

# BACHELOR OF SCIENCE WITH A MAJOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

The bachelor of science in political science degree provides training for active citizenship and the intensive development of quantitative analysis skills. Students in the BS program complete six courses in statistics, mathematics, and computer science. Inside the classroom, students learn from leading experts in social science research techniques, while outside the classroom they benefit from ample opportunities to intern on the Hill, on political campaigns, or at government agencies. Students also complete a required proseminar as juniors or seniors, in which they examine a political issue and develop scholarly writing on the topic. Through intensive development of research skills, graduates are well-prepared to enter a variety of careers in research in the public and private sectors. Some program graduates continue their education through graduate work or law school.

Many students supplement their classwork with study abroad (<https://politicalscience.columbian.gwu.edu/undergraduate-student-resources-opportunities/#study-abroad>) and internships (<https://politicalscience.columbian.gwu.edu/internships/>) for credit.

Visit the program website (<https://politicalscience.columbian.gwu.edu/bs-political-science/>) for additional information.

## ADMISSIONS

For information about the admission process, including deadlines, visit the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website (<https://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/>). Applications can be submitted via the Common Application (<https://go.gwu.edu/commonapp/>).

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions  
The George Washington University  
800 21st St NW Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20052

For questions visit [undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us](https://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us) (<http://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us/>).

## REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under [Columbian College of Arts and Sciences \(CCAS\), Undergraduate Programs](#). CCAS stipulates that a student must complete the major requirements published in the [Bulletin for the academic year in which the student declares their major](#).\*

Program-specific curriculum:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Prerequisite courses</b>		
PSC 1001	Introduction to Comparative Politics	
or PSC 1001W	Introduction to Comparative Politics	
PSC 1002	Introduction to American Politics and Government	
or PSC 1002W	Introduction to American Politics and Government	
PSC 1003	Introduction to International Politics	
or PSC 1003W	Introduction to International Politics	
or IAFF 1005	Introduction to International Affairs	
Students in the Politics and Values program are required to take PSC 1011 and PSC 1012W. For such students, these two courses fulfill the prerequisite requirement and count as a Group E (political thought) course.		
<b>Required for the major</b>		
Six 2000-level Political Science (PSC) courses (18 credits) from the groups below, including at least one course from group D and at least one from group E:**		
Group A (comparative politics)		
PSC 2330	Comparative Politics of Western Europe	
PSC 2331	Comparative Politics of Central and Eastern Europe	
PSC 2332	European Integration	
PSC 2333	Reunification, Reconciliation, and Resentment	
PSC 2334	Global Perspectives on Democracy	
PSC 2336	State–Society Relations in the Developing World	
PSC 2337	Development Politics	
PSC 2338	Nationalism	
PSC 2339	Comparative Political Economy	
PSC 2366	Russian Politics	
PSC 2367	Human Rights	
or PSC 2367W	Human Rights	
PSC 2368	Politics in the Two Koreas	
PSC 2369	Comparative Politics of South Asia	

PSC 2370	Comparative Politics of China and Northeast Asia
PSC 2371	Politics and Foreign Policy of China
PSC 2373	Comparative Politics of Southeast Asia
PSC 2374	Politics and Foreign Policy of Japan
PSC 2377 or PSC 2377W	Comparative Politics of the Middle East Comparative Politics of the Middle East
PSC 2379	Politics and Foreign Policy of Israel
PSC 2381	Comparative Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa
PSC 2383	Comparative Politics of Latin America
PSC 2993	Special Topics in Comparative Politics
Group B (American government and politics)	
PSC 2211	State and Urban Politics
PSC 2212	State and Urban Policy Problems
PSC 2213	Judicial Politics
PSC 2214	U.S. Constitutional Law and Politics I
PSC 2215	U.S. Constitutional Law and Politics II
PSC 2216	The American Presidency
PSC 2217	Executive Branch Politics
PSC 2218 or PSC 2218W	Legislative Politics Legislative Politics
PSC 2219	Political Parties and Interest Groups
PSC 2220	Public Opinion
PSC 2221	African American Politics
PSC 2222	Science, Technology, and Politics
PSC 2223	Campaigns and Elections
PSC 2224	Issues in Domestic Public Policy
PSC 2225	Women and Politics
PSC 2228	Media, Politics, and Government
PSC 2229	Media and Politics
PSC 2230	Law and Justice: The View from Hollywood
PSC 2240	Poverty, Welfare, and Work
PSC 2241	The Politics of Education Policy

Group C (international politics, law, and organizations)	
PSC 2439	International Political Economy
PSC 2440	Theories of International Politics
PSC 2442 or PSC 2442W	International Organizations International Organizations
PSC 2444	Public International Law
PSC 2446	U.S. Foreign Policy
PSC 2447	American Presidents at War
PSC 2449 or PSC 2449W	International Security Politics International Security Politics
PSC 2451 or PSC 2451W	Theory of War Theory of War
PSC 2453	U.S. Foreign Policy Perspectives
PSC 2454	Humanitarianism
PSC 2455	Global Governance
PSC 2461	European-Atlantic Relations
PSC 2468	Post-Soviet Foreign Policy
PSC 2475	International Relations of East Asia
PSC 2476 or PSC 2476W	The Arab-Israeli Conflict The Arab-Israeli Conflict
PSC 2478	International Relations of the Middle East
PSC 2482	African International Politics
PSC 2484	International Relations of Latin America
Group D (research methods)	
PSC 2101 or COMM 3110 or IAFF 2101 or PSC 2102 or PSYC 2101 or SMPA 2151 or SOC 2101	Scope and Methods of Political Science Research Methods in Communication Qualitative Methods in International Affairs Visualizing and Modeling Politics Research Methods in Psychology Research Methods Social Research Methods
PSC 2102	Visualizing and Modeling Politics

