



BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

AT EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

NAME	
E NUMBER	

2025-2026

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS: 40 HRS

LANGUAGE: 9 HRS

COURSE	HOURS	GRADE	SEMESTER
ENG 1001G Composition & Language	3		
ENG 1002G Composition & Language II	3		
CMN 1310G Intro. to Speech Comm.	3		

HUMANITIES/FINE ARTS: 9 HRS

COURSE	HOURS	GRADE	SEMESTER
Humanities _____	3		
Fine Arts _____	3		
Humanities or Fine Arts _____	3		

SOCIAL/BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE: 9 HRS

Must be from two different disciplines.

COURSE	HOURS	GRADE	SEMESTER
PLS 1153G/1193G	3		
PLS 2253G/2293G	3		
Non PLS _____	3		

POLITICAL SCIENCE REQUIREMENTS: 40 HRS

REQUIRED COURSES: 19 HRS

COURSE	HOURS	GRADE	SEMESTER
PLS 1153G American Gov't OR PLS 1139G American Gov't Honors	3		
PLS 1500 Political Science Forum	1		
PLS 2033 Research Methods	3		
PLS 4600 Capstone (prerequisite: 75 hrs., PLS 1500 , and PLS 2033)	3		
+ CHOOSE 3 OF THE FOLLOWING			
PLS 1003 Intro. to Politics	3		
PLS 2000G Intro. to Public Affairs	3		
PLS 2103 Intro. to Political Theory	3		
PLS 2253G Intern. Relations OR PLS 2239G Intro. Intern. Rel. Honors	3		

FIELD REQUIREMENTS AND ELECTIVES: 18 HRS

See below for course listing.

COURSE	HOURS	GRADE	SEMESTER
Comp./IR _____	3		
Amer./Pol./PA _____	3		
Law/Theory _____	3		
Field Elective 1 _____	3		
Field Elective 2 _____	3		
Field Elective 3 _____	3		

POLITICAL SCIENCE FIELD REQUIREMENTS/ELECTIVES

COMPARATIVE/INTER. RELATIONS

PLS 3203 American Foreign Policy
PLS 3223 International Organizations
PLS 3233 International Terrorism
PLS 3253 Hum Rights Internat Law
PLS 3263 Pol of War & Conflict
PLS 3303 European Politics
PLS 3333 Latin Amer/Caribbean
PLS 3343 Middle East
PLS 3353 Sub-Saharan Africa
PLS 3363 Asia-Pacific
PLS 3373 Politics of Developing Nations
PLS 3393 Developing Nations
PLS 3861 Spec Top IR Comp
PLS 4823 Comparative Public Policy

AMERICAN/PUBLIC POLICY/PA

PLS 2333 Political Campaigning
PLS 3603 State & Local Government
PLS 3613 Public Policy
PLS 3623 Public & Nonprofit Management
PLS 3653 American Indian Politics
PLS 3703 African American Politics
PLS 3713 Political Parties & Elections
PLS 3723 Political Behavior
PLS 3733 Interest Groups & Lobbying
PLS 3743 Congress
PLS 3753 American Presidency
PLS 3773 Religion & Politics in US
PLS 3862 Spec Top US/Policy/PubAd
PLS 3903 Women & Politics
PLS 4763 Environ Politics/Policy
PLS 4783 Health Politics/Policy

PLS 4793 Civic Nonprofit Leadership
PLS 4873 Hum. Res. Public/Nonprofit
PLS 4893 Budgeting Public/Nonprofit

LAW/POLITICAL THEORY

PLS 3513 Politics & the Legal Process
PLS 3523 Criminal Law
PLS 3543 Civil Liberties in America
PLS 3553 Federal Indian Law Policy
PLS 3864 Special Topics Law & Theory
PLS 4774 Amer. Constitutional Law
PLS 4853 Supreme Court
PLS 4903 Classic Political Theory
PLS 4913 Contemp. Political Theory
PLS 4923 African-Amer. Pol. Thought
PLS 4943 American Pol. Thought

SCIENCE AWARENESS: 7 HRS

One biological and one physical science course, one of which must involve a lab.

COURSE	HOURS	GRADE	SEMESTER
BIO _____ Lab? ☐			
Phy. Sci. _____ Lab? ☐			

MATHEMATICS: 3 HRS

COURSE	HOURS	GRADE	SEMESTER
MAT _____	3		

SENIOR SEMINAR: 3 HRS

After completion of 75 credits. Choose from PLS 4600, EIU 4XXXG, or STA 4000G

COURSE	HOURS	GRADE	SEMESTER
PLS 4600 Capstone	3		

FOREIGN LANGUAGE: 0-8 HRS

☐ Exempt if 2 yrs in high school with "C" average.

COURSE	HOURS	GRADE	SEMESTER
WL _____ G	4		
WL _____ G	4		

APPLIED LEARNING: 3 HRS

COURSE	HOURS	GRADE	SEMESTER
PLS 2503 Legal Research (only 1 HR counts)	1		
PLS 2513 Moot Court (1 hr) ☐ ☐ ☐			
PLS 2611 Model IL Gov't (1 hr) ☐ ☐ ☐			
PLS 3970 Study Abroad			
PLS 4275 Internship			
PLS 4503 Independent Study			
PLS 4444 Honors Independent Study			

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:

☐ 120 Hours
☐ 40 SH of upper division courses (3000+)
☐ 2.00 Cumulative GPA
☐ 2.00 Major GPA
☐ Cultural Diversity
☐ Application for Graduation (First semester junior year)
☐ Electronic Writing Portfolio 1 ☐ 2 ☐
See www.eiu.edu/~assess/ for requirements

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

SUGGESTED 4-YEAR SEQUENCE

YEAR 1			
FALL		SPRING	
PLS 1500	1	PLS 2253G/2293G	3
PLS 1153G/1193G	3	ENG 1002G/1092G	3
ENG 1001G/1091G	3	Fine Arts Gen. Ed.	3
Humanities Gen. Ed.	3	Social/Behav. Sci. Gen. Ed.	3
Physical Science Gen. Ed.	4	Elective	3
Total	14	Total	15
YEAR 2			
FALL		SPRING	
PLS 2033	3	PLS 1003/2103	3
PLS 2000G	3	CMN 1310G	3
MAT 1160G/2250G/2290G	3	PLS Field Requirement:	3
WL__ 1101G	4	American/Policy/PA	
Elective	3	WL__ 1102G	4
		Elective	3
Total	16	Total	16

YEAR 3			
FALL		SPRING	
PLS Field Requirement:: Law/Theory	3	PLS Field Requirement: Comparative/IR	3
PLS 3000-4000 elective	3	PLS 3000-4000 elective	3
Life Science Gen. Ed.	3	Hum./Fine Arts Gen. Ed.	3
Upper Division Elective	3	Upper Division Elective	3
Elective	3	Elective	3
Total	15	Total	15
YEAR 4			
FALL		SPRING	
PLS 4600	3	PLS 3000-4000 elective	3
PLS Applied Learning Req.	3	Upper Division Electives	9
Upper Division Electives	6	Electives	3
Elective	3		
Total	15	Total	15

Students with dual/transfer/AP credits have more room to take electives or pursue a double major or minor. Students who need a foreign language graduation requirement have fewer elective options. We recommend completing this requirement in your 1st year.

*Any Math general education course will count in the major, but these classes are recommended.
**There are many paths to completing the applied learning requirement - talk to your academic advisor.

NOTES, QUESTIONS, MINOR REQUIREMENTS: