

# Political Science (BA)

## Degree Requirements

### General Education Requirements (53-57 Hours)

#### Area I - Written Composition (2 Courses, 6 Hours)

- A. 3 hours: EH 101
- B. 3 hours: EH 102

#### Area II - Humanities & Fine Arts (5 Courses, 15 Hours)

No more than six hours from any one discipline.

- A. 3 hours: CA 110
- B. 3 hours from: EH 215, EH 216, EH 225, EH 226, EH 235, EH 236
- C. 3 hours from: ARH 100, ARH 103, ARH 123, ARS 101, DRA 110, MUL 101
- D. 6 hours from: AFR 101, ARH 100, ARH 103, ARH 123, ARH 203, ARS 101, CLA 110, DRA 110, EH 215, EH 216, EH 225, EH 226, EH 235, EH 236, JHS 101, JOU 252, LG 101, LG 102, LG 111, LG 112, LG 121, LG 122, LG 131, LG 132, LG 141, LG 142, LG 151, LG 152, LG 153, LG 171, LG 172, LG 173, LG 201, LG 202, LG 211, LG 212, LG 213, LG 221, LG 222, LG 231, LG 232, LG 234, LG 241, LG 242, LG 251, LG 252, LG 271, LG 272, LG 273, LGS 101, LGS 102, LGS 106, LGS 107, LGS 110, LGS 111, LGS 171, LGS 172, LGS 201, LGS 202, LGS 206, LGS 207, LGS 210, LGS 211, LGS 271, LGS 272, MUL 101, PHL 110, PHL 120, PHL 121, PHL 131, PHL 220, PHL 231, PHL 240, REL 100, REL 200, REL 201

#### Area III – Natural Sciences & Mathematics (3 Courses & Labs, 11-14 Hours)

- A. 3-4 hours from: MA 110, MA 112, MA 113, MA 115, MA 120, MA 125, MA 126, MA 227, MA 237, MA 238
- B. 8-10 hours from: AN 121 & AN 121L, BLY 101 & BLY 101L or BLY 121 & BLY 121L, BLY 102 & BLY 102L or BLY 122 & BLY 122L, BMD 110, BMD 111, CH 101 & CH 101L, CH 103 & CH 103L, CH 131 & CH 131L, CH 132 & CH 132L, GEO 101 & GEO 101L, GEO 102 & GEO 102L, GY 111 & GY 111L, GY 112 & GY 112L, MAS 134 & MAS 134L, PH 101 & PH 101L, PH 104 & PH 104L, PH 114 & PH 114L, PH 115 & PH 115L, PH 201 & PH 201L, PH 202 & PH 202L

#### Area IV – History, Social & Behavioral Sciences (4 Courses, 12 Hours)

No more than six hours from any one discipline.

- A. 3 hours from: HY 101, HY 102, HY 121, HY 122, HY 135, HY 136
- B. 9 hours from: AN 100, AN 101, CA 100, CA 211, CJ 105, ECO 215, ECO 216, GEO 114, GEO 115, GS 101, HY 101, HY 102, HY 121, HY 122, HY 135, HY 136, IS 100, IST 201, NAS 101, PSC 130, PSY 120, PSY 250, SY 109, SY 112

#### Area V (3 Courses, 9-10 Hours)

- A. Foreign Language. 6 hours from any one group:

LG 101 & LG 102, LGS 106 & LGS 107, LGS 110 & LGS 111, LG 111 & LG 112 or proficiency test or LG 113, LG 121 & LG 122, LG 131 & LG 132 or proficiency test or LG 134, LG 141 & LG 142, LG 151 & LG 152 or proficiency test or LG 153, LG 171 & LG 172 or LG 173, LGS 171 & LGS 172

Students may fulfill the foreign language requirement by passing a proficiency test offered by the Department of Modern and Classical Languages at the level equivalent to the second semester of the foreign language sequence, or by passing another test (e.g., AP (Advanced Placement) or CLEP (College Level Examination Program) at the equivalent level). Students who pass a proficiency test at the level equivalent to first semester of the foreign language sequence are required to complete only the second semester and will fulfill the foreign language requirement with 3 credit hours of course work.

- B. Natural Sciences/Math. 3-4 hour lab science or math/stat course from:

AN 121 & AN 121L, BLY 101 & BLY 101L or BLY 121 & BLY 121L, BLY 102 & BLY 102L or BLY 122 & BLY 122L, BMD 110, BMD 111, CH 101 & CH 101L, CH 103 & CH 103L, CH 131 & CH 131L, CH 132 & CH 132L, GEO 101 & GEO 101L, GEO

102 & GEO 102L, GY 111 & GY 111L, GY 112 & GY 112L, MAS 134 & MAS 134L, PH 101 & PH 101L, PH 104 & PH 104L, PH 114 & PH 114L, PH 115 & PH 115L, PH 201 & PH 201L, PH 202 & PH 202L, ST 210, MA 113- 299 (except 201 and 202).

