UBC Department of Political Science

# Prospective Majors FAQ

## 2025W

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# MAJOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE (POLITICS, POLICY, AND ADMINISTRATION)

In September 2025, we will be welcoming a new program into our undergraduate portfolio: the **Major in Political Science (Politics, Policy, and Administration)**!

Providing a specialized and prescriptive set of courses for students interested in public policy and public administration, the **Major in Political Science (Politics, Policy, and Administration)**, also known as the PPA, offers students a sequence of opportunities to learn applied public policy skills and engage in practical analysis of public problems.

This program is designed for:

1. Students looking to work in professional public policy or administration contexts post-graduation; and
2. Students who intend to complete public policy or public administration graduate programs (e.g. MPP or MPA) with the aim of working in government, think tanks, advocacy groups, and beyond.

*The PPA program is distinct from our Political Science Major Program in its specificity. Students seeking broad training in Political Theory, International Relations, Comparative Politics, and Canadian Politics in preparation for a vast array of post-graduation pathways, including law, journalism, education, working for non-profits, consulting, graduate school, and more may find our Political Science Major program to be a better fit.*

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

# MAJOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE (POLITICS, POLICY, AND ADMINISTRATION)

Students within the **Major in Political Science (Politics, Policy, and Administration)** must complete the following lower-level courses:

- **POLI_V 100** (3 credits)
- **POLI_V 101** (3 credits)
- **POLI_V 110** (3 credits)
- **POLI_V 220** (3 credits)

At the upper-level, PPA Majors must complete the following courses:

- **ECON_V 310 or 311** (3 credits)
  - Knowledge of basic economics concepts is foundational to public policy analysis work, and therefore students will be required to take one introductory economics course. Students will be given the choice to focus on microeconomics (ECON_V 310) or macroeconomics (ECON_V 311), depending on their interests and career objectives.
    - *Note: We will accept ECON_V 101/102 in lieu of ECON_V 310/311, as per ECON policy; however, students who structure their degree in this way will be required to complete an additional 300 or 400-level POLI_V course.*
- **POLI_V 380** (3 credits)
  - Prerequisite: POLI_V 110
- **POLI_V 302** (3 credits)
  - Public Administration: Introduces students to core concepts and theories in public administration (i.e. the structure and dynamics of bureaucracies).

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- **POLI_V 350** (3 credits)
  - Public Policy: Introduces students to key questions that public policy studies, including rationales for government intervention, the influence of interest groups and political institutions on policy outcomes, and the various stages in the policy process.
- **Two 300- and 400-level PPA-designated courses** (6 credits)
  - Successful completion of any 400-level POLI_V course will also fulfill the Arts Research Requirement (a general degree requirement).
- **Four 300-level POLI_V courses** (12 credits)
  - May include additional PPA-designated courses.

## PPA-Designated Courses

The content of the following courses is relevant to public policy or administration:

- POLI_V 303: Federalism in Canada
- POLI_V 304: British Columbia Government and Politics
- POLI_V 308: Topics in Canadian Politics
- POLI_V 328: Topics in Comparative Politics
  - Recent course offerings to give sense of policy content:
    - Comparative Politics of Immigration
    - Political Violence, State Fragility, and State-Building
- POLI_V 338: Politics and Development
- POLI_V 348: Political Theory and Public Policy
- POLI_V 351: Environmental Politics and Policy
- POLI_V 352: Comparative Politics of Public Policy
- POLI_V 363: Canadian Foreign Policy
- POLI_V 366: International Political Economy

# PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- POLI_V 405: Topics in Canadian Politics
  - Recent course topic offerings to give sense of policy content:
    - Public Opinion and Public Policy
    - Urban Governance and Public Policy
    - Behavioural Public Policy in Canada
    - Natural Resources, Climate Change, Colonial Project of Canada
- POLI_V 422: Selected Problems in Comparative Politics
  - Recent course topic offerings to give sense of policy content:
    - Politics of Economic Inequality
- POLI_V 439: Politics and Economic Growth
- POLI_V 450: Policy Analysis

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

# MAJOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE (POLITICS, POLICY, AND ADMINISTRATION)

Students who meet our program entry requirements will be able to self-declare a **Major in Political Science (Politics, Policy, and Administration)** in Workday as of **February 2025**. Students who self-declare the PPA Major before September must indicate a 'Declare Date' of **September 1, 2025** and will have a 'pending' program of study on their record until this date.

