

UBC Department of Political Science

Prospective Majors FAQ

2024W



MAJOR PROGRAM

To be formally admitted into our Major Program, a student must:

- be enrolled in the Faculty of Arts*; and
- have completed at least 54 credits of post-secondary course work.**

We would like Major applicants to have completed at least nine credits of our 12-credit lower-level POLI requirement (POLI 100, 101, 110, and 240)--ideally by May 2024--and to have attained a cumulative average of at least 65%.

If you will not complete at least three of POLI 100, 101, 110, and 240 by May 2024 and/or have not achieved our minimum average requirement, you are still welcome and encouraged to apply for our Major Program. We have reserved seats in our 2024W class of Majors for applicants who fall into this category.

Applicants who are not enrolled in UBC-V's BA Program as of May 2024 must enroll by no later than **August 31, 2024.*

***We can conditionally offer admission to an applicant who has completed as few as 42 post-secondary credits; however, to formally enter the Major Program during the 2024W admissions cycle, students must complete their full 54-credit requirement and be promoted to third-year standing by **August 31, 2024**.*

CAN I APPLY FOR THIS PROGRAM IF I HAVEN'T TAKEN POLI 100, 101, 110, AND 240 BY MAY 2024?

Yes! Students in this position are welcome and encouraged to apply for our Major Program. However, **applicants who are admitted into the Major Program 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 and, in certain cases, are prerequisites for upper-level Major requirements (e.g., you cannot take POLI 380--one of the main requirements of our Major Program--without having first completed POLI 110). With this in mind, we strongly recommend completing what remains of your lower-level POLI requirement over the Summer Session and/or during 2024W1.*

DO I NEED TO TAKE POLI 220 AND/OR POLI 260 IN ORDER TO BE ACCEPTED INTO THE MAJOR PROGRAM?

No. However, we strongly recommend that students complete these two courses prior to joining our Major Program. In doing so, they will:

- improve their capacity to take on our upper-level Comparative Politics and International Relations courses; and
- expand their understanding of POLI's sub-disciplines, which will, in turn, help them to better understand 1) if POLI is the right field for them and 2) what aspects of POLI are most interesting to them.

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 student in this position will likely receive a conditional offer from us, meaning that they are accepted into our Major Program on the condition that they complete their outstanding admission requirement(s) by **August 31, 2024**.

CAN I APPLY FOR YOUR MAJOR PROGRAM IF I AM ALREADY IN MY 4TH/5TH YEAR?

Yes!

***Tip:** Depending on how many upper-level POLI classes you have already taken, it can be quite difficult to complete your upper-level POLI requirement within one academic year. If you find yourself in this position, please feel free to request an appointment with Jillian, the Political Science Undergraduate Advisor (poli.advising@ubc.ca), to discuss your course plan.*

WHAT IF MY AVERAGE IS BELOW YOUR MINIMUM AVERAGE REQUIREMENT? CAN I STILL APPLY?

Yes! We have reserved seats in our 2024W class of Majors for applicants who have not met our minimum average requirement.

DO YOU COUNT IB/AP CREDITS IN YOUR 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 may use them when calculating your average.

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.

WHERE DO I APPLY? WHEN IS THE APPLICATION DEADLINE?

You will be able to apply for our Major Program on **our website**. Our application portal will open on **Monday 12 February** and will close on **Wednesday 15 May**.

WILL I IMPROVE MY CHANCES OF BEING ADMITTED INTO THE MAJOR PROGRAM IF I APPLY EARLY IN THE FEBRUARY - MAY ADMISSIONS CYCLE?

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, and early applicants may receive a full or conditional offer of admission from us as early as April; however, students can apply for our Major Program until May 15th and still receive full consideration.

DO YOU ACCEPT LATE APPLICATIONS?

If you miss our application deadline and still wish to be a POLI Major, please e-mail our Undergraduate Program Chair, Professor Carey Doberstein, at:
carey.doberstein@ubc.ca.

WHEN CAN I EXPECT TO HEAR BACK ABOUT MY APPLICATION?

All Major applicants will receive admission decisions from us by no later than the first week of June; however, we review applications for our Major Program on a rolling basis, and early applicants may receive a full or conditional offer of admission as early as April.

HOW DO I ACCEPT MY OFFER OF ADMISSION?

If your application for our Major Program is successful, you can expect to receive an e-mail from our Advising Team with instructions re: 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!*

DOES MY OFFER OF ADMISSION HAVE AN EXPIRY DATE?

No! If you receive an offer of admission for our Major Program, it is a standing offer.

HOW DO I GET THE POLI MAJOR SPECIALIZATION TO SHOW UP ON MY RECORD?

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

CAN I MAJOR IN POLI AND ANOTHER MAJOR?

Yes, but students in this position should ensure that they are aware of UBC's **double-counting requirements** and **double major degree requirements**. If you are considering this option, we recommend proactively booking an appointment with Arts Advising in order to make a course plan.