Group E (political thought)	
PSC 2105	Major Issues of Western Political Thought I
PSC 2106	Major Issues of Western Political Thought II
or PSC 2106W	Major Issues of Western Political Thought II
PSC 2107	Twentieth-Century Political Thought
PSC 2109	Global Justice
PSC 2110	American Political Thought
PSC 2120W	Freedom in American Thought and Popular Culture
PSC 2991	Special Topics in Political Thought
One proseminar (3 credits) and one advanced topics course (3 credits)	
PSC 3192W	Proseminar: Political Science (taken in the junior or senior year)
PSC 3500	Advanced Topics in Political Science
or PSC 3500W	Advanced Topics in Political Science

Required courses in related areas

MATH 1232	Single-Variable Calculus II
STAT 1051	Introduction to Business and Economic Statistics (only one may be taken for credit)
or STAT 1053	Introduction to Statistics in Social Science
or STAT 1111	Business and Economic Statistics I

Four additional courses in statistics, mathematics, and computer science, excluding the following:

CSCI 1010	Computer Science Orientation
CSCI 1011	Introduction to Programming with Java
CSCI 1020	Applications Software
CSCI 1021	Introduction to Computers and the Internet
CSCI 1022	Introduction to Internet Technology
CSCI 1023	Introduction to Web Software Development
CSCI 1030	
or CSCI 1030W	
MATH 1000	Dean's Seminar
MATH 1008	History of Mathematics

MATH 1009	Mathematical Ideas I
MATH 1220	Calculus with Precalculus I
MATH 1221	Calculus with Precalculus II
MATH 1231	Single-Variable Calculus I
MATH 1252	Calculus for the Social and Management Sciences
MATH 2991	Introductory Special Topics
STAT 1000	Dean's Seminar
STAT 1129	Introduction to Computing
STAT 4195	Reading and Research

\* Bulletins covering prior academic years are archived (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/archives/>).

\*\*In addition to the courses listed, a maximum of 3 credits in PSC 2987 may count toward the 2000-level course requirement. However, these credits do not count toward any group.

## GENERAL EDUCATION

In addition to the University General Education Requirement (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/>), undergraduate students in Columbian College must complete a further, College-specific general education curriculum—Perspective, Analysis, Communication (G-PAC) (<https://advising.columbian.gwu.edu/general-education-curriculum-gpac/>) as well as the course CCAS 1001 First-Year Experience. Together with the University General Education Requirement, G-PAC engages students in active intellectual inquiry across the liberal arts. Students achieve a set of learning outcomes that enhance their analytical skills, develop their communication competencies, and invite them to participate as responsible citizens who are attentive to issues of culture, diversity, and privilege.

**Coursework (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/#generaleducationtext>) for the University General Education Requirement is distributed as follows:**

- One course in critical thinking in the humanities.
- Two courses in critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, or scientific reasoning in the social sciences.
- One course that has an approved oral communication component.
- One course in quantitative reasoning (must be in mathematics or statistics).
- One course in scientific reasoning (must be in natural and/or physical laboratory sciences).

- UW 1020 (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/search/?P=UW%201020>) University Writing (4 credits).
- After successful completion of UW 1020, 6 credits distributed over at least two writing in the discipline (WID) courses taken in separate semesters. WID courses are designated by a "W" appended to the course number.

**Coursework for the CCAS G-PAC requirement is distributed as follows:**

- Arts—one approved arts course that involves the study or creation of artwork based on an understanding or interpretation of artistic traditions or knowledge of art in a contemporary context.
- Global or cross-cultural perspective—one approved course that analyzes the ways in which institutions, practices, and problems transcend national and regional boundaries.
- Local or civic engagement—one approved course that develops the values, ethics, disciplines, and commitment to pursue responsible public action.
- Natural or physical science—one additional approved laboratory course that employs the process of scientific inquiry (in addition to the one course in this category required by the University General Education Requirement).
- Humanities—one additional approved humanities course that involves critical thinking skills (in addition to the one course in this category required by the University General Education Requirement).
- CCAS 1001 First-Year Experience

**Certain courses are approved to fulfill GPAC requirements in more than one category.**

Courses taken in fulfillment of G-PAC requirements may also be counted toward majors or minors. Transfer courses taken prior to, but not after, admission to George Washington University may count toward the University General Education Requirement and G-PAC, if those transfer courses are equivalent to GW courses that have been approved by the University and the College.

Lists of approved courses in the above categories are included on each undergraduate major's (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#majorstext>) page in this Bulletin.

## SPECIAL HONORS

In addition to the general requirements stated under University Regulations (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/>), to be considered for graduation with Special Honors a student must have a minimum GPA of 3.8 in all upper-level Political Science (PSC) courses. The GPA is calculated using only PSC courses taken at the 2000, 3000, and 4000 levels; GW courses other than those specified and transfer courses are not included.

The designation of Honors appears on the student's transcript, not on the diploma.

## COMBINED PROGRAM

### Combined program

- Dual Bachelor of Science with a major in political science and Master of Public Policy (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/political-science/dual-bs-political-science-mpp/>)