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Students must complete a 6 credit hour sequence either in literature (Area II – EH 215 & EH 216, EH 225 & EH 226, or EH 235 & EH 236) or history (Area IV – HY 101 & HY 102 or HY 135 & HY 136 or HY 121 & HY 122).

All undergraduates must complete two designated writing credit (W) courses, at least one of which must be in the student's major or minor.

## Major Requirements (36 Hours)

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### Political Science Core (5 Courses, 15 Hours)

A. 15 hours: PSC 130, PSC 250, PSC 270, PSC/CJ 310 (W), PSC 492 (W)

### Political Science Electives (7 Courses, 21 Hours)

A. 21 hours: PSC 300-400 Level Electives

## Minor Requirements (18-24 Hours)

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A minor is required for this degree program

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### Notes:

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## Additional Information

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Majors in Arts and Sciences may be completed with a minimum of 120 semester hours unless designated otherwise. At least 30 hours of course work, which represents 25% of the required 120 hours, must be at the upper division level in order to fulfill the University's residency requirement. At least 15 of the 30 upper-division hours must be in the major or concentration area. An overall grade-point-average (GPA) of 2.0 is required for graduation. In addition, a minimum GPA of 2.0 is required in the student's major or concentration area.

The major in political science requires 36 semester hours, including PSC 130, PSC 250, PSC 270, PSC/CJ 310, and PSC 492 (W)---plus 21 hours of PSC electives at the 300/400 level. PSC 130 is a prerequisite for most other PSC courses. Political Science majors must earn a grade of "C" or higher in PSC 130 and also in the Capstone Seminar, PSC 492 (W). Students pursuing a degree in Political Science must have a minor in another discipline.

In addition, all political science majors must take the ETS major field test in political science and receive a satisfactory score (The standards for passing are determined by the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice). Students with unsatisfactory scores on the ETS test can retake the test, or they may be required to repeat coursework in political science. The ETS is administered in the Capstone Seminar, PSC 492 (W), which is typically offered in the Fall Semester only. All PSC core courses must be completed prior to enrolling in PSC 492 (W).

All political science majors must demonstrate competency in oral and written communication. Students will be expected to deliver presentations, particularly in the Capstone Seminar. The University of South Alabama requires two Writing-Intensive (W) courses for graduation. PSC 492 (W) fulfills one Writing-Intensive requirement, and CJ/PSC 310 (W) fulfills the second.

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## Graduation Plan

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**Political Science (BA): (36 Total Hours)****First Year - Fall Semester**

Course ID	Course Description	Hours
CAS 100	First Year Experience-College Success	2
EH 101	Area I - Written Composition I	3
Humanities/Fine Arts Elective	Area II	3
History/Social/Behavioral Science: PSC 130	Area IV - Introduction to US Government	3
Natural Science with Lab Elective	Area III	4
Total Hours		15

**First Year - Spring Semester**

Course ID	Course Description	Hours
EH 102 or EH 105 Honors	Area I - Written Composition II or Honors	3
Humanities/Fine Arts Elective	Area II	3
PSC 250 or PSC 270	Comparative Politics or International Relations	3
CA 110	Area V - Public Speaking	3
Math	Area III - MA 110, MA 112, MA 113, MA 115, MA 120, MA 125, MA 227, MA 237, MA, or MA 238	3
Total Hours		15

**Second Year - Fall Semester**

Course ID	Course Description	Hours
PSC 250 or PSC 270	Comparative Politics or International Relations	3
Natural Science with Lab Elective	Area III	4
Foreign Language	Area V - Foreign Language Sequence Semester 1	3
HY, Social/Behavioral Science	Area IV - HY 101, HY 102, HY 135, or HY 136	3
Social/Behavioral Science Elective	Area IV*	3
Total Hours		16

**Second Year - Spring Semester**

Course ID	Course Description	Hours
Humanities/Fine Arts: Literature	Area II - EH 215, EH 216, EH 225, EH 226, EH 235, or EH 236	3
Foreign Language	Area V - Foreign Language Sequence Semester 2	3
PSC/CJ 310 (W)	Research Methods (W)	3
PSC Elective	300-400 Level Elective	3
Minor	Minor course	3
Total Hours		15

**Third Year - Fall Semester**

Course ID	Course Description	Hours
Natural Science with Lab or Upper Level Math	Area V	4/3
Literature or History Sequence	Area II or Area IV - Literature or History Sequence	3
Social/Behavioral Science Elective	Area IV	3
Political Science Elective	300-400 Level PSC Elective	3
Minor	Minor Course	3
Total Hours		16/15