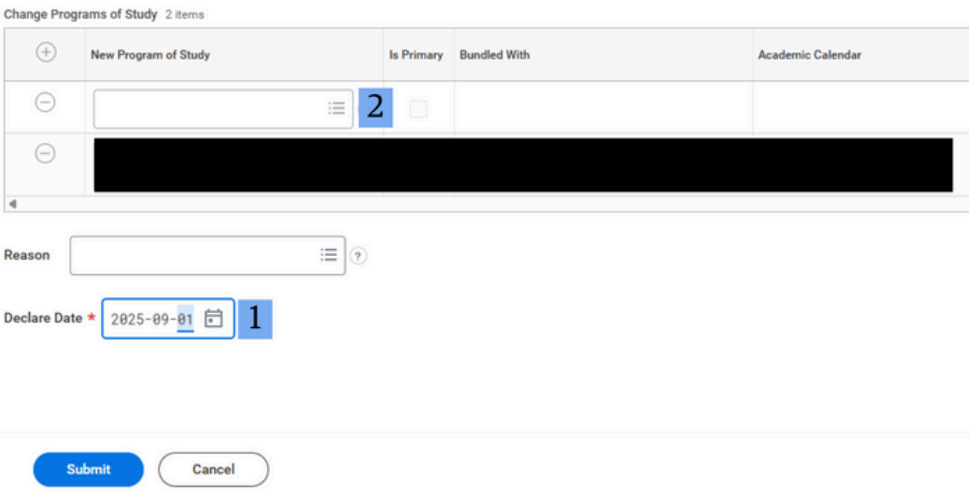
Program Entry Requirements:

- Enrolled in UBC-V's Bachelor of Arts program;
- Have second-year standing or above; and
- Will graduate in or after May 2026.

Please follow these steps to join the **Major in Political Science (Politics, Policy, and Administration)**:

- If you have yet to declare a specialization or wish to change your current specialization to the Major in Political Science (Politics, Policy, and Administration), please follow the steps outlined in this Workday tutorial: **Declaring or changing your primary major, honours, or specialization**.
    - For students declaring before September 2025: **indicate September 1, 2025 as your 'Declare Date.'**
        - This goes against the guidance listed in the above-linked Workday tutorial; however, you will not be able to successfully self-declare this program in Workday ahead of September 2025 if your Declare Date is set to the current date.
    - Select: **B.A., Major in Political Science, Politics, Policy and Administration (Vancouver)**.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS




*You will not see the **Major in Political Science (Politics, Policy, and Administration)** listed in the 'New Program of Study' drop-down in Workday (#2 in the above image) until you have changed the Declare Date to September 1st (#1 in the above image).*

- If you wish to add the **Major in Political Science (Politics, Policy, and Administration)** to your existing specialization (e.g., a student who wishes to complete the Politics, Policy, and Administration Major alongside their existing Sociology Major), please follow the steps outlined in this Workday tutorial: **Adding a program of study (second major or minor).**
    - For students declaring before September 2025: **indicate September 1, 2025 as your 'Declare Date.'**
    - Select: **Major in Political Science, Politics, Policy and Administration (Vancouver)**.
        - As above, you will need to change the 'Declare Date' before you will be able to see the Major in Political Science, Politics, Policy and Administration (Vancouver) in the drop-down list.
- Complete our Department's short **Program Entry Survey**.
- **Self-enroll in the Department's Undergraduate Info Hub**, a Canvas course from which we send our monthly undergraduate newsletter, share important program information, and post our advising team's drop-in advising days/times.

If you meet our program entry requirements and face any difficulty adding the **Major in Political Science (Politics, Policy, and Administration)** to your student record, please contact our advising team, at: poli.ugrad@ubc.ca.

