

POLITICAL SCIENCE | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Program Summary

Code	Title	Hours
General Education		34
Cognate		12
BS Science Requirement		4
Program (Major) Core		22
Concentration Core		12
Open Electives ¹		36
Total Hours		120

¹ Open electives are the credit hours required to reach a minimum of 120 total hours and 45 upper-level hours. The number listed assumes all courses are completed at FHSU as listed. This number may vary if students transfer courses, or have individual substitutions allowed.

Students should speak with their advisor if either situation applies to determine if the number will vary, and to ensure they enroll in a minimum of 45 upper-level hours.

Students entering within 1 year of high school graduation will take UNIV 101 Freshman Seminar and may apply that hour in the open elective category.

Program Requirements

General Education

All undergraduate degrees require completion of the Kansas Systemwide General Education (<https://catalog.fhsu.edu/general-education/>).

Courses identified with ^{GE} on this page may satisfy a general education requirement in addition to the identified degree requirement. Students who apply a degree requirement to satisfy a general education requirement will typically add an equal number of hours to the the university elective category. This flexibility may allow you to complete a minor or certificate within the 120 hour degree. Transfer students and students majoring in programs with approved exceptions (<https://www.fhsu.edu/general-education/documents/fhsu-gen-ed-transfer-exceptions-explainer1.pdf>) are especially encouraged to select these courses in completing General Education requirements to maximize the likelihood of completing the degree with 120 credit hours.

Code	Title	Hours
General Education		34-35

Cognates & BS Science Requirement

Code	Title	Hours
Cognate		
BIOL 200	Humans and the Environment	3
IDS 400	Bioethics	3
or PHIL 330	Bioethics	
INF 610	Public Policy, Law, Ethics in Telecommunications	3

MATH 250	Elements of Statistics	3
Total Hours		12

BS Science Requirement

Twenty credit hours or more in science and math must be completed. If students **do not** apply BIOL 200 Humans and the Environment and MATH 250 Elements of Statistics to the general education requirements, they will need to complete 4 additional units of science or math that count toward the science requirement. Students electing to take GSCI 240 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) toward the personal and professional development portion of the Institutional area in the General Education curriculum may apply those hours toward the science requirement.

Code	Title	Hours
Core for Political Science Major (BA/BS)		
POLS 100	Orientation to Political Science	3
POLS 101	American Government	3
POLS 230	Introduction to International Relations	3
POLS 280	Introduction to Public Policy	3
PHIL 201	Political Philosophy	3
POLS 455	Research Methods in Political Science	3
POLS 490	Senior Capstone	3
POLS 689	Internship in Political Science	1
Total Hours		22

Concentration

In addition to the core students will select 12 hours from a concentration.

Open

Select one course from four different concentrations.

American Politics

The American Politics subfield gives students essential exposure to the institutions, actors, and processes in American government. This area of political science covers a broad range of behavioral and institutional accounts of electoral and campaign politics, the legislative process, political parties, executive power and bureaucracy, the policy process and administration of policy, public law, cultural politics, state and local government, political development over time, and political thought. Furthermore, the study of American politics is hardly confined to one government—50 state governments in a federalist system can act as experimental arenas in which policy is tested and evaluated.

Federalism is the idea that a national government shares power with sub-units of government. In the American case this means that the federal government in Washington DC does not have a monopoly on political power. 50 state governments have their own constitutional foundations, legislatures, executive branch (state governors), and state court systems. Furthermore, state governments must share power with local government entities, such as municipal or county-level governments. Federal, state, and local governments interact in complex ways that make the study and practice of politics in the United States a fascinating and challenging endeavor.

Studying institutions of American government gives FHSU students career readiness that positions them for rewarding careers in various layers of government, NGOs and non-profit organizations, and the private sector.

Code	Title	Hours
American Politics		12
Select 12 credit hours from the following:		
POLS 103	State and Local Government	
POLS 400	Urban Politics	
POLS 401	The Congress	
POLS 403	The Presidency	
POLS 661	American Political Parties	
POLS 675	Seminar in Political Science (Kansas Politics)	

Democratic Engagement

In this track in FHSU's Political Science program, we aim to promote effective engagement in democratic life through the development of knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to foster the greater good. This track creates opportunities for personal and professional growth with a civic purpose more broadly and opens new space for collaboration within and outside the university. Political Science Programs pursue the service of the greater good for Fort Hays State University and the communities it serves

Code	Title	Hours
Democratic Engagement		12
Select 12 credit hours from the following:		
POLS 380	Topics in Political Science	
POLS 621	American Civil Liberties	
POLS 675	Seminar in Political Science (Deliberative Democracy)	
Additional Course by advisor approval		

International Relations/Comparative Politics

Looking for a career with an international flair such as a position with the United Nations or State Department? Are you interested in better understanding international organizations, foreign policy concerns, and other issues in world politics?

