



Political Science Honors Track

The Political Science (POLS) Undergraduate Honors Program is designed to allow talented and self-motivated students more opportunities for in-depth inquiry into the political. These opportunities include: internships, independent research with close mentorship from a tenured faculty member, and taking graduate courses (with the approval of the instructor and the undergraduate chair).

Students wishing to pursue the Honors track in Political Science must apply and be accepted into the UHM Honors Program. They must complete all Honors Program requirements. These requirements differ depending on how many semesters the student has left before graduating. For more information, see the Honors Program website.

In addition, students must also declare Political Science as their major and complete all the requirements of the major. Because the POLS major is designed with similar components to the Honors Program, several of the courses are interchangeable. This will enable participants in the POLS Honors track to graduate with Honors without lengthening the time to completion of the BA degree. The POLS Honors track does not add significant additional credits to the total load of a regular POLS major. However, this option adds depth and rigor, requiring more self-direction and commitment on the part of the student. In return, the student also gets closer mentoring from both POLS and Honors faculty and advisors.

Freshmen who join the Honors Program and who know early on that they are leaning toward a Political Science major, are strongly advised to take POLS 110A.

Sophomores and Juniors who apply to and enter the Honors program for an Upper-Division Honors Designation (a BA in Political Science with Honors) are **required** to take the following courses and fulfill the following requirements:

- Take either **HON 491** or **POLS 406** seminar course or **POLS 600-level course** (3 credits)
- Submit a 10-12 page written proposal for the Senior Honors Project, accompanied by a signed proposal/mentor form (this should be done with at least two full semesters remaining)
 - We highly recommend that students take HON 495 or POLS 390 to get this process started.
- HON 494 Research Workshop (zero credits) this is a companion workshop to the HON 496 and/or POLS 404 or POLS 399, and is designed to help students become familiar with independent research protocols, and Honors criteria and requirements. This should be taken in the semester the student starts their research (typically after the submission of the research proposal).

2425 Campus Road, Sinclair Library, Honolulu, HI 96822.

Phone: (808) 956-8391; Fax: (808) 956-3525; Email: honors@hawaii.edu; Web: <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/undergrad/honors/>

- **HON 496** and/or **POLS 404** and/or POLS 399 (6 credits) thesis writing. Students are encouraged to use the Senior Thesis course or take HON 496 while working with a POLS faculty member as thesis mentor.

All POLS Honors students complete an honors thesis that is supervised by a primary advisor who must be a POLS faculty member (preferably a tenured faculty member) and a committee of one additional professors or instructor. The committee provides guidance to the student regarding research and writing of the capstone project. Toward the end of the final semester of thesis writing, the whole committee meets with the student for a final consultation and conversation about the penultimate draft. The student then makes any final revisions and submits a final draft to the Honors Program, with the committee's recommendation about whether or not the Senior Honors Project has earned an Honors designation. The student must also present their completed project at the Undergraduate Showcase. Thus the final conversation with the student's committee can be an opportunity to practice and get feedback on presenting and defending his or her research.

All POLS Honors students are required to meet with their thesis advisor every semester and with the Honors Program advisor to make sure that all requirements are being met in a timely manner.

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