***Please Note***:

- *Students cannot add a second program of study (Minor, second Major) after selecting the Major in Political Science (Politics, Policy, and Administration) as their primary program of study until after September 1st. This is a Workday limitation that we, unfortunately, cannot resolve.*
    - *If you wish to add a second program of study to your Major in Political Science (Politics, Policy, and Administration), please either:*
        - *Wait until after September 1st to declare your second program of study; or*
        - *Add your second program of study to your record and wait until this program of study is showing up on your record, before declaring the Major in Political Science (Politics, Policy, and Administration).*
- *Having a 'pending' program of study within Workday may impact one's ability to self-register in certain POLI courses (POLI_V 395 and 400-level POLI seminars, specifically) during the 2025W registration period. If you self-declare the PPA Major before September 1st and complete our mandatory Program Entry Survey, you will receive guidance from our Advising Team about how to plan for registration ahead of the 2025W registration period.*

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

# MAJOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Students within the **Major in Political Science** must complete the following lower-level courses:

- **POLI_V 100** (3 credits)
- **POLI_V 101** (3 credits)
- **POLI_V 110** (3 credits)
- **POLI_V 240** (3 credits)

At the upper-level, Political Science Majors must complete the following courses:

- **POLI_V 380** (3 credits)
  - Prerequisite: POLI_V 110
- **Nine 300- and 400-level POLI courses** (27 credits)
  - Successful completion of any 400-level POLI_V course will also fulfill the Arts Research Requirement (a general degree requirement).
  - Space in our 400-level seminars is extremely limited. Because of this, POLI Majors are permitted to take a maximum of **two** 400-level POLI seminars.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

# MAJOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Students who meet our program entry requirements will be able to self-declare a **Major in Political Science** without having to submit an application to our Department.

**Program Entry Requirements**:

- Enrolled in UBC-V's Bachelor of Arts program; and
- Have second-year standing or above.

Please follow these steps to join the **Major in Political Science**:

- If you have yet to declare a specialization or wish to change your current specialization to the **Major in Political Science**, please follow the steps outlined in this Workday tutorial: **Declaring or changing your primary major, honours, or specialization**.
  - Select: **B.A., Major in Political Science (Vancouver)**.
- If you wish to add the **Major in Political Science** to your existing specialization (e.g., a student who wishes to complete the Political Science Major alongside their existing Sociology Major), please follow the steps outlined in this Workday tutorial: **Adding a program of study (second major or minor)**.
  - Select: **Major in Political Science (Vancouver)**.
- Complete our Department's short **Program Entry Survey**.
- **Self-enroll in the Department's Undergraduate Info Hub**, a Canvas course from which we send our monthly undergraduate newsletter, share important program information, and post our advising team's drop-in advising days/times.

If you meet our program entry requirements and face any difficulty adding the **Major in Political Science** to your student record, please contact our advising team, at: poli.ugrad@ubc.ca.

FAQ: POLI MAJOR & PPA MAJOR

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q. I am a current POLI Major/Combined Major. Can I switch my current POLI Major/Combined Major to the PPA instead?**

Yes, if you meet our program entry requirements. Students who intend to graduate in November 2025 are not able to switch into the PPA Major. This is a limitation of Workday and is not something that our Advising Team can control.

Current POLI Majors/Combined Majors who switch into the PPA Major will be expected to complete the PPA program's complete set of requirements.

**Q. Can I self-declare a Political Science specialization without having completed that program's lower-level requirements?**

Yes. However, our 100- and 200-level POLI courses are designed to prepare you for the content of our upper-level course catalogue and, in certain cases, are prerequisites for upper-level Major requirements (e.g., you cannot take POLI_V 380—one of the main requirements of our Major Program--without having first completed POLI_V 110).

With this in mind, students who join the Major in Political Science or the Major in Political Science (Politics, Policy, and Administration) without having completed their full set of lower-level requirements should plan to complete these requirements as soon as possible.

***Tip***: *If you're interested in completing any of these requirements over the Summer Session, take a look at our 2025S Courses App to see the POLI courses on offer.*

# FAQ: POLI MAJOR & PPA MAJOR

**Q. I have IB POLI credits/POLI transfer credits on my record and have not yet completed POLI_V 100. Do I still have to complete POLI_V 100 if I self-declare a Political Science specialization? Or can I start working on my other program requirements instead?**

When you complete our Program Entry Survey, you will be asked to share if you have any POLI transfer credits on your record.