CAN I RE-APPLY NEXT YEAR IF I AM NOT ACCEPTED THIS YEAR?

Yes, as long as you satisfy our admission requirements.

COMBINED MAJOR PROGRAMS

Combined Major in Philosophy and Political Science (PHPO Program)

The admission requirements and application process for this program are the same as those for our Major Program.

Combined Major in Economics and Political Science (ECPO Program)

In order to be considered for admission into our ECPO Program, 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 100/101/240/3 credits chosen from POLI 220 or POLI 260)--ideally by May 2024.

If you will not complete at least nine credits of ECPO's 12-credit lower-level POLI requirement by May 2024, you are still welcome and encouraged to apply for this program. We have reserved seats in our 2024W class of ECPO Combined Majors for applicants who fall into this category.

ECPO ADMISSIONS

Starting with this admissions cycle, **students who are applying for the ECPO Program will only submit one application via the ECON application portal (which opens on March 15, 2024).** 2024W ECPO applicants will not submit an application to POLI directly.

Students who are not accepted into the ECPO Program may be admitted into our Major Program. **ECPO applicants are not required to submit a separate application for our Major Program; this assessment process is automatic.**

Note: *We recommend that PHPO applicants read through our Major Admissions FAQ (above), as our PHPO and Major admissions processes are one and the same.*

CAN I APPLY FOR ECPO IF I HAVEN'T TAKEN POLI 100, 101, 240, AND THREE CREDITS CHOSEN FROM POLI 220/260 BY MAY 2024?

Yes! Students in this position are welcome and encouraged to apply for the ECPO Program. However, **applicants who are admitted into the ECPO Program 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 2024W1.*

WHERE DO I APPLY FOR THE ECPO PROGRAM? WHEN IS THE APPLICATION DEADLINE?

According to **ECON's website**, their application portal will open on **Friday 15 March**. If you have any questions about the ECON admissions process, please refer them to ECON's admissions team (vse.undergrad@ubc.ca).

WHEN CAN I EXPECT TO HEAR BACK ABOUT MY APPLICATION?

ECPO applicants can expect to receive an admission decision from either ECON or POLI by no later than mid-June.

IF I AM ACCEPTED INTO THE ECPO/PHPO COMBINED MAJOR PROGRAM BUT DECIDE THAT I WOULD RATHER COMPLETE A POLI MAJOR, IS IT POSSIBLE TO SWITCH PROGRAMS?

If you find yourself in this position, please e-mail poli.advising@ubc.ca.

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 100/101/110/240) by May 2024—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 2024 must enroll by no later than **August 31, 2024.*

***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 2024W admissions cycle, students must complete their full 54-credit requirement and be promoted to third-year standing by **August 31, 2024**.*

****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.*

HONOURS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE WITH INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (PSIR) PROGRAM

The Honours in Political Science with International Relations Program is a 78-credit interdisciplinary program that is made-up of 24 lower-level credits, 6 language credits at any level, and 48-credits of upper-level credits.

To be considered for admission into our PSIR 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.***

Effective 2024W, the PSIR Program's lower-level requirements are as follows:

- POLI 100, POLI 110, and POLI 260, plus one other 100-/200-level POLI-coded course
- ECON 101 and 102
- HIST 102 or 103

Applicants who are not enrolled in UBC-V's BA Program as of May 2024 must enroll by no later than **August 31, 2024.*

***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 2024W admissions cycle, students must complete their full 54-credit requirement and be promoted to third-year standing by **August 31, 2024**.*

****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

PSIR Language Requirement

PSIR students are required to complete 6 credits of coursework in one language other than English. The language courses can either be at the upper or lower-level, including any coursework completed prior to admission. These credits must be completed by all PSIR major students and cannot be waived based on prior language study or an existing language competency.

*Courses taken to fulfil the Language as Meaning Breadth Area of the **Bachelor of Arts' Ways of Knowing Breadth Requirements** can also be used towards the PSIR language requirement.*

If a student has already commenced language studies prior to entering UBC and wishes to continue at a higher level they should consult the administering department to confirm the procedure for placement

Generally speaking, students should **not** apply for the PSIR Program unless they have completed POLI 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.

If you have questions regarding your eligibility for the program, please get in touch with Adam Jelley, the PSIR Program Advisor, at: psir.advising@ubc.ca.

HONOURS & PSIR ADMISSIONS

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.

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 **Monday 12 February** and will close on **Wednesday 15 May**.

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, 2024**.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.*

CAN I APPLY FOR PSIR IF I HAVEN'T COMPLETED ALL OF THE PROGRAM'S PREREQUISITES?

We strongly recommend completing all of PSIR's lower-level course requirements prior to entering the program. That being said, students are able to complete some of these requirements post-admission—keeping in mind that, because of the interdisciplinary nature of IR, a student who has not yet completed their lower-level HIST, POLI, or ECON requirement may not yet fully have a sense of whether or not IR (built, as it is, on the three pillars of HIST, POLI, and ECON) is a good fit for them.

