
POLITICAL SCIENCE

FACULTY

Chairperson: Professor George Serra

Graduate Program

Coordinator: Associate Professor Wendy Haynes

Professors: Michael Kryzanek, Shaheen Mozaffar

Assistant

Professors: Jordon Barkalow, Mark Kemper,
Deniz Leuenberger, Tracy Osborn

Department Telephone Number: 508.531.1387

Location: Summer Street House, Room 103

Website: www.bridgew.edu/PoliSci

DEGREE PROGRAMS

- BA in Political Science
Concentrations: American Politics, International Affairs, Legal Studies, Public Administration
- Master of Public Administration (MPA)
Concentrations: Financial Administration, Municipal and Regional Development and Management, Nonprofit Administration

UNDERGRADUATE MINOR

- Civic Education and Community Leadership*
- Political Science

* Interdisciplinary minor

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

THE POLITICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM

The Department of Political Science offers five programs of study in political science: a political science major (no concentration), a political science major (American politics concentration), a political science major (international affairs concentration) a political science major (legal studies concentration) and a political science major (public administration concentration).

The political science major (no concentration) offers students an understanding of governmental structures and political processes in their own country and in other parts of the world. This program provides a foundation

for graduate work in political science, public administration and international affairs, for the study of law, and for professional careers in teaching and in the public and private sectors.

The political science major (international affairs concentration) offers students an understanding of the structures and processes that govern political and economic relations among global actors. This program provides a foundation for graduate work in international politics, international business and economics, international law and organization, and for a professional career in these fields.

The political science major (legal studies concentration) offers students a background for professional careers in the field of law. This program provides a foundation for law school and for paralegal studies.

The political science major (American politics concentration) offers students a broad understanding of American politics. The concentration is designed to provide strong undergraduate scientific education in preparation for entry into advanced degree programs and professional careers in public service, private institutions and political organizations in the United States.

The political science major (public administration concentration) prepares students for a career focus in the public and nonprofit sectors at the federal, state, and local levels. The concentration is designed for those students who wish to pursue a Master of Public Administration degree and/or a career in this field.

BACHELOR OF ARTS

The Department of Political Science offers the Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.

POLITICAL SCIENCE CORE COURSES

All political science majors, regardless of their concentration, **must complete** 21 credits by taking the following core courses:

- POLI 172 Introduction to American Government
- POLI 260 International Relations
- POLI 274 Western Political Thought—Plato to the Present
- POLI 275 Comparative Government
- POLI 277 American Government: State and Local
- POLI 350 Research Methods in Political Science

POLI 475 Senior Seminar in Political Science

Note: Only 3 credits in Internship or 3 credits in Directed Study may be applied toward the Political Science major.

Core Curriculum Requirements

A minimum of 120 earned hours is required for graduation. These earned hours include Core Curriculum Requirements as specified in the “Undergraduate Academic Programs” section of this catalog. For additional graduation requirements, see the “Undergraduate Academic Policies” section of this catalog.

POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR (No Concentration)

A student choosing the political science major (no concentration) **must complete** the political science major CORE courses and 15 credits (five courses) at the POLI 300 or 400 level.

POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR (American Politics Concentration)

A student choosing the political science major (american politics concentration) **must complete** the CORE courses above and the following concentration requirements:

A minimum of one course *must* be selected from the following concentration requirements:

- POLI 341 Constitutional Law and Politics:
The Powers of Government
- POLI 372 Legislative Process and Procedure
- POLI 391 The American Presidency

In addition, a minimum of one course *must* be selected from the following:

- POLI 375 American Political Parties and Interest
Groups
- POLI 379 Voters, Elections and Campaigns
- POLI 380 Public Opinion and Mass Political
Behavior

In addition, students choosing the American politics concentration must select electives (other than those taken in the categories above) from the course menu below to meet the 15 credit requirement of the concentration:

- POLI 341 Constitutional Law and Politics: The
Powers of Government

- POLI 342 Constitutional Law and Politics: The
First Amendment
- POLI 343 Constitutional Law and Politics: Liberty
and Equality
- POLI 344 Constitutional Law and Politics: Rights
of the Accused
- POLI 372 Legislative Process and Procedure
- POLI 375 American Political Parties and Interest
Groups
- POLI 376 Urban Politics
- POLI 379 Voters, Elections and Campaigns
- POLI 380 Public Opinion and Mass Political
Behavior
- POLI 389 Racial Politics in the United States
- POLI 391 The American Presidency
- POLI 476 Women and Politics
- POLI 479 Public Policy
- POLI 498 Internship in Political Science (3 credits
only)

POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR (International Affairs Concentration)

A student choosing the political science major (international affairs concentration) **must complete** the political science major CORE courses and the following concentration requirements:

- POLI 384 United States Foreign Policy
- POLI 473 International Organization

Choose one course from the following:

- POLI 370 Canadian Foreign Policy: Actors and Issues
- POLI 377 Canadian–American Political Relations
- POLI 386 Canadian Politics

Choose one course from the following:

- POLI 330 Asian Politics
- POLI 381 United States–Latin American Relations
- POLI 382 Latin American Government and Politics
- POLI 385 Government and Politics in the
Middle East
- POLI 387 Government and Politics of Africa
- POLI 388 Government and Politics of Eastern Europe

Choose one course from the following:

- POLI 361 International Political Economy
- POLI 365 International Politics of the Environment
- POLI 455 Totalitarian Political Systems: Dictators
and the Reign of Terror
- POLI 488 Politics and Development in the Third
World
- POLI 498 Internship in Political Science (3 credits
only)

POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR (Legal Studies Concentration)

A student choosing the political science major (legal studies concentration) **must complete** the political science major CORE courses and the following concentration requirements:

All of the following:

- POLI 285 Introduction to Law
- POLI 341 Constitutional Law and Politics: The Powers of Government
- POLI 372 Legislative Process and Procedure

One course selected from the following:

- POLI 342 Constitutional Law and Politics: The First Amendment
- POLI 343 Constitutional Law and Politics: Liberty and Equality
- POLI 344 Constitutional Law and Politics: Rights of the Accused
- POLI 495 Administrative Law and Regulation

One course selected from the following:

- PHIL 235 Human Rights and Human Liberties
- PHIL 322 Philosophy of Law
- POLI/ECON 340 Law and Economics
- POLI 400 Special Topics in Political Science*
- POLI 485 Honors Thesis in Political Science*
- POLI 498 Internship in Political Science (3 credits only)*

*Credit earned will count toward the legal studies concentration only if a significant portion of the course content or internship is related to the law. A determination as to whether the course or internship meets this requirement will be made by the department chairperson. If the chairperson concludes that the course or internship is not sufficiently related to the law, then the course or internship will not satisfy this requirement of the legal studies concentration.

POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR (Public Administration Concentration)

A student choosing the political science major (public administration concentration) **must complete** the political science major CORE courses and the following concentration requirements:

- POLI 279 Introduction to Public Administration
- POLI 390 Public Finance

Three courses selected from the following:

- POLI 201 Citizenship and Community Leadership
- POLI 376 Urban Politics
- POLI 400 Special Topics in Political Science*
- POLI 495 Administrative Law and Regulation
- POLI 479 Public Policy
- POLI 498 Internship in Political Science (3 credits only)*

*Credit earned will count toward the public administration concentration only if a significant portion of the course content or internship is related to public administration. A determination as to whether the course or internship meets this requirement will be made by the department chairperson. If the chairperson concludes that the course or internship is not sufficiently related to public administration, the course or internship will not satisfy the requirement of the public administration concentration.

DOUBLE MAJOR WITH ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION OR SPECIAL EDUCATION

Students may choose a double major in political science and elementary education, early childhood education or special education for licensure purposes. Appropriate advising materials with suggested course sequences are available.

POLITICAL SCIENCE MINOR

A student may qualify as a political science minor by completing the following requirements:

- POLI 172 Introduction to American Government
- POLI 260 International Relations
- POLI 274 Western Political Thought-Plato to the Present
- POLI 275 Comparative Government

Three electives, at least one of which must be at the POLI 300 - 400 level.

Only 3 credits of internship or directed study may be applied toward the minor.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

An internship program in political science is available to all students, majors and non-majors, who meet the program criteria. A wide range of assignments are available with federal, state and local governments and nonprofit organizations. Assignment to the internship program is based on application to and subsequent selection by the

internship supervisor. Application procedures follow college policy (see section on “Internships” in this catalog). To be eligible for an internship, a Political Science major or minor must have already completed POLI 172 and a 300 level political science course and must receive the consent of the internship supervisor. Non-political science majors and minors must have the approval of their major adviser and the political science internship supervisor and must have taken one political science course. Interns must have achieved at least a junior standing. Credits shall be limited to three unless more are approved by the Department of Political Science, however, only 3 credits may apply to the major or the minor. It is recommended that those students with an interest in the program confer with the internship supervisor as soon as possible in the semester before their proposed internship.

HONORS PROGRAM

The Honors Program in Political Science provides highly motivated political science majors with opportunities to enhance their academic program through intensive scholarly study and research designed to be of assistance in post-graduate employment or in the pursuit of an advanced degree in political science. Contact the Department of Political Science for further information concerning eligibility and application.