If we see reason to waive your POLI_V 100 requirement (or any other POLI program requirement) based on your academic history, we will be in touch. If you do not hear from our Advising Team within one month of completing your Program Entry Survey, please plan to complete all requirements designated by your particular POLI program.

**Q. If I self-declare a POLI specialization now, can I start taking 300-level POLI courses, even if I only have second-year standing?**

To take the vast majority of our 300-level courses, you are required to have third-year standing *or* to have completed a set number of lower-level POLI_V courses. This is the case even if you are a POLI/PPA Major. Please see this page of the Calendar for the specifications for each course.

**Q. Is there a minimum average requirement for the Major in Political Science or the Major in Political Science (Politics, Policy, and Administration)?**

No.

**Q. Can I self-declare a Political Science specialization as a fourth-/fifth-year student?**

Yes, as long as you meet our program entry requirements.

***Tip**: In the Program Entry Survey, you will be asked to share your intended graduation date. If you are joining one of our programs this year and intend to graduate in less than two years, a member of our advising team will review your academic record and get in touch with you if they have questions or concerns about your degree plan.*

FAQ: POLI MAJOR & PPA MAJOR

**Q. Can I major in Political Science or Political Science (Politics, Policy, and Administration) and another discipline?**

Yes. When you complete our Program Entry Survey you will be asked to share if you have additional specializations on your record (or intend to add additional specializations to your record during your degree) and will be provided with relevant degree-planning guidance to help you with your course planning.

**Q. Can I complete a Combined Major in Economics and Political Science (ECPO)/Philosophy and Political Science (PHIPO) and the PPA?**

Not as of this admissions cycle. Starting with the 2026W admissions cycle, we are looking at opening a PPA stream of the ECPO Combined Major.

For now, if you are completing one of our Combined Major programs and are interested in public policy and administration, please get in touch with our Advising Team (poli.ugrad@ubc.ca) to discuss your course plan.

**Q. Is there a deadline for self-declaring a Political Science specialization?**

No. You can self-declare a Major in Political Science or a Major in Political Science (Politics, Policy, and Administration) at any point in the year.

**Q. Can I complete the Data and Models Certificate as a PPA Major?**

Yes. Please follow the normal application process for the Data and Model Certificate.

***Tip**: PPA Majors intending to complete the Data and Models Certificate should take POLI 220-002 with Professor Christopher Kam.*

**Q. Can I apply to UBC Arts Co-op as a PPA Major?**

Yes. As is the case with POLI Majors, PPA Majors are encouraged and able to participate in UBC's work-integrated learning programs during their degree. Chief among these is UBC's Arts Co-op program, for which PPA students will be attractive applicants given that their Major is designed to

offer practical skills useful for working in government and non-profits—popular placement locations for Co-op students.

Students must gain admission to UBC Arts Co-op independently. For more information about this process, please see this page.

***Tip**: To get a sense of what folks can accomplish during their time with Co-op, check out this profile of Michelle Wei (BA'23), a UBC POLI alumna who won the Undergraduate Arts Co-op Student of the Year award in 2022 for her work with the International Humanitarian Assistance branch of Global Affairs Canada.*

UBC's WorkLearn program is also an option for students seeking professional workplace experience. The training from POLI PPA is uniquely preparatory for folks considering careers within UBC's administration post-graduation.

**Q. How will the PPA Major show up on my diploma?**

Your diploma will indicate a Major ("Political Science"). Your official UBC transcript will indicate both a Major ("Political Science") and an area of focus ("Politics, Policy and Administration").

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

# COMBINED MAJOR IN PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE (PHIPO)

Students within the **Combined Major in Philosophy and Political Science** must complete the following lower-level courses:

- **POLI_V 100** (3 credits)
- **POLI_V 101** (3 credits)
- **POLI_V 110** (3 credits)
- **POLI_V 240** (3 credits)

At the upper-level, PHIPO Combined Majors must complete the following POLI courses:

- **POLI_V 380** (3 credits)
  - Prerequisite: POLI_V 110
- **POLI_V 34*** (3 credits)
  - Any 300-level POLI-coded Political Theory course (POLI_V 340-349).
- **Four 300- and 400-level POLI courses** (12 credits)
  - Successful completion of any 400-level POLI_V course will also fulfill the Arts Research Requirement (a general degree requirement).
    - PHIPO Combined Majors have some flexibility in terms of how they complete their Arts Research Requirement, as they are required to complete an approved Arts Research Requirement course within their PHIL requirements. PHIPO students are still encouraged to complete one 400-level POLI seminar during their degree, but they are not technically required to do so.

