

2025-2026 Degree Map-Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (Page 1 of 2)

This map is a term-by-term sample course schedule. The milestones listed to the right of each term are designed to keep you on course to graduate in four years. The Sample Schedule serves as a general guideline to help you build a full schedule each term. See course descriptions and prerequisites at <https://catalog.atu.edu/>

#Prerequisite Courses: ENGL 0303 _____ MATH 0803 _____ MATH 0903 _____

Sample Schedule

Semester 1	Hrs.	Grade	Milestones/Notes
ENGL 1013-Comp I (ACTS=ENGL 1013)	3	#	Draft a résumé to upload to Handshake
TECH 1001- Orientation to the University	1		Create a LinkedIn profile
Mathematics	3	#	
HIST 1503, HIST 1513 or GEOG 2013	3		
SOC 1003, PSY 2003 or ECON 2003	3		
General Elective	3		
Total hours	16	GPA	

Semester 2	Hrs.	Grade	Semester 2
ENGL 1023- Comp II (ACTS= ENGL 1023)	3	#	Attend a career fair to observe
Science with Lab	4		
HIST 2003- U.S. History to 1877 (ACTS= HIST 2113)	3		Consider Accelerated BA in Political Science to MA in Emergency Management and Homeland Security. See Catalog BEFORE Junior Year.
POLS 2003- American Government (ACTS= PLSC 2003)	3		
General Elective	3		
Total hours	16	GPA	

Semester 3	Hrs.	Grade	Semester 3
POLS 2253- Survey of Western Political Thought	3		Attend a career fair and explore part-time or volunteer options
Science with Lab	4		
HIST 2013- U.S. History since 1877 (ACTS= HIST 2123)	3		
*Beginning Language I	3		*See Foreign Language note
POLS 2513- Research Design	3		See Note 1
Total hours	16	GPA	

Semester 4	Hrs.	Grade	Semester 4
*Beginning Language II	3		*See Foreign Language note
POLS Elective (3000-4000 level)	3		See Note 2
POLS Elective (3000-4000 level)	3		See Note 2
General Elective	3		Meet with faculty about career paths to determine if graduate school is required
General Elective	3		
Total hours	15	GPA	POLS ADVISOR ASSIGNED

The Arkansas Course Transfer System (ACTS) is designed to assist in planning the academic progress of students. This system contains information about the transferability of courses within Arkansas public colleges and universities. The Arkansas Course Transfer System can be accessed by searching keyword "ACTS" at <https://adhe.edu/>

Fine Arts and Humanities ART 2123 Experiencing Art (ACTS=ARTA1003) MUS 2003 Survey of Music History (ACTS=MUSC1003) TH 2273 Introduction to Theatre (ACTS=DRAM 1003) ENGL/JOUR 2173 Introduction to Film ENGL 2003 Introduction to World Literature (ACTS=ENGL2113) ENGL 2013 Intro. to American Literature (ACTS=ENGL2653) PHIL 2003 Introduction to Philosophy (ACTS=PHIL1103) PHIL 2053 Introduction to Critical Thinking (ACTS=PHIL 1003) 1013 from SPAN, FR, GER, or JPN 1023 from SPAN, FR, GER, JPN, or CHIN LEAD 2003 Ethics in Leadership	U.S. History & Government HIST 1903 Survey of American History HIST 2003 U.S. History to 1877 (ACTS=HIST2113) HIST 2013 U.S. History since 1877 (ACTS=HIST2123) POLS 2003 American Government (ACTS=PLSC2003) Science with Lab BIOL 1014- Intro. to Biological Science (ACTS= BIOL1004) BIOL/PHSC 1004- Principles of Environmental Science GEOL 1014- Physical Geology (ACTS= GEOL 1114) University Honors students should consult Course Catalog for appropriate Fine Arts/Humanities, US History/Government and Social Science options for University Honors Curriculum.
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Possible Careers: Local and State Government, Federal Government, Politics, International Affairs, Nonprofit, Preparation for Graduate Studies in Law, Public Administration, Foreign Policy, etc

Sample Schedule

Semester 5	Hrs.	Grade	Milestones/Notes
POLS 2403- Compative Government	3		Offered in a 3-Semester Rotation
POLS Elective (3000-4000 level)	3		See Note 2
General Elective	3		
General Elective	3		
General Elective	3		
Total hours	15	GPA	

Semester 6	Hrs.	Grade	Semester 6
POLS 2413- International Relations	3		Offered in a 3-Semester Rotation
POLS Elective	3		
General Elective	3		Research grad school or post-grad options and do a mock interview utilizing Career Services
General Elective (3000-4000 level)	3		
General Elective (3000-4000 level)	3		
Total hours	15	GPA	APPLY FOR GRADUATION

Semester 7	Hrs.	Grade	Semester 7
POLS Elective (3000-4000 level)	3		
POLS Elective (3000-4000 level)	3		
General Elective	3		Finalize résumé, cover letter, and references and complete a senior check-in with Career Services
General Elective (3000-4000 level)	3		
General Elective (3000-4000 level)	3		
Total hours	15	GPA	

