

Political Science *Honors Program*

General Information and Application



*Department of Political Science, The University of Tennessee,
Knoxville*

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS

Brief Description

The Department of Political Science Honors Program, leading to a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with an Honors Concentration, emphasizes the ideals of a superior liberal education and provides students a more rigorous and intensive preparation in political science. Admission to the Department of Political Science Honors Program is selective.

Requirements

The Honors Concentration (henceforth HC) consists of thirty-four (34) hours of political science course credit beyond the two major prerequisite courses, Political Science 101 (or Political Science 107, the honors version of Political Science 101), and Political Science 102. These thirty-four (34) hours must include four courses numbered at the 200-level, which must be completed with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. An HC major must have a minimum GPA of 3.3 in political science, a minimum overall GPA of 3.25, and at least 12 hours of university-designated honors courses (POLS 487 and POLS 488 count toward this total, as do hours earned in POLS 107, and any hours earned through honors by contract).

All HC majors must take Political Science 101 (or Political Science 107, the honors version of Political Science 101), and Political Science 102. Here are the requirements beyond these courses:

1. Each HC major must take three of the following courses in our Foundations of Political Science series:

POLS 200 - Introduction to Political Philosophy
POLS 215 - Tennessee Government and Politics
POLS 240 - Introduction to Public Administration and Public Policy
POLS 249 - Introduction to Comparative Politics
POLS 265 - Introduction to International Relations

2. Each HC major also must take the following course:

POLS 301 - Research Methods (*Note: This course should be taken before a student enrolls in POLS 487 bis/her senior year*)

3. As a senior, each HC major must take the following two courses (the Senior Honors sequence):

POLS 487 - Senior Honors: Thesis and Seminar I (fall; the student will develop a thesis topic)
POLS 488 - Senior Honors: Thesis and Seminar II (spring; the student will complete an honors thesis)

4. Each HC major must earn an additional fifteen (15) hours of upper-division political science course credit.

5. Each HC major must take our Capstone Course, POLS 480.

Note: (1) At least nine (9) hours in the major must be earned at UTK.

The Thesis:

As a senior, each HC major takes POLS 487 and POLS 488, our two Senior Honors Thesis and Seminar courses. During the senior year, while enrolled in these courses, the HC major investigates a topic of his/her choice, and presents the results in an Honors Thesis (due at the end of the spring semester). Each student's thesis project develops with the assistance and supervision of the Honors Program Director and (if necessary) other members of the Department of Political Science faculty.

For further details about the Honors Thesis, contact Dr. Anthony Nownes, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Honors Program Director, Department of Political Science, 1001 McClung Tower, UTK.

Honors Courses in Political Science:

POLS 107 Honors: United States Government and Politics (3)

Analysis and exploration of the American political system for students with superior ability. 3.25 GPA required for current students; 29 ACT composite or 1250 SAT composite required for incoming students. This course is highly recommended, but not required, for students considering applying for admission to the Department of Political Science Honors Program.

POLS 487 Senior Honors Thesis and Seminar I (3)

Required of students in honors concentration; admission with consent of department.
To meet the requirements of the Political Science 487, HC students must faithfully attend and participate in seminar meetings, and submit a thesis prospectus (at the end of the semester).

POLS 488 Senior Honors Thesis and Seminar II (3)

Required of students in honors concentration; admission with consent of department.
To meet the requirements of Political Science 488, HC students must complete an Honors Thesis. The typical Honors Thesis is between 50 and 100 pages long.

APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM

The number of students in the Department of Political Science Honors Program is small. Admission to the program is selective, and by application. Generally, the Department of Political Science Honors Program admits only those majors who have completed more than forty (40) hours of college course credit with a minimum GPA of 3.0. A student's GPA, however, does not automatically qualify or disqualify him/her from admission to the Department of Political Science Honors Program. A student must apply for and be admitted to the Department of Political Science Honors Program by the Honors Program Director in the Department of Political Science.

The Department of Political Science accepts applications to its Honors Program on a rolling basis, but we encourage students to apply during the sophomore or junior year.

To apply for admission to the Department of Political Science Honors Program:

1. **Complete the application form on the next page.** Submit the form, along with a current **academic history**, to Dr. Anthony Nownes, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Honors Program Director, Department of Political Science, 1001 McClung Tower, UTK.
2. On a separate sheet of paper **write a brief (1-2 page) essay** in which you indicate: (a) your general academic and/or career objectives; (b) why the Honors Program appeals to you, and how it might help you meet your career and/or academic objectives; and (c) your principal academic strengths. Submit this essay along with your application form and your academic history (see #1 above).
3. Have two (2) UTK instructors (any instructional faculty are eligible to write letters, including graduate teaching assistants and graduate teaching associates) complete a recommendation form (which you will find below) and submit the form to Dr. Anthony Nownes, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Honors Program Director, Department of Political Science, 1001 McClung Tower.

**HONORS PROGRAM IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
APPLICATION FORM**

1. Name: _____

2. UTK Student ID Number _____

3. UTK E-mail Address _____

4. Local Address

5. Permanent Address (if different from local address)

***Remember to attach a copy of your current academic history to this form when you submit it. Remember also to attach your essay (see #2 above under "*To apply for admission to the Department of Political Science Honors Program*")

HONORS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE RECOMMENDATION FORM #1

Instructions to the applicant:

First, please write your name in the blank line below (in the next paragraph). If you wish to waive your right to view this completed recommendation, you must also complete the first two lines (below) under OPTIONAL WAIVER. Second, give this form to your recommender. Instruct the recommender to submit the completed form directly to Dr. Anthony Nownes, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Honors Program Director, Department of Political Science, 1001 McClung Tower, UTK. The recommender may include his/her brief comments directly on this sheet (in the space provided below), or may write his/her comments in a separate letter. If the recommender chooses to include a separate letter, he/she should still complete the bottom part of this form (specifically, lines 3 and 4 under OPTIONAL WAIVER) and submit it (along with the letter) to Dr. Nownes.

Instructions to recommender:

_____ (applicant's name here) is applying for admission to the Honors Program in Political Science. Please give us your candid evaluation of the intellectual potential, commitment to high academic standards, and suitability of this applicant for the Honors program. A letter of recommendation will be treated as a non-confidential letter unless it is accompanied by the applicant's signed statement waiving his or her right of access to the letter.

OPTIONAL WAIVER: Under the terms of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, I hereby waive my right of access to this letter of recommendation.

1. Applicant's Name _____ Date _____
2. Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____
3. Name of recommender _____ Title _____
4. Department _____

Please return to: *Dr. Anthony Nownes, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Political Science, 1001 McClung Tower, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-0410*

HONORS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE RECOMMENDATION FORM #2

Instructions to the applicant:

First, please write your name in the blank line below (in the next paragraph). If you wish to waive your right to view this completed recommendation, you must also complete the first two lines (below) under OPTIONAL WAIVER. Second, give this form to your recommender. Instruct the recommender to submit the completed form directly to Dr. Anthony Nownes, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Honors Program Director, Department of Political Science, 1001 McClung Tower, UTK. The recommender may include his/her brief comments directly on this sheet (in the space provided below), or may write his/her comments in a separate letter. If the recommender chooses to include a separate letter, he/she should still complete the bottom part of this form (specifically, lines 3 and 4 under OPTIONAL WAIVER) and submit it (along with the letter) to Dr. Nownes.

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