- Space in our 400-level seminars is extremely limited. Because of this, PHIPO Combined Majors are permitted to take a maximum of **two** 400-level POLI seminars.

*For Philosophy requirements, please review the Calendar.*

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

# COMBINED MAJOR IN PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE (PHIPO)

Students who meet our program entry requirements can self-declare a **Combined Major in Philosophy & Political Science** without having to submit an application to our Department.

**Program Entry Requirements**

- Enrolled in UBC-V's Bachelor of Arts program; and
- Have second-year standing or above.

Please follow these steps to join the **Combined Major in Philosophy and Political Science**:

- If you have yet to declare a specialization or wish to change your current specialization to the **Combined Major in Philosophy and Political Science**, please follow the steps outlined in this Workday tutorial: **Declaring or changing your primary major, honours, or specialization.**
    - Select: **B.A., Combined Major in Philosophy and Political Science (Vancouver)**.
- If you wish to add the **Combined Major in Philosophy and Political Science** to your existing specialization (e.g., a student who wishes to complete the Combined Major alongside their existing Sociology Major), please follow the steps outlined in this Workday tutorial: **Adding a program of study (second major or minor).**
    - Select: **Combined Major in Philosophy and Political Science (Vancouver)**.
- Complete our Department's short **Program Entry Survey.**

## ADMISSIONS PROCESS

- **Self-enroll in the Department's Undergraduate Info Hub**, a Canvas course from which we send our monthly undergraduate newsletter, share important program information, and post our advising team's drop-in advising days/times.

If you meet our program entry requirements and face any difficulty adding the **Combined Major in Philosophy and Political Science** to your student record, please contact our advising team, at: poli.ugrad@ubc.ca.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

# COMBINED MAJOR IN ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE (ECPO)

To be considered for admission into the **Combined Major in Economics and Political Science**, a student must meet the admission requirements for the Major in Economics.

Additionally, we would like ECPO applicants to have completed at least nine credits of our 12-credit lower-level POLI requirement (POLI_V 100/101/240/3 credits chosen from POLI_V 220 or POLI_V 260)--ideally by May 2025.

If you will not complete at least nine credits of ECPO's 12-credit lower-level POLI requirement by May 2025, you are still welcome and encouraged to apply for this program. We have reserved seats in our 2025W class of ECPO Combined Majors for applicants who fall into this category.

Students within the **Combined Major in Economics and Political Science** must complete the following Political Science courses:

- **POLI_V 100** (3 credits)
- **POLI_V 101** (3 credits)
- **POLI_V 240** (3 credits)
- **POLI_V 220 or 260** (3 credits)

***Tip:*** *ECPO Combined Majors are* ***not*** *required to complete POLI_V 110 or POLI_V 380 (core requirements for our other undergraduate programs), because quantitative methods are taught within the ECON requirements of the Combined Major. While an ECPO Combined Major is welcome to complete POLI_V 110, it is not required. This contradicts the information*

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

*that is listed in the Calendar for "Students Entering [ECPO] After 2025." These Calendar requirements are incorrect and will be updated soon. Prospective 2026W ECPO Majors should use the guidance listed in this Admissions FAQ--not in the Calendar--when developing their POLI course plan.*

At the upper-level, ECPO Combined Majors must complete the following POLI courses:

- **POLI_V 350 or 352** (3 credits)
- **Five 300- and 400-level POLI courses** (15 credits)
    - Successful completion of any 400-level POLI_V course will also fulfill the Arts Research Requirement (a general degree requirement).
        - ECPO Combined Majors have some flexibility in terms of how they complete their Arts Research Requirement, as they are required to complete an approved Arts Research Requirement course within their ECON requirements. ECPO students are still encouraged to complete one 400-level POLI seminar during their degree, but they are not technically required to do so.
    - Space in our 400-level seminars is extremely limited. Because of this, ECPO Combined Majors are permitted to take a maximum of **two** 400-level POLI seminars.

