

International Relations BA

Bachelor of Arts in International Relations

General Education Requirements

Majors must satisfy the university and college general education requirements. Political science courses may be used to satisfy the social sciences requirement. The foreign language requirement for the B.A. degree may be satisfied in any language.

Departmental Honors

The department awards honors to students having a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.2 in the major, a minimum overall GPA of 3.2 (except in extraordinary circumstances), and successfully completed an honors thesis, project, or report.

Degree Requirements

All majors must complete at least 15 hours in Political Science at the 3000 level or above.

Core Courses

POL SCI 1800	Introduction to International Politics (MOTR POSC 201)	3
POL SCI 1500	Introduction to Comparative Politics (MOTR POSC 202)	3
POL SCI 2800	International Relations Theories	3
POL SCI 3000	Political Analysis	3
POL SCI 4950	Senior Seminar in Political Science	3

International Relations 12

Select four of the following:

POL SCI 1820	Global Issues
POL SCI 2600	The Geography of Governance
POL SCI 2820	United States Foreign Policy
POL SCI 2900	Studies in Political Science ¹
POL SCI 3810	The Politics of the Middle East: International and National Dynamics
POL SCI 3830	International Political Economy
POL SCI 3850	International Organizations and Global Problem-Solving
POL SCI 3860	Political Violence
POL SCI 3890	Workers and Globalization
POL SCI 3900	Special Readings (with consent of instructor and advisor)
POL SCI 4810	Human Rights

Comparative Politics 9

Select three of the following:

POL SCI 2500	Comparing Different Worlds
POL SCI 2510	The Politics of European Union
POL SCI 2530	Political Systems of South America
POL SCI 2580	African Politics
POL SCI 2590	Globalization: Prospects and Problems

POL SCI 2600	The Geography of Governance
POL SCI 2900	Studies in Political Science ²
POL SCI 3810	The Politics of the Middle East: International and National Dynamics
POL SCI 3860	Political Violence
POL SCI 3900	Special Readings (with consent of instructor and advisor)
POL SCI 4810	Human Rights

Total Hours 36

¹ Topic must relate to international relations.

² Topic must relate to comparative politics.

It is recommended that majors take POL SCI 1500, POL SCI 1800, POL SCI 1820, and POL SCI 3000 as early as possible since these courses are designed to provide a substantive foundation as well as conceptual and analytical tools for subsequent course work.

Majors are strongly encouraged to broaden their academic experience by including relevant curricular experiences including study abroad, and minors or certificates in areas such as economics and foreign languages.

B.A. degree students may take a maximum of 3 hours of political science on a satisfactory/ unsatisfactory basis; this can include any course except the four required courses in the core curriculum.

Departmental Honors

The department awards honors to students having a grade point average (GPA) of 3.2 in the major, an overall GPA of 3.2 (except in extraordinary circumstances), and successfully completed an honors thesis, project, or report.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

- Identify key trends in international relations that are expected to impact life in the United States and other countries in the foreseeable future.
- Demonstrate cross-cultural competence and a global worldview.
- Apply major international relations theories and concepts to contemporary issues in global affairs.
- Analyze the foreign policy behavior of the United States and other major actors in world politics.
- Compare and contrast the major political, economic, cultural, and geographic features of different regions of the world.
- Assess international relations issues, formulate evidence-based recommendations, and communicate them with clarity and coherence.
- Plan, execute, and defend a major research project.

Sample Four Year Plan

First Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
INTDSC 1003 ¹		1 POL SCI 1500	3
ENGL 1100		3 CORE-Communication Proficiency	3
POL SCI 1100		3 EXPLORE-Mathematics and Natural/ Life Sciences	3
CORE-Mathematics Proficiency		3 EXPLORE- Humanities and Fine Arts	3
EXPLORE-Humanities and Fine Arts		3 Elective or minor	3

EXPLORE - Mathematics and Life/ Sciences	3		
	16		15
Second Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
POL SCI 1800	3	POL SCI 2800	3
Foreign Language 1001	5	Foreign Language 1002	5
EXPLORE- Humanities and Fine Arts	3	EXPLORE - Mathematics and Life/ Natural Sciences	3
EXPLORE - Math and Sciences	3	Elective or minor	3
		Elective or minor	1
	14		15
Third Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
POL SCI 3000	3	ENGL 3100 (or Equivalent)	3
POL SCI XXXX: International Relations Course	3	POL SCI XXXX Comparative Politics Course	3
Foreign Language 2101	3	POL SCI XXXXX International Relations Course	3
Elective or minor	3	Elective or minor	3
Elective or minor	3	Elective or minor	3
	15		15
Fourth Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
POL SCI XXXX International Relations Course	3	POL SCI 4950	3
POL SCI XXXX Comparative Politics Course	3	POL SCI XXXX International Relations Course	3
Elective or minor	3	Elective or minor	3
Elective or minor	3	Elective or minor	3
Elective or minor	3	Elective or minor	3
	15		15
Total Hours: 120			

¹ INTDSC 1003 is required only for first-time freshmen and transfer students with less than 24 college credits.

Please Note: This plan is an example of what a four year plan could look like for a typical student. Placement exam scores in math as well as the completion of coursework may change the plan. It should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor each semester. All requirements are subject to change.