

# BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

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The Bachelor of Arts in Political Science program provides courses that balance social scientific analysis of power relations with a focus on the politics and values of community. Through their coursework and activities, students develop foundational knowledge regarding the causes and consequences of socioeconomic inequalities in the U.S. and around the world; the rise of the U.S. as a global power and how that power is used; the domestic politics of other nations and international relationships; the major environmental, political and socioeconomic threats facing the global community; and the historical development of American democracy and its application to contemporary political challenges.

Political science majors also develop the ability to engage in normative and empirical forms of inquiry: they can explain how different subfields in the discipline approach the study of politics scientifically, and they can critically analyze the justifications for individual political actions and governmental policies using normative and ethical reasoning. Students complete the major with a senior seminar in which they engage major questions in political science and develop a sustained, independently conceived contribution to these questions in the form of a senior thesis. Upon graduation, political science majors have the tools necessary for active, informed and sustained engagement with the political process.

In addition to the core requirements common to all political science majors, students may choose to concentrate their studies either in the politics track, the public policy and leadership track, or the global affairs track. For more information about these three tracks, see the Tracks tab (p. 3). The department strongly advises students as they design their academic and professional development outside the political science major. Extracurricular leadership activities, courses in diversity, and a background in statistics and economics are encouraged as ways to support learning in the public policy and leadership track.

Because experiences in government or politics are key to learning how to apply and transfer knowledge gained in the classroom to the professional or civic realm, political science majors at Quinnipiac are required to have a for-credit experiential learning course or internship. Students may choose between an advanced internship, a course in the QU in DC (<http://catalog.qu.edu/arts-sciences/philosophy-political-science/washington-dc-program/>) program, a political science course taken as part of a Study Abroad (<http://catalog.qu.edu/academics/study-abroad/>) semester, or a course where academic learning is integrated with a community service learning project. More information about the experiential learning requirement can be found on the Curriculum tab (p. 1).

**The BA in Political Science requires a minimum of 120 credits for degree completion.**

All courses must be passed with a minimum grade of C in all courses. No more than 6 credits of internship (PO 295, PO 395) may count toward the completion of the major.

Please see footnotes for additional information.

Code	Title	Credits
University Curriculum ( <a href="http://catalog.qu.edu/academics/university-curriculum/">http://catalog.qu.edu/academics/university-curriculum/</a> )		46
Modern Language Requirement <sup>1</sup>		3-6
<b>Political Science Core Courses</b>		
PO 131	Introduction to American Government and Politics	3
PO 211	Introduction to International Relations	3
PO 215	Political Theory	3
PO 225	American Political Movements	3
PO 230	Comparative Government	3
PO 303	Political Inquiry <sup>2</sup>	3
PO 408	Senior Seminar	3
PO 395 or PO 365 or a Service Learning course or QU in DC course or Study Abroad course in politics or other course approved by the department.		3
Political Science Track electives (choose a track from the list below)		15
<b>Free Electives</b>		<b>32</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>120-123</b>

## Experiential Requirement

At Quinnipiac, political science majors are required to have a for-credit experiential learning course or internship. Students may choose between an advanced internship, a course in the QU in DC (<http://catalog.qu.edu/arts-sciences/philosophy-political-science/washington-dc-program/>) program, a political science course taken as part of a Study Abroad (<http://catalog.qu.edu/academics/study-abroad/>) semester, or a course where academic learning is integrated with a community service learning project. Students should plan with their academic advisers early to complete this requirement before the start of their senior year. With department approval, this requirement may be completed with one of the following:

- A political science advanced internship PO 395 of 3 or more credits;
- A political science course taken in a study abroad (<http://catalog.qu.edu/academics/study-abroad/>) program;
- A political science course taken in the QU in DC program (<http://catalog.qu.edu/arts-sciences/philosophy-political-science/washington-dc-program/>) or PO 365;
- A service learning course in any discipline (must have "SL" designation).

## Electives: Tracks in Political Science

Students choosing to focus their studies in the politics track, the public policy and leadership track, or the global affairs track may choose from among the following electives beyond the core required courses:

### Politics Track

Code	Title	Credits
Select 15 credits of the following:		15
PO 101	Introduction to Political Science	
PO 205	Public Policy and Administration	
PO 206	Ethics and Public Policy	
PO 208	Career Readiness in Washington DC	
PO 209	Environmental Politics and Policy	

Public Policy and Leadership Track		
Code	Title	Credits
Select 15 credits of the following:		15
PO 205	Public Policy and Administration	
PO 206	Ethics and Public Policy	
PO 208	Career Readiness in Washington DC	

<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>15</b>
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Code	Title	Credits
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Select 15 credits of the following political science courses: 15

<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>15</b>
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<sup>2</sup> Students may take PO 326 in lieu of PO 303.

Shown below is one of many possible paths through the curriculum. Each student's individual academic plan is crafted in consultation with their academic adviser.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>First Year</b>		
Milestones: Earn 30 credits, meet with your adviser at least once a semester and have a GPA of 2.00 or higher.		
<b>Fall Semester</b>		
PO 101	Introduction to Political Science	3
PO 131	Introduction to American Government and Politics	3
EN 101	Introduction to Academic Reading and Writing (UC First Year Writing)	3
FYS 101	First-Year Seminar (UC Foundations Inquiry)	3
University Curriculum course		3
<b>Spring Semester</b>		
PO 211	Introduction to International Relations	3
PO 215	Political Theory	3
EN 102	Academic Writing and Research (UC First Year Writing)	3
University Curriculum Math		3
University Curriculum course		3
<b>Second Year</b>		
Milestones: Earn 60 credits and a GPA of 2.00 or higher. Meet with your adviser at least once per semester to discuss academic, experiential learning, career and co-curricular opportunities.		
<b>Fall Semester</b>		
PO 225	American Political Movements	3
Political Science Elective		3
Language at the 101 level		3
University Curriculum course		4
Open Elective		3
<b>Spring Semester</b>		
Political Science Elective		3
Political Science Elective or Track course		3
Language at the 102 level (Satisfies CAS Language Requirement)		3
University Curriculum course		3
University Curriculum course		3
<b>Third Year</b>		
Milestones: Earn 90 credits and a GPA of 2.00 or higher. Meet with your adviser at least once per semester. Participate in study abroad, complete internship or research opportunities.		
<b>Fall Semester</b>		
PO 303	Political Inquiry	3
Political Science Elective		3
University Curriculum course		3
Open Elective		3
Open Elective		3