*For Economics requirements, please review the Calendar.*

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

# COMBINED MAJOR IN ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE (ECPO)

Students who are applying for the **Combined Major in Economics and Political Science** must submit an application via the **ECON application portal** (which will open in March). 2025W ECPO applicants will not submit an application to POLI directly.

FAQ: COMBINED MAJORS

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q. Can I apply for ECPO or self-declare PHIPO if I haven't completed my lower-level requirement (PHIPO: POLI_V 100, 101, 110, 240; ECPO: POLI_V 100, 101, 240, three credits from 220 or 260) by May 2025?**

Yes. However, those who join a Combined Major without having completed their full lower-level POLI requirement will be expected to complete this requirement as soon as possible.

***Tip***: *Our 100- and 200-level POLI courses are designed to prepare you for the content of our upper-level course catalogue. With this in mind, we strongly recommend completing what remains of your lower-level POLI requirement over the Summer Session and/or during 2025W1. If you're interested in completing any of these requirements over the Summer Session, take a look at our 2025S Courses App to see the POLI courses on offer.*

**Q. Where do I apply for the ECPO Program? When is the application deadline?**

According to ECON's website, their application portal will open in March. If you have any questions about the ECON admissions process, please refer them to ECON's admissions team (vse.undergrad@ubc.ca).

**Q. Is there a minimum average requirement for the ECPO Program?**

ECON ranks students "according to their weighted GPA and offer admission to the top students based on the number of seats available..." For more information on ECON's admission process, please visit their website.

**Q. Is there a minimum average requirement for the PHIPO Program?**

No.

# FAQ: COMBINED MAJORS

**Q. Is there a deadline for self-declaring the Combined Major in Philosophy and Political Science?**

No. You can self-declare the PHIPO Combined Major at any point in the year, assuming that you meet the program's entry requirements.

**Q. Can I self-declare the Combined Major in Philosophy and Political Science as a fourth-/fifth-year student?**

Yes, as long as you meet our program entry requirements.

***Tip**: In the Program Entry Survey, you will be asked to share your intended graduation date. If you are joining one of our programs this year and intend to graduate in less than two years, a member of our advising team will review your academic record and get in touch with you if they have questions or concerns about your degree plan.*

**Q. If I self-declare the Combined Major in Philosophy and Political Science now, can I start taking 300-level POLI courses, even if I only have second-year standing?**

To take the vast majority of our 300-level courses, you are required to have third-year standing *or* to have completed a set number of lower-level POLI_V courses. This is the case even if you are a PHIPO Combined Major. Please see this page of the Calendar for the specifications for each course.

**Q. I have IB POLI credits/POLI transfer credits on my record and have not yet completed POLI_V 100. Do I still have to complete POLI_V 100 if I self-declare the Combined Major in Philosophy and Political Science? Or can I start working on my other program requirements instead?**

When you complete our Program Entry Survey, you will be asked to share if you have any POLI transfer credits on your record.

If we see reason to waive your POLI_V 100 requirement (or any other POLI program requirement) based on your academic history, we will be in touch.

If you do not hear from our Advising Team within one month of completing your Program Entry Survey, please plan to complete all requirements designated by your particular POLI program.

**Q. If I am accepted into the ECPO/PHIPO Combined Major but decide that I would rather complete the Major in Political Science or the Major in Political Science (Politics, Policy, and Administration), is it possible to switch programs?**

Yes. Please:

- Follow the steps outlined in this Workday tutorial to change your ECPO/PHIPO specialization to a PPA Major or POLI Major; and
- Complete our Department's short Program Entry Survey.

If you face any difficulty changing your program of study, please contact our advising team, at: poli.ugrad@ubc.ca.

**Q. What if I want to switch from one Combined Major to the other? How do I do that?**

If you are an ECPO student looking to switch into our PHIPO Combined Major Program, please follow the steps outlined in this Workday tutorial to change your ECPO specialization to a PHIPO specialization. Please also be sure to complete our Department's short Program Entry Survey.

