

# POLITICAL SCIENCE BA/MA

The BA/MA program will be discontinued after the 2025–26 academic year due to a change in university policy that will make it impossible to complete both degrees in four years. We are not accepting any new applications to this program after the GRS application deadline on November 30th, 2024.

## CONTACT

### Director of Advanced Programs

Email Me



Professor Spencer Piston  
spiston@bu.edu

### Undergraduate Academic Advisors

Email Me



Brendan Fraser (A-K)  
fraserb@bu.edu

ADVISOR: TBD (L-Z)

## ELIGIBILITY

- Students must have completed four semesters **AND** have Junior standing
- Students must have taken at least four PO classes, including a PO 505-598 seminar
- Overall GPA: 3.0 or higher
- Transfer students may apply the Spring semester of their Junior year
- Seniors are not eligible to apply
- This program is not open to students outside of CAS or students in the Dual Degree Program (DDP)

## BENEFITS

Successful completion of the program may lead to:

- Develop research and analysis skills
- Conduct and present unique research
- Opportunities for fieldwork and funded research
- Enhanced career employment opportunities
- Professional Training
- Preparation for PhD programs

## PRE-APPLICATION MEETING WITH ACADEMIC ADVISOR:



DATE OF MEETING: \_\_\_\_\_

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

The joint BA/MA Political Science degree gives students an opportunity to accelerate their studies and graduate with their bachelor's and master's degrees in four years. Students in the program will complete their graduate coursework throughout their fourth year in the College, write a thesis, and present their own research at the culmination of the program.

## CURRICULUM

The MA is made up of eight discrete courses. Students must earn a grade of B- or above to receive credit. *Courses may not count for both the BA and the MA.*

MA coursework includes:

### Two Core Courses:

\_\_\_ PO 711  
\_\_\_ PO 751  
\_\_\_ PO 771  
\_\_\_ PO 791

### Two Methods Courses:

\_\_\_ PO 399  
\_\_\_ PO 501  
\_\_\_ PO 502  
\_\_\_ PO 841

\_\_\_ PO 842  
\_\_\_ PO 843  
\_\_\_ PO 844  
\_\_\_ PO 845

### Four PO 500-Level Courses:

*(Not Including your 500 Level Seminar for your BA)*

\_\_\_ PO 5\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ PO 5\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ PO 5\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ PO 5\_\_\_\_

## Thesis Requirements:

- The thesis must be distinct from the graduate coursework
- Students may not resubmit work done during undergraduate or graduate coursework as their thesis, but they may build off of topics explore in previous courses
- Students will work closely with their Faculty Advisor. They will provide revisions on at least *two* drafts of the thesis paper and grade the final version.
- Students will present their research at the end of the year.

## APPLICATION OVERVIEW

### APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 30TH

Students must submit all required materials by this date.

- Students may request a Waiver of Application Deadline form *under extenuating circumstances* if they need an extension to apply for the program. The form must be completed and signed by the Department Chair and submitted with the application

## STEPS BEFORE APPLYING FOR THE BA/MA PROGRAM:

- \_\_\_ 1. Find a Faculty Advisor (Must be a Full-Time Professor in the Department of Political Science).  
*We recommend finding a professor whose research aligns with your thesis topic.*
- \_\_\_ 2. Meet with your assigned Undergraduate Academic Advisor to make a Plan of Study AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. **\*If you receive Financial Aid, maintain undergraduate classification throughout your BA/MA Program to avoid losing aid. Ask your Advisor if you have any questions about this.**
- \_\_\_ 3. Have your Faculty Advisor sign off on your Plan of Study and agree to provide you with a recommendation letter.
- \_\_\_ 4. Reach out to other Boston University Professors (Any Department) who has taught you in the past to ask if they would provide you with your second recommendation letter.
- \_\_\_ 5. Continue work on your 3-5 Page Research Statement. You can seek advice and support from your Faculty Advisor.

## APPLICATION MATERIALS:

The following materials are required to apply:

- \_\_\_ 1. Application Form (found on PO website)
- \_\_\_ 2. Plan of Study
- \_\_\_ 3. Unofficial Transcript
- \_\_\_ 4. Two faculty recommendation letters
- \_\_\_ 5. Research Statement (3-5 pages)

SCAN BELOW TO CHECK OUT THE BA/MA WEBSITE