### Spring Semester

PO 395	Advanced Internship	1-9
Open Elective		3
Open Elective		3

### Fourth Year

Milestones: Earn 120 credits and a GPA of 2.00 or higher. Complete possible minor or double major and prepare for graduation.

### Fall Semester

Political Science Elective		3
CAS 420	CAS Integrative Capstone	3
Open Elective		3
Open Elective		3
Open Elective		3

### Spring Semester

PO 408	Senior Seminar	3
Open Elective		3
Open Elective		3
Open Elective		3
Open Elective		2

**Total Credits** 112-120

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the program, students will demonstrate the following competencies:

- 1. Understanding:** Knowledge and understanding of the scope of political theory, history, diverse human interests and cultures, and a wide range of political phenomena (e.g., intercultural relations, institutions, systems of power, electoral systems, political behavior, policy issues, forms of political action, and rival accounts of political stability and change).
- 2. Empirical Inquiry:** Ability to assess diverse theories and empirical evidence in the political science field, to independently frame a research question with a research design and to then carry out a basic exploratory investigation.
- 3. Normative Inquiry:** Capacity for normative analysis of politics, founded on knowledge of the core concepts and history of political theory: major texts, multiple schools of thought and diverse cultural theoretical perspectives.
- 4. Responsible Engagement:** Capability for reflection on one's own experiences of action in civic or political engagement, in a way which synthesizes empirical inquiry, normative inquiry, ethical responsibility and respect for diverse perspectives in the political world.
- 5. Communication:** Verbal and written ability to communicate one's political judgments in clear, organized, concise and reasoned persuasive arguments, supported by analysis of moral norms, empirical evidence.

### Politics Track

The politics track provides students with a general background in political issues, policies and topics according to the interests of the student. Students may select any of the electives offered in the department to complete this track. The politics track is ideal for students interested in experiencing a wide variety of topics and exploring diverse forms of political phenomena—from local government to national policy to global issues.

### Public Policy and Leadership Track

The public policy and leadership track provides students with the opportunity to undertake an academic and experiential program that will develop the intellectual tools for leadership and public service in government and nongovernmental organizations. Courses and experiential programs within this concentration emphasize the study of civic engagement, leadership skills, institutional design, the policymaking process and the ethical responsibilities of leadership within an increasingly diverse community. This track is distinctive in how it combines the study of public policy with analysis of the increasingly important ethical dilemmas of public leadership in issues of gender, race and ethnicity.

### Global Affairs Track

The global affairs track provides students with the experience and intellectual tools for service and leadership in governmental and nongovernmental organizations that operate in the international/global realm. The program of study emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of politics and organization at the international level; in addition to work in political science, a student following this track is encouraged to pursue upper-level courses in anthropology, sociology, history, economics, language and management. Students may choose to further specialize with a geographic region of focus based around the study of comparative politics or an institutional focus based around the study of international law and organizations.

## Admission Requirements: College of Arts & Sciences

The requirements for admission into the undergraduate College of Arts & Sciences programs are the same as those for admission to Quinnipiac University.

Admission to the university is competitive, and applicants are expected to present a strong college prep program in high school. Prospective first-year students are strongly encouraged to file an application as early in the senior year as possible, and arrange to have first quarter grades sent from their high school counselor as soon as they are available.

For detailed admission requirements, including required documents, please visit the Admissions (<http://catalog.qu.edu/general-information/admissions/>) page of this catalog.

## Seamless Transfer Agreement with Gateway Community College (GCC), Housatonic Community College (HCC) and Norwalk Community College (NCC)

Under this Transfer Agreement, GCC, HCC and NCC graduates will be guaranteed admission into a bachelor's degree program with third year (junior) status at Quinnipiac University on the condition that they:

- Graduate with an associate in arts, an associate in science in business, College of Technology engineering science, nursing or an allied health degree with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (this may be higher in specific programs).
- Satisfy all other Quinnipiac University transfer admission requirements and requirements for intended major.

Quinnipiac University agrees to accept the general education embedded in these associate degree programs in accordance with Quinnipiac preferred choices for general education as meeting all the requirements

of its undergraduate general education except for the Integrative Capstone Experience and where courses are encumbered by the major (e.g., General Chemistry for the Disciplinary Inquiry Natural Science requirement for a Biochemistry major).

## Suggested Transfer Curriculum for BA in Political Science

A minimum of 60 credits is required for transfer into the BA in Political Science program. Below is a recommended plan of study for the first two years prior to matriculation at Quinnipiac University.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>First Year</b>		
<b>Fall Semester</b>		
English I		3
American Government		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Spring Semester</b>		
English II		3
Political Science Elective		3
Elective		3-4
Elective		3
Elective		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15-16</b>
<b>Second Year</b>		
<b>Fall Semester</b>		
Political Science Elective		3
Elective		3-4
Elective		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15-16</b>
<b>Spring Semester</b>		
Elective		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>60-62</b>