If you face any difficulty changing your program of study, please contact our advising team, at: poli.ugrad@ubc.ca.

If you are a PHIPO student looking to switch into our ECPO Combined Major Program, you will need to submit an application during ECON's admissions process. This year, ECON's application portal is set to open in March 2025.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

# HONOURS PROGRAM

To be considered for admission into our **Honours Program**, a student must:

- be enrolled in the Faculty of Arts*;
- have completed at least 54 credits of post-secondary course work**;
- have completed at least nine credits of the 12-credit lower-level POLI requirement (POLI_V 100/101/110/240) by May 2025—any remaining lower-level POLI credits must be completed upon admission into the program; and
- have attained a cumulative average of 80% in their post-secondary studies to date.***

**Applicants who are not enrolled in UBC-V's BA Program as of May 2025 must enroll by no later than **August 31, 2025**.*

***We can conditionally offer admission to an applicant who has completed as few as 42 post-secondary credits; however, to formally enter the Honours Program during the 2025W admissions cycle, students must complete their full 54-credit requirement and be promoted to third-year standing by **August 31, 2025**.*

****Please note: 80% is our minimum average requirement; achieving a cumulative average of 85% or higher will greatly improve your chances of being accepted into this program.*

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

# HONOURS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE WITH INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (PSIR) PROGRAM

To be considered for admission into our **Honours in Political Science with International Relations Program**, a student must:

- be enrolled in the Faculty of Arts*;
- have completed at least 54 credits of course work**;
- have attained a minimum grade-point average of 80% in their post-secondary studies to date.***

The PSIR Program's lower-level requirements are:

- **POLI_V 100, 110, and 260, plus one other 100-/200-level POLI-coded course** (12 credits)
- **ECON_V 101 and 102** (6 credits)
- **HIST_V 102 or 103** (6 credits)

Generally speaking, students should not apply for the PSIR Program unless they have completed **POLI_V 260** and at least **two other POLI-coded courses**. If students have not yet completed all of their lower-level POLI credits but have completed their lower-level ECON and/or HIST credits, they may still be eligible for admission; however, we strongly advise that students complete all three lower-level requirements (POLI, ECON, and HIST) prior to applying.

**Applicants who are not enrolled in UBC-V's BA Program as of May 2025 must enroll by no later than **August 31, 2025**.*

***We can conditionally offer admission to an applicant who has completed as few as 42 post-secondary credits; however, to formally enter the PSIR Program during the 2025W admissions cycle, students must complete their full 54-credit requirement and be promoted to third-year standing by **August 31, 2025**.*

****Please note: 80% is our minimum average requirement; achieving a cumulative average of 85% or higher will greatly improve your chances of being accepted into this program.*

APPLICATION PROCESS

# HONOURS & PSIR ADMISSIONS

Honours and PSIR applicants must complete this application form by no later than **11:59 PM (Pacific)** on **May 15, 2025**.

In the process of submitting their application, Honours and PSIR applicants must provide the Department with the following supplementary materials:

- a brief resumé (no more than two pages); and
- a 250-word description of their special interests in Political Science, their interests outside of the discipline (including outside reading), and their career goals.

Honours/PSIR applicants also have the option of submitting a 250-word additional statement with their application. This additional statement is an applicant's opportunity to contextualize their transcript--providing us with information about their academic history which we will not see by looking at their transcript alone.

# FAQ: HONOURS & PSIR

**Q. Where do I apply? When is the application deadline?**

You will be able to apply for POLI Honours/PSIR on **our website**. Our application portal will open on **Wednesday 19 February** and will close on **Thursday 15 May** at **11:59 PM (Pacific)**. Applications submitted after this deadline will not be considered.

**Q. Can I apply for this program if I plan to complete my 54-credit requirement and/or transfer into the Faculty of Arts during the upcoming Summer Session?**

Yes. A successful POLI Honours/PSIR applicant in this position would receive a conditional offer from us, meaning that they are accepted into POLI Honours/PSIR on the condition that they complete their outstanding admission requirement(s) by **August 31, 2025**.

