Bachelor of Art in Political Science

Howard University

College of Arts & Sciences

Catalog: Fall 2023 – Present

Quick Summary - What You Need to Graduate

Total Credits	Minimum GPA	Political Science Credits	Minor Credits	Last 30 Credits
120	2.0	36	15-18 2.0 GPA	At Howard

- **Your Degree Breakdown:**
- Major Requirements: 36 Political Science credits (12 courses)
- General Education: 30 credits (approximately 15 courses)
- Minor: 15-18 credits (5-7 courses, 2.0 GPA)
- Math Requirements: 4-8 credits (2 courses)
- Free Electives: Remaining credits to reach 120 (varies by track)
- Complete all 7 ELOs (can overlap with courses)
- COAS Experiential (1 course) & COAS Innovative Learning (1 course)
- Undergraduate Comprehensive Exam

Important: Double-Dipping Made Simple!

One course can fulfill BOTH a General Education requirement AND an Essential Learning Outcome (ELO) at the same time. You don't need separate courses for each! This helps you graduate efficiently without taking extra classes.

Major credits **cannot** be double dipped with minor credits. Minors require **15–18 credits that are not applied to their major requirements**. Minor coursework must remain distinct and separate from major coursework.

General Education Requirements (30 Credits)

Freshman Experience (1 Credit / 1 Course)

- **FRSM 001** - Freshman Seminar (1 credit)

Core Writing & Communication (12 Credits / 4 Courses)

- ☐ **ENGW 101, 102, or 104 -** First-Year English Writing I (3 credits)
- ☐ **ENGW 103 or 105 -** First-Year English Writing II (3 credits)
- ☐ **Third Writing Course** - Upper-level writing (3 credits)
- ☐ **Communication** - Principles of Speech (3 credits)

Mathematics (6-8 Credits / 2 Courses)

- **MATH 006 or higher** - College Algebra I or higher (3 credits)
- **Second Math Course** - Choose from approved list (3 credits)
    - *POLS requires students to complete 6-8 credits of MATH courses PLUS a POLS quantitative skills course*

Health & Wellness (2 Credits/ 1 Course)

- **HHPL –** Health/Activity Course(s)

Cultural and Global Awareness (12 Credits / 4 Courses)

- **African American Cluster Course** - (3 credits)
- **Foreign Language** - 3 courses (9 credits total, same language)
  (3 credits can be an intercultural knowledge)

Humanities & Social Sciences (15 Credits / 5 Courses)

- **PHIL - Philosophy Course** (3 credits)
- **Two Humanities Courses** - (3 credits each)
- **Two Social Science Courses** - (3 credits each)

Natural Sciences (6-8 Credits / 2 Courses)

- **Science Course 1** - (3 credits) **Non-Math Course**
- **Science Course 2/Natural Science Course** - (3 credits)

COAS Special Requirements

Experiential Learning (1 course required)

Examples of COAS Experiential Learning Course but are not limited to:

- ☐ Biology 390
- ☐ Any 890 course
- ☐ Study abroad

Innovative Learning Requirement (1 course required)

- ☐ Complete at least one course marked as 'innovative'

Note: COAS Special Requirements courses are tagged in Bison Hub under the course description

Political Science Major Requirements (36 Credits)

Foundation Courses (15 Credits / 5 Courses)

Required for all Political Science students

- **POLS 010** - Introduction to American Government (3 credits)
- **POLS 003** - Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 credits)
- **POLS 128 -** Introduction to International Relations (3 credits)
- **POLS 007** - Introduction to Black Politics (3 credits)
- **POLS 004** - Introduction to Political Theory (3 credits)

Research Methods (3 Credits/ 1 Course)

- **POLS 002** - Introduction to Research Methods (3 credits)
    - *POLS specific quantitative skills and reasoning course*

Political Science Electives (15 Credits/ 5 Courses)

- **POLS** - Elective Course (3 credits)
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Experiential Learning (3 Credits / 1 Course)

- **POLS** - POLS Internship Course (3 credits)

Minor Requirements (15-18 Credits / 5-6 Courses)

Choose a minor in a different department

- **Minor Course** - Introductory course in different department (3 credits)
- **Minor Course** - (3 credits)
- **Minor Course** - (3 credits)
- **Minor Course** - (3 credits)
- **Minor Course** - (3 credits)

Free Electives (12 Credits/ 4 Courses)

- **Free Elective** (3 credits)
- **Free Elective** (3 credits)
- **Free Elective** (3 credits)
- **Free Elective** (3 credits)

