

Honors in Political Science

Why do honors in political science?

The Department of Political Science Honors Program provides opportunities for academically distinguished, highly motivated undergraduate political science students to pursue academic study that challenges their interests and abilities. Honors Program benefits for students include the opportunity to take small classes along with other outstanding students, and the opportunity to conduct a two-semester long intensive research project that permits much greater exploration into a topic than the typical course term paper, and also allows the student to learn first hand the art and science of conducting original research. Political Science Honors is designed to provide exceptional students an intensive course of study in government and politics, culminating in a research experience. Students pursuing the Honors Program will take classes from faculty with national reputations in their fields. Students who complete the program will graduate with both University Honors as well as program honors in Political Science, which is listed on the student's transcript. The program is likely to be of particular value to students contemplating graduate study in Political Science, public policy, law, or the social sciences.

Eligibility:

Admission requirements for this Program are the same as those of the University's Honors Programs office. Students must be accepted into the Honors Program at TAMU and maintain the required GPR for continuing in the Honors Program (at least a 3.5). Students are encouraged to explore the program by contacting the Senior Undergraduate Academic Advisor of the Political Science Department as early in their academic studies as possible. Retention in the Political Science honors program requires maintenance of a 3.5 GPR overall.

Political Science Honors Program Requirements:

- Complete 33 hours of honors courses of which:
- 18 hours are in Political Science
- of the 18 hours of Political Science at least 9 hours are upper-division POLS courses (excluding POLS 481).¹ 3 hours can be Honors POLS206 or Honors POLS207 (or "honors" AP credit for one of those courses)
- of the 18 hours of Political Science, 6 hours are honors senior thesis credits (see additional information below about options for ways to fulfill the thesis requirement)
- Complete requirements for University Honors (credit hours taken for POLS honors may be applied to the upper division courses in University Honors)

Fulfillment of the Thesis Requirement for the Political Science Honors Program:

There are various ways this requirement can be met, and it is essential to obtain approval of the Senior Undergraduate Academic Advisor of the Political Science Department prior to adopting a thesis plan.

- Gain admission to the University Undergraduate Research Fellows Program (honors senior thesis), which is conducted during fall and spring of the student's senior year. Successfully complete this program with 6 credit hours. The application deadline for the Fellows Program is typically in February of the spring semester of the student's junior

¹ Graduate coursework taken by an undergraduate student and applied to the student's undergraduate degree at TAMU will be applied to requirements for honors distinctions, including Honors in Political Science. Graduate credit hours earned toward an undergraduate degree may not be used again toward a graduate degree.

- year. (See the webpage of the University Undergraduate Research Fellows Program for additional information about “Research Fellows”: <<http://honors.tamu.edu/>>).
- Gain admission to the College of Liberal Arts Honors Program (“Honors Thesis Option”). Successfully complete this program, including 6 credit hours for the honors thesis. The thesis portion of this program typically is conducted during fall and spring of the student’s senior year. For information on apply to this program, go online to: <http://honors.tamu.edu/>>.
 - Bridging POLS 481 (with Honors contract) senior capstone research seminar with a research project begun in an earlier Honors course. Note: This option will increase the number of upper-division Political Science Honors credits a student must take from 9 to 12 to fulfill the total Honors course credit requirements (33 credits) for Political Science Honors.

For additional information, contact:

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