**Q. Can I apply even if I am in my 4th/5th year?**

Yes, but POLI Honours & PSIR are two-year, cohort-based programs in which the content of the first year lays the foundation for the second. All of this to say: we typically do not allow students to complete POLI Honours/PSIR in a single year. A student who attempted this would need to complete their Honours seminar and thesis simultaneously, which defeats the foundational purpose of the seminar and would, undoubtedly, be an immense workload for the student. Therefore, you are welcome to apply for POLI Honours/PSIR as a fourth- or fifth-year student, but you must commit to two full academic years of study in order to complete the programs' requirements.

# FAQ: HONOURS & PSIR

**Q. The Calendar says that, "Occasionally, outstanding students from the third-year Major program may be admitted directly to fourth-year Honours." Does this mean that I can skip taking the third-year Honours Seminar and head straight into writing my thesis?**

No. Students who enter POLI Honours/PSIR with 4th-year standing will still be required to complete all of their Honours/PSIR requirements, including POLI 390.

**Q. What if my average is below your minimum requirement? Can I still apply?**

Yes. However, if you are in this position, we recommend submitting an additional statement with your application to help us understand your academic history beyond what is listed on your transcript.

**Q. Do you count IB/AP credits in your Honours/PSIR average calculation? How about transfer credits from other post-secondary institutions?**

We exclude IB/AP credits from our average calculation. If you were granted transfer credits from your previous post-secondary institution(s), we will use them when calculating your average.

**Q. How do I send you copies of my transcript(s) from my previous post-secondary institution(s)?**

There will be an option to upload your transcript(s) from your previous post-secondary institution(s) within our application portal. Unofficial transcripts will suffice.

***Tip**: You do not need to upload your UBC transcript.*

# FAQ: HONOURS & PSIR

**Q. Do you have any recommendations for how to format the personal statement/resumé portion of the Honours application?**

We ask that your resumé be no longer than two pages; beyond this, we do not have any specific formatting requirements. (This resource may be useful to you.)

When it comes to your personal statement, please be mindful of the word count (no more than 250 words). Other than this, we have no specific formatting/content requirements.

**Q. Can IB/AP ECON 1st, HIST 1st, or POLI 1st credits be applied to lower-level PSIR requirements?**

No.

**Q. Will I improve my chances of being admitted into Honours/PSIR if I apply early in the February – May admissions cycle?**

No.

**Q. Do you accept late applications?**

No. If you miss our application deadline and still wish to be a POLI Honours/PSIR student, you will need to apply during next year's application cycle (February – May 2026).

**Q. When can I expect to hear back about my application?**

Early June.

**Q. Does my offer of admission have an expiry date?**

Yes. You will receive more information about this when you receive your offer of admission.

FAQ: HONOURS & PSIR

**Q. How do I accept my offer of admission?**

If your application to our Honours/PSIR Program is successful, you can expect to receive an e-mail from our Advising Team with instructions outlining how to accept your offer of admission.

***Tip**: Our Advising Team will contact you using the e-mail address that you provide on your application form. Please ensure that you provide us with an e-mail address that you use regularly so that you don't miss any important e-mails from us!*

**Q. Can I defer my offer if I am accepted into the program?**

Very rarely. Book an appointment with our Undergraduate Advisor (poli.ugrad@ubc.ca) to discuss your options if you need to defer your offer.

**Q. Can I Major in Honours/PSIR and another Major?**

Technically, yes, but students in this position should ensure that they are aware of UBC's double-counting requirements and double major degree requirements.

Additionally, our Honours programs come with some hefty requirements. If you are considering this option, we recommend proactively booking an appointment with Arts Advising in order to put together a degree plan. Once this plan is assembled, we recommend reviewing it with our Advising Team (poli.ugrad@ubc.ca).

**Q. Can I switch from the Honours Program to the PSIR Program/the PSIR Program to the POLI Honours Program?**

Yes. Contact our Advising Team (poli.ugrad@ubc.ca) if you want to make this change.

FAQ: HONOURS & PSIR

**Q. How do I get my Honours/PSIR specialization to show up on my record?**

Our Advising Team will add your specialization to your record once you accept your offer of admission.

**Q. Can I re-apply next year if I am not accepted this year?**

In principle, yes—as long as you satisfy our admission requirements. However, if your average is equal to or below our minimum requirement (80%), we recommend considering other specialization options.