The International Relations/Comparative Politics concentration grounds you in the study of international relations through the study of nations, states, intergovernmental organizations and multi-national corporations. Through theory and hands-on learning opportunities, the International Relations/Comparative Politics concentration equips you with invaluable research and analytical skills and helps you build a solid foundation for your success either in graduate school or in the international relations field.

Code	Title	Hours
International Relations Concentration		12
Select 12 credit hours from the following:		
POLS 240	Democracy and Liberty in Comparative Perspective	
POLS 609	Field Work in Government	
POLS 630	International Organization in World Politics	
POLS 631	American Foreign Policy	
POLS 632	Problems and Issues in World Politics	
POLS 640	Comparative Politics	

Political Theory

In one sense, political theory is a subfield of the discipline of political science, existing alongside other branches of political inquiry such as comparative politics, international relations, and American politics. But in another sense, political theory seems quite unique from the other subfields in that it can be regarded as the oldest and most fundamental form of political inquiry. It is a philosophical inquiry into political meaning that lays bare the most fundamental questions of the human experience.

What does it mean for an individual to be free? Is reason necessary to freedom? What form of equality should society strive for? How does one wield power for the sake of justice?

Political theory, then, does not just stand beside other branches, but can be considered foundational to the discipline of political science—the fountainhead of all other forms of political inquiry. Indeed, what appears to lie beneath the practice of inquiry in the other subfields of political science are fundamental questions and insights that strike to the heart of what we call political theory. For these reasons, it is essential that students have some exposure to political theory in order to:

1. understand their own beliefs and ideological principles;
2. evaluate contemporary political debate by understanding foundational principles that influence specific policy proposals and political positions; and
3. articulate a sense of what justice, freedom, and equality are and how we should pursue these values in a democratic society.

Code	Title	Hours
Political Theory		12
Select 12 credit hours from the following:		
Foundations of Political Theory Course		
POLS 650	History of Political Theory	3
POLS 651	Recent Political Theories	3
POLS 653	American Political Thought	3

Pre-Law

From pre-law courses to advising to co- and extra-curricular opportunities, the Pre-Law Program at FHSU will help you prepare for a career in law. Our rigorous academic curriculum will cultivate the skills, knowledge, values, and experiences necessary for success in law school and the legal profession. Advising resources and special programs will support your exploration of legal careers and completion of the law school application process.

For more information about law school preparation visit the pre-law page (<https://www.fhsu.edu/polisci/pre-law/>).

Code	Title	Hours
Pre-Law		12
Select 12 credit hours from the following:		
POLS 320	Introduction to the Law	
POLS 380	Topics in Political Science	
POLS 422	Legal Advocacy	
POLS 425	Legal Research Methods	
POLS 620	Constitutional Law	
POLS 621	American Civil Liberties	
POLS 675	Seminar in Political Science	
PHIL 401	Philosophy of Law	

Public Administration

Studying Public Administration can ready you to become a public servant in a governmental agency at the federal, state, or local level. You can also work in think tanks, research institutes, or non-profit organizations to assist and influence government officials in policy-making.

Courses offered for the Public Administration concentration will introduce the basic theories, concepts, and practices in the field of public administration and policies. Students will gain an understanding of the political, legal, and social environment of public administration and will develop skills in policy analysis, personnel management, and public budgeting. With these skills, students are prepared for careers in a multitude of fields.

Code	Title	Hours
Public Administration/Public Policy		12
Select 12 credit hours from the following:		
POLS 310	Introduction to Public Administration	
POLS 400	Urban Politics	
POLS 611	Policy Analysis	
POLS 612	The Administrative Process	
POLS 616	Public Personnel Management	
POLS 618	Public Budgeting	

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
All bachelor degrees require:		
GPA of 2.0 on FHSU courses & 2.0 on all coursework (Higher program requirements prevail over the 2.0 when set)		
A minimum of 30 hours earned from FHSU with a grade of D, C, B, or A		
Successful completion of an upper division Writing and Information Literacy course (Most majors contain a course designated)		
A minimum of 45 hours of recognized upper division credit		
A minimum of 120 hours of recognized college credit		