CAN IB/AP ECON 1ST, HIST 1ST, OR POLI 1ST CREDITS BE APPLIED TO LOWER-LEVEL PSIR REQUIREMENTS?

No.

CAN I APPLY FOR POLI HONOURS IF I WON'T COMPLETE POLI 100, 101, 110, AND 240 BY MAY 2024?

We expect Honours applicants to have completed at least nine credits of their 12-credit lower-level POLI requirement by May 2024. If you have not completed at least nine credits of this requirement by May, it will be difficult for us to assess your readiness for the Honours Program. If you're still keen to apply, please be sure to submit an additional statement contextualizing your progress on your lower-level POLI requirements.

DO I NEED TO TAKE POLI 220 AND/OR POLI 260 IN ORDER TO BE ACCEPTED INTO THE HONOURS PROGRAM?

No. However, we strongly recommend that students complete these two courses prior to joining our Honours Program. In doing so, they will:

- improve their capacity to take on our upper-level Comparative Politics and International Relations courses; and
- expand their understanding of POLI's sub-disciplines, which will, in turn, help them to better understand 1) if POLI is the right field for them and 2) what aspects of POLI are most interesting to them.

WILL I IMPROVE MY CHANCES OF BEING ADMITTED INTO THE HONOURS PROGRAM IF I APPLY EARLY IN THE FEBRUARY - MAY ADMISSIONS CYCLE?

No.

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 requirements.

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 2025).

Tip: *The Faculty of Arts requires students to have a Major specialization declared by the beginning of their third year. If you miss our application deadline and don't have a back-up Major option, please connect with Arts Advising as soon as possible.*

WHEN CAN I EXPECT TO HEAR BACK ABOUT MY APPLICATION?

Early June.

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 re: 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!*

DOES MY OFFER OF ADMISSION HAVE AN EXPIRY DATE?

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

CAN I DEFER MY OFFER IF I AM ACCEPTED INTO THE PROGRAM?

Very rarely. Book an appointment with Jillian, the Political Science Honours Advisor (poli.advising@ubc.ca), or Adam, the PSIR Advisor (psir.advising@ubc.ca), to discuss your options if you need to defer your offer.

CAN I MAJOR IN POLI 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, POLI Honours and PSIR come with some hefty requirements. Therefore, 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 Jillian, the Political Science Honours Advisor (poli.advising@ubc.ca), or Adam, the PSIR Advisor (psir.advising@ubc.ca).

CAN I SWITCH FROM THE HONOURS PROGRAM TO THE PSIR PROGRAM/THE PSIR PROGRAM TO THE HONOURS PROGRAM?

Contact Jillian, the Political Science Honours Advisor (poli.advising@ubc.ca), or Adam, the PSIR Advisor (psir.advising@ubc.ca), if you're keen to make this change.

HOW DO I GET THE POLI HONOURS/PSIR SPECIALIZATION TO SHOW UP ON MY RECORD?

Our Advising Team will add the POLI Honours/PSIR specialization to your record once you accept your offer of admission.

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.

- **Please note:** a student who is unsuccessful in their application for POLI Honours/PSIR but meets our POLI Major admission requirements will be offered admission into our POLI Major Program.

USEFUL CONTACTS

- Jillian Read, Undergraduate Advisor (POLI MAJ, HONS; ECPO; PHPO): **poli.advising@ubc.ca**
- Adam Jelley, Undergraduate Advisor (PSIR): **psir.advising@ubc.ca**
- Carey Doberstein, Undergraduate Program Chair: **carey.doberstein@ubc.ca**
- ECON Admissions: **vse.undergrad@ubc.ca**
- Dr. Kimberley Brownlee (PHIL), Philosophy and Political Science Faculty Advisor: **kimberley.brownlee@ubc.ca**

DROP-IN ADVISING INFORMATION

- **Jillian Read, Undergraduate Advisor (POLI MAJ, HONS; ECPO; PHPO)**
 - Wednesdays (2:00 – 3:30 PM) and Fridays (9:30 – 11:00 AM)
 - **Link:** [https://ubc.zoom.us/j/69912289250?pwd=YnpISTZFMllpQmhrM3Y2Zm9Gd2RmUT09Links to an external site.](https://ubc.zoom.us/j/69912289250?pwd=YnpISTZFMllpQmhrM3Y2Zm9Gd2RmUT09Links%20to%20an%20external%20site.)
 - **Meeting ID:** 699 1228 9250
 - **Passcode:** 717613
- **Adam Jelley, Undergraduate Advisor (PSIR):**
 - Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays: 2:00 - 4:00 PM (BUCH C430)

USEFUL RESOURCES

- [Our Website](#)
- [UBC Political Science Undergraduate Info Hub](#)
- [Political Science Curriculum Guide](#)
- [Calendar Requirements: POLI Major, HONS, PSIR](#)
- [Calendar Requirements: PHPO](#)
- [Calendar Requirements: ECPO](#)