields (i.e. The American Politics and Public Policy subfield & The World Politics subfield). *Note: Up to 3 credit hours can be satisfied by an approved internship.*				
American Politics and Public Policy Subfield Courses (9 hours)				
POL 301	The American Presidency	3		
POL 304	American Political Theory	3		
POL 311	Political Parties, Voting & Campaign Strategies	3		
POL 314	American Constitutional Law & Politics	3		
POL 316	American Jurisprudence	3		
POL 326	Environmental Politics and Policy	3		
POL 332	National Security Law I	3		
POL 333	National Security Law II	3		
POL 343	Congress	3		
POL 370	Drugs, Politics, and Public Policy	3		
POL 3xx	Environmental Justice	3		
POL 3xx	Public Policy Analysis	3		
POL 3xx	Race and Politics	3		
POL 3xx	State and Local Politics	3		
POL/SEC 328	National Security Agencies	3		
World Politics Subfield Courses (9 hours)				
GTS/POL 306	West European Government and Politics	3		
GTS/POL 308	Post-Soviet Politics	3		
GTS/POL 325	Middle East and North African Politics	3		
GTS/POL 346	Chinese Politics and Influence	3		
GTS/POL 350	Politics of Language	3		
POL 305	International Law & Organizations	3		
POL 362	American Foreign Policy	3		
POL/SEC 334	Intelligence At Home and Abroad	3		
POL/SEC 335	Politics & Security of Developing Nations	3		

POL/SEC 337	Human Rights & Security	3		
POL/WGS 351	Women and Politics	3		
SEC 312	Terrorism	3		
	Total Political Science General Track Hours	**36**		
Track Two: Pre-Law Track (21 hours)				
Required Courses (15 hours)				
BUS 223	Business Law	3		
PHL 218	Introduction to Logic	3		
POL 314	American Constitution Law & POL	3		
POL 316	American Jurisprudence	3		
SPE 101	Introduction to Speech Communication	3		
Or ENG 270	Expository Writing	3		
Elective Courses (Choose two of the following: 6 hours)				
POL 304	American Political Theory	3		
POL 305	International Law and Organizations	3		
POL 399	Law-Oriented Internship	3		
	Total Political Science Pre-Law Track Hours	**39**		