**Third Year - Spring Semester**

Course ID	Course Description	Hours
Political Science Elective	300-400 Level PSC Elective	3
Political Science Elective	300-400 Level PSC Elective	3
Political Science Elective	300-400 Level PSC Elective	3
Political Science Elective	300-400 Level PSC Elective	3
Minor	Minor course	3
Total Hours		15

**Fourth Year - Fall Semester**

Course ID	Course Description	Hours
PSC 492 (W)	Capstone Seminar in PSC (W)	3

Political Science Elective	300-400 Level PSC Elective	3
Minor	Minor course	3
Minor	Minor course	3
Minor	Minor course	3
Total Hours		15

### Fourth Year - Spring Semester

Course ID	Course Description	Hours
Minor	Minor course	3
Elective	Course in Major, Minor, or Elective	3
Elective	Course in Major, Minor, or Elective	3
Elective	Course in Major, Minor, or Elective	3
Elective	Course in Major, Minor, or Elective	3/2
Total Hours		15/14

#### Notes

\*CJ 105 recommended

## Department Information

Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice website  
<https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/artsandsci/pscj/>

### Undergraduate Studies

The courses offered in the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice are designed to achieve three important objectives:

1. To provide a broad and comprehensive education with exceptional social science training---promoting critical thinking, analytic, oral communication, and writing skills.
2. To help students advance toward professional careers in a diversity of fields including law enforcement; education; government; law; corrections; public policy; business; journalism; NGOs and non-profits; and more.
3. To prepare students to be leaders in their communities and to seize meaningful opportunities to effect positive changes locally, nationally, and globally.

### Criminal Justice

The curriculum in Criminal Justice provides students interested in law enforcement, criminal law, corrections, and the criminal court system with a broad educational background emphasizing social science and the University's general education skills of critical thinking, writing, communication, and analysis. Students in the department acquire knowledge of the criminal justice field. The program addresses issues relating to the entire criminal justice system, from the nature of crime and delinquency to society's varied responses to crime. Such a focus includes the organization and operation of each of the components in the field.

### Political Science

Political Science is a broad discipline that includes studies of governments, politics, and policies. Political scientists may focus on political behavior, decision making, processes, institutions, and public policies. Inquiry in political science addresses the domestic

and international policies of the United States and all other countries and regions. Political scientists study the political values, attachments, and activities of people, individually and in groups. Political science examines both what preferences people share and how they differ according to their personal attributes and positions in the economy and society. Political science also studies how people regard and trust each other as well as their leaders and governments.

### **First Year Experience Requirement**

All first-time freshmen must successfully complete CAS 100: First Year Experience as a degree requirement. Students must enroll during their first term at USA, except for summer-entry students who must enroll in the fall semester following entry.

### **Technological Competency Requirement**

Research Methods (PSC 310 (W)/CJ 310 (W)) will satisfy the technology competency requirement for both political science and criminal justice majors. Enrollment in PSC 310 (W) or CJ 310 (W) is required for both political science and criminal justice majors.

### **Departmental Honors**

The Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice offers an opportunity for students in Political Science or Criminal Justice who are not in the University's Honors College to graduate with departmental honors. In order to graduate with departmental honors, the student needs to have at least a 3.50 grade point average (overall and in the major) and maintain that average upon graduation. In addition, the student must complete a two-semester departmental honors thesis project with a faculty mentor and a committee.

### **Graduate Studies In Public Administration**

The Master of Public Administration degree (MPA) curriculum in the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice is a professional degree program designed principally for present and future administrators, officers in government, other public related organizations, not for profit agencies, and agencies that interact with governmental institutions and funding. It is a broad discipline, open to qualified students after completion of their undergraduate degree.

Students entering the program come from varied academic and vocational backgrounds. Accordingly, no specific undergraduate major is required for admission to the MPA Program. However, certain course prerequisites must be satisfied prior to enrollment in any of the required core courses of the curriculum.

### **Requirements For Admission To The MPA Program**

Students are admitted each semester. The following criteria supplement the Graduate School criteria (see Categories of Admission).

### **Regular Admission To The MPA Program**

1. Students must have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.5 on all undergraduate work (on a 4-point scale) or a GPA of 2.75 over the last 60 hours of undergraduate work.
2. Students must have taken PSC 130, Introduction to US Government, or its equivalent, with a minimum grade of C; or have received a score of 50 or higher in the "American Government" exam through the College Level Examination Program (CLEP). Students must satisfy this requirement no later than the end of their third semester in the program, including summer semesters. Failure to complete the requirement of PSC 130/its equivalent/satisfactory CLEP credit by the end of the third semester will prohibit registration for remaining core curriculum MPA courses.
3. Students are encouraged to apply in the fall semester, but are admitted each semester.