

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS MAJOR

Government and Politics is one of the largest majors on campus with over 1,000 students taking courses in American politics, international relations (official concentration available), comparative politics, political theory, political philosophy, law, public policy, and environmental policy. Its large and diverse group of students are mentored by faculty through a variety of in and out of classroom experiences and have been extremely successful in garnering campus and national awards, acceptance to competitive law and graduate programs, and exciting careers in all levels of government and the private sector. Courses offered by this department may be found under the acronym GVPT.

Admission to the Major

Government and Politics is a Limited Enrollment Program that has special requirements for admission, such as minimum GPA guidelines and required courses; the requirements are detailed on the GVPT website, <https://gvpt.umd.edu/undergraduate/admissions> (<https://gvpt.umd.edu/undergraduate/admissions/>). Students planning to transfer into the major should contact the department for details on Limited Enrollment Program requirements. Students admitted as incoming freshmen will undergo an academic review after 45 credits.

Program Objectives

The Department of Government and Politics offers programs for the general student as well as for students who are interested in careers in government, the public sector, foreign assignment, teaching, a variety of graduate programs, and law schools. In addition to the Government and Politics general curriculum, the department offers a formal concentration in International Relations. Satisfactory completion of requirements leads to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government and Politics.

The study of politics is both an ancient discipline and a modern social science. The origin of the discipline can be traced back to the earliest times when philosophers, statesmen, and citizens studied the nature of government, justice, responsibility, and the consequences of political action. More recently, the study of politics has also emphasized scientific analysis and methods of observations about politics. Today, the discipline reflects a broad effort to collect data about politics and governments utilizing relatively new techniques developed by all of the social sciences.

The Department of Government and Politics combines philosophical and scientific concerns in its overall program as well as in specific courses. It emphasizes such broad areas as political development, policy analysis, social justice, political economy, conflict, and human rights. These broad conceptual areas are integral components of study in the discipline. The areas are commonly referred to as American government and politics; comparative government; political theory; international relations; public administration; public law; public policy and political behavior.

Program Learning Outcomes

Having completed the degree program, students should have acquired the following knowledge and skills:

1. An understanding of basic political science concepts including power, institutions, political systems, theories of the state, political conflict, citizenship, and contending analytical and theoretical approaches

2. Proficiency in research and analytical skills using either quantitative methods and or library skills
3. A basic knowledge of the methods, approaches, or theories used in accumulating and interpreting information applicable to the discipline of political science
4. Effective oral and written communication skills to clearly and coherently present information in the discipline of political science

Requirements

Government and Politics students must complete a minimum 36 credit hours within GVPT, but may take no more than 42 credit hours total within the major. At least 18 of the 36 credits must be in upper-level courses. Students exceeding the 42 credit limit will not be allowed to count additional GVPT credits within the 120 needed to graduate. For every additional GVPT credit, students must complete an additional credit outside of the GVPT major to graduate (AP and IB credits are included in this calculation). A minimum grade of 'B-' is required for GVPT170 (or GVPT241 if student has AP/IB credit for GVPT170); a minimum grade of 'C-' is required in all other major requirements.

Course	Title	Credits
College Requirements (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/behavioral-social-sciences/#collegerequirementstext)		
Required Courses		
GVPT170	American Government	3
Select one of the following:		3-4
MATH107	Introduction to Math Modeling and Probability	
MATH120	Elementary Calculus I	
MATH140	Calculus I	
STAT100	Elementary Statistics and Probability	
GVPT241	The Study of Political Philosophy: Ancient and Modern	3
GVPT201	Scope and Methods for Political Science Research	3
GVPT Electives	Select 27 credits of GVPT courses, 18 credits of which must be at the 300-400 level	27
Skills Requirement		
ECON200	Principles of Microeconomics	3
Completion of a foreign language through the entire elementary level 4-12 ¹		
Quantitative course from an approved list ¹		3
Intermediate-level foreign language course or additional quantitative course from an approved list ¹		3-4
Supporting Sequence		
Select 15 credits in a department outside of Government & Politics, with at least 6 credits at the 300-400 level ²		15
Total Credits		67-77

¹ See GVPT website for more details, <https://gvpt.umd.edu/undergraduate/major-requirements> (<https://gvpt.umd.edu/undergraduate/major-requirements/>).

² Must be approved by a GVPT Advisor.

All courses used to satisfy these requirements must be completed with a grade of 'C-' or higher (except for the GVPT gateway course which requires a 'B-' or higher).

Requirements for the International Relations Concentration

Course	Title	Credits
College Requirements (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/behavioral-social-sciences/#collegerequirementstext)		
Required Courses		
GVPT170	American Government	3
Select one of the following:		3-4
MATH107	Introduction to Math Modeling and Probability	
MATH120	Elementary Calculus I	
MATH140	Calculus I	
STAT100	Elementary Statistics and Probability	
GVPT241	The Study of Political Philosophy: Ancient and Modern	3
GVPT201	Scope and Methods for Political Science Research	3
GVPT200	International Political Relations	3
GVPT280	The Study of Comparative Politics	3
or GVPT282	Politics and the Developing World	
GVPT Electives	Select 21 credits of GVPT courses, 18 credits of which must be at the 300-400 level ¹	21
Skills Requirements		
ECON200	Principles of Microeconomics	3
Completion of a foreign language through the entire elementary level ²		3-12
Quantitative course from an approved list ²		3
Intermediate-level foreign language course ²		3-4
Supporting Sequence		15
Select 15 credits from a department outside of Government & Politics, with at least 6 credits at the 300-400 level ³		
Total Credits		66-77

¹ Additionally, 15 of the 18 upper-level credits must come from an approved list of International Relations or Comparative Politics courses.

² See GVPT website for more details, <https://gvpt.umd.edu/undergraduate/major-requirements> (<https://gvpt.umd.edu/undergraduate/major-requirements/>).

³ Must be approved by a GVPT Advisor.

All courses used to satisfy these requirements must be completed with a grade of 'C-' or higher (except for the GVPT gateway course which requires a 'B-' or higher).

Four Year Plan

Click here (<https://bsosundergrad.umd.edu/advising/four-year-academic-plans/>) for roadmaps for four-year plans in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences.

Additional information on developing a four-year academic plan can be found on the following pages:

- [4yearplans.umd.edu \(http://4yearplans.umd.edu/\)](http://4yearplans.umd.edu/)
- the Student Academic Success-Degree Completion Policy (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/registration-academic-requirements-regulations/academic-advising/>) section of this catalog