Sample Degree Progress Checklist

First Year: Fall Semester (16-17 Credits / 6 Courses)

- [ ] FRSM 001 - Freshman Seminar (1 credit)

- [ ] ENGW 101/102/104 - First Year Writing I (3 credits)
- [ ] POLS 010 - Introduction to American Government (3 credits)
- [ ] Humanities Course - (3 credits)
- [ ] MATH Course - (3-4 credits)
- [ ] Communication - Principles of Speech (3 credits)

First Year: Spring Semester (15-16 Credits / 5 Courses)

- [ ] ENGW 103/105 - First Year Writing II (3 credits)
- [ ] POLS 002 - Introduction to Research Methods (3 credits)
- [ ] Social Science Course - (3 credits)
- [ ] Math Course - (3-4 credits)
- [ ] Philosophy course (3 credits)

Second Year: Fall Semester (15 Credits / 5 Courses)

- [ ] POLS 128 - Introduction to International Relations (3 credits)
- [ ] POLS 007 - Introduction to Black Politics (3 credits)
- [ ] Science Course - (3 credits)
- [ ] Humanities Course - (3 credits)
- [ ] Foreign Language I (3 credits)

Second Year: Spring Semester (15 Credits / 5 Courses)

- [ ] POLS -003 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 credits)
- [ ] Foreign Language II (3 credits)
- [ ] African American Cluster Course (3 credits)
- [ ] Minor Course - (3 credits)
- [ ] Natural Science Course - (3 credits)

Third Year: Fall Semester (15 Credits / 5 Courses)

- [ ] POLS 004 - Introduction to Political Theory (3 credits)
- [ ] Foreign Language III (3 credits)
- [ ] POLS Elective Course (3 credits)
- [ ] 3rd Writing Course (3 credits)
- [ ] Minor Course (3 credits)

Third Year: Spring Semester (15-16 / 5 Courses Credits)

- [ ] POLS Internship/Experiential Learning Course (3 credits)
- [ ] Social Science Course - (3-4 credits)
- [ ] Minor Course (3 credits)
- [ ] Free Elective (3 credits)
- [ ] Free Elective (3 credits)

Fourth Year: Fall Semester (15 Credits / 5 Courses)

- [ ] POLS Elective Course (3 credits)
- [ ] POLS Elective Course (3 credits)
- [ ] Minor Course (3 credits)
- [ ] Free Elective (3 credits)
- [ ] Free Elective (3 credits)

Fourth Year: Spring Semester (14 Credits / 5 Courses)

- [ ] HHPL Activity/Health Course (2 credits)
- [ ] POLS Elective Course (3 credits)
- [ ] Minor Course (3 credits)
- [ ] Free Elective (3 credits)
- [ ] POLS Elective Course (3 credits)
- [ ] Innovative Learning Course (if not completed)
- [ ] Complete Undergraduate Comprehensive Exam
- [ ] Apply for graduation

Key Requirements

- **Minimum Major GPA:** 2.0
- **Minimum Minor GPA:** 2.0
- **Credits in Political Science:** 36 minimum (15 core + 3 methods + 15 electives + 3 internship)
- **Foreign Language:** 9 credits in the same language required
- **Minor Required:** 15 credits in a different department,
- **Mathematics:** 6-8 credits of MATH courses PLUS POLS (quantitative reasoning)

- **Residency:** Last 30 credits at Howard University

Important Notes

- **Minor Requirement:** Political Science majors must complete a 15-credit minor in a different department. Choose your minor carefully during your first year. Need 2.0 GPA
- **Quantitative Skills:** POLS requires 6 math credits PLUS POLS 002 (Research Methods) for quantitative reasoning preparation.
- **Foreign Language:** All 9 credits must be in the same language.
- **Internship:** POLS internship course provides experiential learning and professional development. Plan for this in your junior year.
- **Flexible Electives:** Use your 12 flexible elective credits strategically - they can explore interests or strengthen your resume.
- **Course Sequencing:** Some upper-level POLS courses may have prerequisites. Review course descriptions carefully.
- Consult with your academic advisor each semester for course planning.

Resources

- **Academic Advisor:** Contact Office of Undergraduate Studies for assignment
- **Department Office:** Political Science Department, College of Arts & Sciences
- **Internship Coordinator:** Speak with department about POLS internship opportunities
- **Minor Requirements:** Consult with advisor about minor options and requirements