Semester 8	Hrs.	Grade	Semester 8
POLS 4963- Senior Seminar	3		
POLS Elective (3000-4000 level)	3		Graduation Requirements:
General Elective (3000-4000 level)	3		Min. hours 3000-4000 level courses: 40
General Elective (3000-4000 level)	3		No more than 4 PE activity hours
			Min. hours required:120
Total Hours	12	GPA	2.00+ GPA

General Electives: 26 hours (1000-4000 level) 19 hours (3000-4000 level)

indicates a "C" or better is required

Foreign Language Note: Students may substitute 3 hours of electives for a Foreign Language for each year of foreign language completed in high school with a grade of "C >"

Note 1 Students are recommended to have completed ENGL 1013 & ENGL 1023 before taking Research Design (POLS 2513). Students with writing skill concerns should also consider taking Technical Writing (ENGL 2053)	Note 2 Majors are required to take 21 elective credits in Political Science, 18 of which are upper level political courses It is recommended students pursue one of six Career Tracks based on the types of jobs that are most appealing to them
This program partners the Political Science undergraduate degree with the Master of Science (MS) Emergency Management and Homeland Security degree. Students can substitute EMHS 6063, EMHS 6103, EMHS 6093, and/or approved EMHS Electives for POLS electives or general electives.	

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Career Tracks

Law School Track	Public Policy/Administration Track	International Relations/Studies Track
<p>Recommended for students interested in earning their Juris Doctorate in law. It is recommended students pursuing this track take at least 18 of their 21 political science credits from the following list of courses:</p> <p>POLS 3023 Judicial Process POLS 3043 Judicial Politics POLS 3063 Modern Political Thought POLS 3253 Classical Political Thought POLS 4043 Constitutional Law POLS 4973 Internship POLS 4983 Political Science Seminar</p>	<p>Recommended for students interested in political careers in bureaucratic agencies at the local, state or federal level of government, as well as non-profit organizations that lobby government. It is recommended students pursuing this track take at least 18 of their 21 political science credits from the following list of courses:</p> <p>POLS 3033 American State & Local Government POLS 3043 Judicial Politics POLS 3053 Introduction to Public Administration POLS 3083 Political Parties and Interest Groups POLS 3143 The United States Presidency POLS 4973 Internship POLS 4983 Political Science Seminar</p>	<p>Recommended for students interested in careers with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like the Red Cross, Amnesty International, etc.; political careers working for or with organizations like the United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), etc.; or diplomatic careers. It is recommended students pursuing this track take at least 18 of their 21 political science credits from the following list of courses:</p> <p>POLS 3063 Modern Political Thought POLS 3423 Problems in International Affairs POLS 3433 United Nations POLS 3473 National Security Policy POLS 4973 Internship POLS 4983 Political Science Seminar</p>
Graduate School Track	American Politics, Campaigns & Elections Track	Strategic Studies
<p>Recommended for students interested in seeking a master's or doctorate's degree in political science. It is recommended students pursuing this track take at least 18 of their 21 political science credits as follows:</p>	<p>Recommended for students interested in careers working on political campaigns, for political parties, for interest groups, or in any of the branches of government at the local, state and federal level. It is recommended students pursuing this track take at least 18 of their 21 political science credits from the following list of courses:</p>	<p>Recommended for students interested in military studies and careers. These courses are very popular with students pursuing an ROTC program. It is recommended students pursuing this track take at least 18 of their 21 political science credits from the following list of courses:</p>
<p>Select one of the following:</p> <p>POLS 3513 Research Methods SOC 2053 Statistics for Behavioral Sciences STAT 3153 Applied Statistics</p>	<p>POLS 3033 American State and Local Government POLS 3083 Political Parties & Interest Groups POLS 3123 American Political Behavior POLS 3133 United States Congress POLS 3143 The United States Presidency</p>	<p>POLS 2153 Introduction to Strategic Studies POLS 3013 Recent American Foreign Policy POLS 3063 Modern Political Thought POLS 3423 Problems in International Affairs POLS 3433 United Nations POLS 3473 National Security Policy POLS 4973 Internship POLS 4983 Political Science Seminar</p>
<p>15 credits distributed as follows among 3 blocks:</p> <p>American Government Courses (6 Credits): POLS 3023, 3043, 3053, 3083, 3123, 3133, or 3143</p> <p>International Relations Courses (6 Credits): POLS 3013, 3423, 3433, or 3473</p> <p>Political Theory Courses (3 Credits): POLS 3063, 3253, 4043, 4973, 4983</p>	<p>Select one of the following:</p> <p>POLS 3513 Research Methods SOC 2053 Statistics for Behavioral Sciences STAT 3153 Applied Statistics</p> <p>POLS 4976 Internship POLS 4983 Political Science Seminar</p>	