

1. Why do Honours Political Science?

Many students seeking to enhance their capacity to produce original research during their Political Science program find that the 2 upper division units in the Major provides somewhat limited opportunities. The 48 upper division units in the Honours program with a strong emphasis on the field of concentration in a specialized area of interest. In their later years, Honours students also take more small upper seminars, thus developing more personal relationships with a range of professors in the department and their student cohort, as well as a more advanced knowledge of Political Science methodologies and issues. For many students, the Honours Essay is a key attraction. The chance to conceive of an ambitious research project on a special topic of personal interest, design a reading list, research plan for approaching this topic, and then write up the essay in one consultation with a supervisor is a highlight of the undergraduate career.

2. What are the differences between the Honours program and the Major?

The main difference between these two programs is that the Honours student undertakes a 5 unit Honours Seminar in the Fall term, and a 5 unit Honours Essay in the Spring term, working closely with one supervising professor over these semesters to complete this substantial, specialized research project.

Honours:

- x 120 total units
- x 60 upper division units
- x 48 upper division units in Political Science, including POL 4995 Honours Essay and POL 490 Honours Seminar. An additional 8 of these 48 units must be at the 400 level

Major:

- x 120 units
- x 45 upper division units
- x 32 upper division units in Political Science, of which 8 units must be at the 400 level

3. Why would a student reasonably choose not to do Honours?

An Honours program is intended to give the student advanced knowledge in one field or discipline. Students who are more interested in breadth than in specialization might decide to spread their studies over several departments (with a Major and Minor, for example), whereas students strongly interested in two distinct disciplines might choose a Double Major.

4. for admission to graduate school?

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support them with strong, detailed letters of reference. Successful completion of the research and writing for the yearlong 8,000 to 10,000 word Honours Essay is an accomplishment valued by graduate schools in many fields, as well as by future employers outside of academia.

5. Is an Honours degree necessary for admission to Law School?

No, an Honours degree is not a specific requirement for admission to Law School. Most law schools require a 4-year degree to be eligible.