PI SIGMA ALPHA

The Political Science Department has a chapter (the Pi Upsilon Chapter) of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society. Each year, the political science faculty selects and invites political science majors who are juniors and seniors and who have demonstrated outstanding academic accomplishments to join. Each initiate receives an inscribed certificate of membership.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Graduate Program Coordinator: Dr. Wendy Haynes

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The Department of Political Science offers the Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree. The MPA program provides professional education to prepare persons for leadership roles in public administration and public affairs at the federal, state and local levels with flexible career opportunities in both the public and nonprofit sectors.

Program Description

Coursework

The MPA program accommodates the needs of both pre-career students and in-career professionals by offering alternative program requirements that take into account the student’s academic and professional background. Students with a bachelor’s degree and no professional work experience are expected to complete a 45 credit hour degree program (including six hours of professional internship), while in-career professionals are expected to complete a 39 credit hour program. Up to six hours of appropriate graduate coursework taken elsewhere may be transferred into the degree program. All accepted students must enroll under the direction of their adviser in GRPP 501 Graduate Program Planning, which is described under “Graduate Advisers and Graduate Program Planning” in the “School of Graduate Studies” section of this catalog.

The MPA Curriculum

Both pre-career and in-career students must complete a 24 hour core curriculum component of the degree program. These courses are:

POLI 501 Introduction to Public Institutions and Administration

POLI 510 Introduction to Research in Public Administration

POLI 511 Program Evaluation and Policy Analysis

POLI 521 Public Finance

POLI 531 Public Personnel

POLI 532 Organizational Theory and Behavior for Public and Nonprofit Institutions

POLI 541 Legislative-Executive Relations

or

POLI 542 Administrative Law and Regulation

POLI 591 Capstone Seminar in Public Management

All students are also required to complete 15 hours of electives of which 3 credits must be in POLI 506 Public Administration Module. Pre-career students must complete an additional six hours in POLI 598 Internship in Public Administration.

Concentrations

There are three areas in which an MPA candidate may concentrate; elective courses are available in each of the areas. As an alternative to earning a degree within a concentration area, students may pursue a generalist MPA track. For students seeking to earn a degree in a concentration, a minimum of three elective courses must be taken in the substantive area. The substantive concentration areas are as follows:

Financial Administration
Municipal and Regional Development and
Management
Nonprofit Administration

An additional three hours must be taken in three one-credit professional development modules.

Admissions Information

Detailed information about admissions is provided in the “School of Graduate Studies” section of the catalog. To be admitted to the MPA program, an applicant must hold a bachelor’s degree from a four-year accredited college or university. If the degree has not yet been awarded at the time of application, the successful applicant must be nearing completion of the bachelor’s degree. The admissions process will also require an undergraduate GPA of 2.75, an acceptable GRE score and an interview with the MPA program faculty. (Please note: To receive a clear admit status, MPA applicants must have a composite score of 900 or greater on the quantitative and verbal parts of the GRE General Test. To receive a conditional acceptance, MPA applicants must have a composite score of 700–899 on the quantitative and verbal parts of the GRE General Test.) Students should submit a resume and three letters of reference should come from professors or practitioners familiar with the student’s academic ability. Students failing to meet the standard graduate admissions criteria may also be considered on a conditional basis of acceptance. Contact the School of Graduate Studies to receive a catalog and application material.

Exit Requirement

The MPA program offers some degree of flexibility for exit from this program. All students are required to fulfill an exit requirement which in most cases will require passing a written comprehensive examination. This one-day examination allows program faculty to test students’ mastery of fundamental principles and issues covered in the core curriculum. Students must have completed at least 30 hours of the degree program to sit for the examination and will have two opportunities to pass the examination. In appropriate circumstances, such as a student interested in pursuing further graduate work at the doctoral level, a master’s thesis may be substituted for the comprehensive examination. The master’s thesis will be directed by a committee of three faculty members and be covered under the guidelines and regulations of the School of Graduate Studies at Bridgewater State College.

Distinctive Features of the Program

Professional development modules

The program requires that students register for a minimum of three 15 hour, one credit modules, offered each semester on topics of special relevance to public service. Normally these modules are taught on Saturdays during the semester.

Internships

A six-hour internship experience at the local, state or federal level is required for all preprofessional students and will be available as an elective (3 or 6 hours) for those professionals who wish to enhance their background.

Scheduling

To meet the needs of in-career professionals, both at Bridgewater and at off-site locations, courses in the program are offered primarily in the evening, once a week for three hours. Occasional intensive weekend courses are also available, as well as a summer schedule of courses which meet three times a week for eight weeks.

For applications and additional information contact the School of Graduate Studies and specify your interest in the MPA program:

School of Graduate Studies
Maxwell Library
Bridgewater State College
Bridgewater, MA 02325
508.531.1300