

POLITICAL SCIENCE, B.A. (BEHREND)

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Erie

Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2026-27 academic year. To access previous years' suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/>) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition.

Political Science, B.A. at Erie Campus

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
ENGL 15 or 30H ^{†‡}	3 PLSC 1 or 3	3
PLSC 1 or 3	3 General Education	3
General Education	3 General Education	3
World Language (Level One)	4 General Education	3
First-Year Seminar	1 World Language (Level Two)	4
	14	16

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
PLSC 14 or 17N	3 PLSC 14H or 17N	3
CAS 100 ^{†‡}	3 ENGL 202A ^{†‡}	3
General Education	3 General Education	3
General Education	3 General Education	3
World Language (Level Three)	4 General Education	3
	General Education	1.5
	16	16.5

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
PL SC 400-level [*]	3 PL SC 400-level, Writing Across the Curriculum (W) course [*]	3
PL SC American Government any level	3 PL SC International Politics any level	3
General Education	3 BA Knowledge Domain	3
General Education	1.5 General Education	3

World Cultures	3 Electives	3
	13.5	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
PL SC 400-level [*]	3 PL SC 400-level [*]	3
PL SC Comparative Politics any level	3 PL SC Gov in Theory and Practice any level	3
BA Knowledge Domain	3 BA Knowledge Domain	3
Electives	3 Electives	3
Electives	3 Electives	3
	15	15

Total Credits 121

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/>) of this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in World Cultures. See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as World Cultures courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-world-cultures/>).

Program Notes:

- Both US (United States Cultures) and IL (International Cultures) must be completed within the degree requirements.
- Students can double count US & IL requirements for general education courses but not for the World Cultures requirement.

Advising Notes:

- The course series listed above is only one of many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The number of electives required

varies per student. Please be sure to consult with an adviser about your intended plan.

Political Science, B.A. at Erie Campus (3-Year Accelerated Plan)

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits Summer	Credits
ENGL 15 or 30H ^{††}	3 PLSC 14	3 General Education Course	3
PLSC 1	3 PLSC 17N or 7N	3 General Education Course	3
PLSC 3	3 World Language (Level Two)	4	
World Language (Level One)	4 General Education Course (Inter-Domain)	3	
General Education Course (GQ) [‡]	3 General Education Course (GN)	3	
	General Education Course (GH)	3	
	16	19	6

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits Summer	Credits
CAS 100 ^{††}	3 ENGL 202A ^{††}	3 BA Fields Course	3
World Language (Level Three)	4 World Cultures Course (PLSC)	3 Elective	3
PLSC Course	3 PLSC 400-level Course [*]	3	
PLSC 400-level Course [*]	3 General Education Course (Inter-Domain)	3	
General Education Course (GQ) [‡]	3 General Education Course (GS)	3	
General Education Course (GA)	3 General Education Course (GHW)	3	
	19	18	6

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
PLSC 400-level Course [*]	3 PLSC Course	3

PLSC Course	3 PL SC 400-level, Writing Across the Curriculum (W) Course [*]	3
PLSC Course	3 BA Fields Course	3
BA Fields Course	3 Elective	3
General Education Course (GN)	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
	18	18

Total Credits 120

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/>) of this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in World Cultures. See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as World Cultures courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-world-cultures/>).

Program Notes:

- The Political Science major at Behrend has 4 options: Politics and Government (general option), Crime and Law, International Relations, and Public Policy. In each of those 4 options, students will need to choose 2 of their general education courses from approved lists. In the last three options, 4 PLSC courses beyond the introductory level must be chosen from approved lists. All 4 options could be achieved

in 3 years with the plan above just by plugging in specific courses for the general education or PLSC course requirements.

- Both US (United States Cultures) and IL (International Cultures) must be completed within the degree requirements.
- Students can double count US & IL requirements for general education courses but not for the World Cultures requirement.