

BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH A MAJOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE (PUBLIC POLICY FOCUS)

The bachelor of arts in political science with a focus in public policy degree provides training for active citizenship and the development of skills to analyze public policy problems. Inside the classroom, students learn from leading experts in policy issues and current events, while outside the classroom they benefit from ample opportunities to intern on the Hill or at government agencies. The public policy-focused degree includes four upper-level electives, three of which are related to public policy. Students majoring in political science with a public policy focus also complete a required proseminar as juniors or seniors, in which they examine a policy issue and produce scholarly writing on the topic. By examining policy issues in-depth, graduates are well-prepared to enter a variety of careers in research, public affairs, and public policy. 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/ba-political-science-public-policy-focus/>) 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 (<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 (https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#General_Education_Curriculum_Requirement). 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
Prerequisite courses		
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.		
Required for the major		
Six 2000-level political science courses (18 credits) distributed as follows: **		
Three courses (9 credits) selected from the following:		
PSC 2212	State and Urban Policy Problems	
PSC 2213	Judicial Politics	
PSC 2216	The American Presidency	
PSC 2217	Executive Branch Politics	
PSC 2218	Legislative Politics	
or PSC 2218W	Legislative Politics	
PSC 2219	Political Parties and Interest Groups	
PSC 2222	Science, Technology, and Politics	
PSC 2224	Issues in Domestic Public Policy	
PSC 2240	Poverty, Welfare, and Work	
PSC 2241	The Politics of Education Policy	
PSC 2446	U.S. Foreign Policy	
PSC 2468	Post-Soviet Foreign Policy	

Three courses (9 credits) from the following groups. One course must from group D.

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	Comparative Politics of the Middle East
or PSC 2377W	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 2213	Judicial Politics

PSC 2214	U.S. Constitutional Law and Politics I
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PSC 2215	U.S. Constitutional Law and Politics II
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PSC 2216	The American Presidency
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PSC 2218	Legislative Politics
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or PSC 2218W	Legislative Politics
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PSC 2219	Political Parties and Interest Groups
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PSC 2220	Public Opinion
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PSC 2221	African American Politics
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PSC 2223	Campaigns and Elections
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PSC 2225	Women and Politics
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PSC 2228	Media, Politics, and Government
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PSC 2229	Media and Politics
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PSC 2230	Law and Justice: The View from Hollywood
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PSC 2241	The Politics of Education Policy
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PSC 2992	Special Topics in American Politics and Government
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Group C (international politics, law, and organizations)

PSC 2439	International Political Economy
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PSC 2440	Theories of International Politics
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PSC 2442	International Organizations
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or PSC 2442W	International Organizations
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PSC 2444	Public International Law
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PSC 2446	U.S. Foreign Policy
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PSC 2447	American Presidents at War
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PSC 2449	International Security Politics
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or PSC 2449W	International Security Politics
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PSC 2451	Theory of War
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or PSC 2451W	Theory of War
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PSC 2453	U.S. Foreign Policy Perspectives
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PSC 2454	Humanitarianism
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PSC 2455	Global Governance
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PSC 2461	European-Atlantic Relations
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PSC 2468	Post-Soviet Foreign Policy
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PSC 2475	International Relations of East Asia	
PSC 2476	The Arab-Israeli Conflict	
or PSC 2476W	The Arab-Israeli Conflict	
PSC 2478	International Relations of the Middle East	
PSC 2482	African International Politics	
PSC 2484	International Relations of Latin America	
PSC 2994	Special Topics in International Relations	
Group D (research methods)		
PSC 2101	Scope and Methods of Political Science	
or COMM 3110	Research Methods in Communication	
or IAFF 2101	International Affairs Research Methods	
or PSYC 2101	Research Methods in Psychology	
or SMPA 2151	Research Methods	
or SOC 2101	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. Topic must be policy oriented.)	
PSC 3500	Advanced Topics in Political Science	
Code	Title	Credits

Six courses (18 credits) in other social sciences and statistics, including:

Four required courses:	
ECON 1011	Principles of Economics I
ECON 1012	Principles of Economics II
ECON 2101	Intermed Microeconomic Theory
STAT 1051	Introduction to Business and Economic Statistics
or STAT 1053	Introduction to Statistics in Social Science
or STAT 1111	Business and Economic Statistics I

and two courses selected from the following:

ECON 2122	Monetary Theory and Policy
ECON 2136	Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
ECON 2151W	Economic Development
ECON 2151	Economic Development
ECON 2157	Urban and Regional Economics
ECON 2158	Industrial Organization
ECON 2159	Government Regulation of the Economy
ECON 2167	Economics of Crime
ECON 3142	Labor Economics
ECON 3148	Health Economics
ECON 3161	Public Finance: Expenditure Programs
ECON 3162	Public Finance: Taxation
ECON 3190	Law and Economics
ECON 3191	Game Theory
SOC 2105	Social Problems in American Society
SOC 2112	Evaluation Research
SOC 2135	Youth and Delinquency
SOC 2136	Criminology
SOC 2137	Transnational Crime
SOC 2139	Alternatives to Imprisonment
SOC 2143	Criminal Justice System Arrest Through Appeal
SOC 2145	Criminal Law
SOC 2146	The Bill of Rights and Criminal Justice

SOC 2161	Sociology of Complex Organizations
SOC 2162	Sociology of the Family
SOC 2163	Sociology of Education
SOC 2169	Urban Sociology
SOC 2170	Class and Inequality in American Society
SOC 2174	Sociology of Immigration
SOC 2179	Race and Minority Relations
STAT 1129	Introduction to Computing
STAT 2118	Regression Analysis
STAT 2123	Introduction to Econometrics
STAT 2183	Intermediate Statistics Lab/Packages

* Bulletins covering prior academic years are archived (<https://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 (<https://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://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/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 (<https://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 (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#majorstext>) page in this Bulletin.

SPECIAL HONORS

In addition to the general requirements stated under University Regulations (<https://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 Arts with a major in political science (public policy focus) and Master of Public Policy (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/political-science/dual-ba-public-policy-mpp/>)