APPROVED BY SENATE
10/19/2026

EP.27.013_FINAL
Approved by EP 10/05/2026

: POLITICAL SCIENCE: LAW, POLICY, AND INSTITUTIONS, BALAS

In Workflow

1. U Program Review (eastuby@illinois.edu; mhazen@illinois.edu; bv4@illinois.edu; jswen@illinois.edu)
2. Gen Ed Review (menewell@illinois.edu)
3. 1710-POL_S Head (aprorok@illinois.edu; rudolph@illinois.edu; carawong@illinois.edu)
4. KV Dean (las-catalog@illinois.edu)
5. University Librarian (clairest@illinois.edu; tteper@illinois.edu)
6. COTE Programs (suzannel@illinois.edu)
7. Provost (bsnewell@illinois.edu)
8. Senate EPC (bjlehman@illinois.edu;bsnewell@illinois.edu)
9. Senate (jtempel@illinois.edu;bjlehman@illinois.edu)
10. U Senate Conf (kakuntz@illinois.edu)
11. Board of Trustees (kakuntz@illinois.edu)
12. IBHE (kakuntz@illinois.edu)
13. HLC (kakuntz@illinois.edu)
14. Catalog Editor (bv4@illinois.edu; bsnewell@illinois.edu)
15. DMI (eastuby@illinois.edu; nnagy2@illinois.edu; bv4@illinois.edu; jswen@illinois.edu)

Approval Path

1. Tue, 07 Jul 2026 15:51:54 GMT
   Brianna Vargas-Gonzalez (bv4): Approved for U Program Review
2. Thu, 09 Jul 2026 22:06:50 GMT
   Melissa Steinkoenig (menewell): Approved for Gen Ed Review
3. Fri, 10 Jul 2026 13:37:58 GMT
   Cara Wong (carawong): Approved for 1710-POL_S Head
4. Wed, 15 Jul 2026 18:59:17 GMT
   Melissa Reedy (murray): Approved for KV Dean
5. Wed, 15 Jul 2026 19:59:36 GMT
   Tom Teper (tteper): Approved for University Librarian
6. Wed, 15 Jul 2026 20:48:44 GMT
   Suzanne Lee (suzannel): Approved for COTE Programs
7. Tue, 21 Jul 2026 20:18:43 GMT
   Brooke Newell (bsnewell): Rollback to KV Dean for Provost
8. Thu, 30 Jul 2026 02:43:27 GMT
   Melissa Reedy (murray): Approved for KV Dean
9. Thu, 30 Jul 2026 15:03:00 GMT
   Tom Teper (tteper): Approved for University Librarian
10. Thu, 30 Jul 2026 17:50:47 GMT
    Suzanne Lee (suzannel): Approved for COTE Programs
11. Mon, 17 Aug 2026 14:25:49 GMT
    Brooke Newell (bsnewell): Approved for Provost
12. Wed, 02 Sep 2026 17:47:15 GMT
    Barbara Lehman (bjlehman): Rollback to KV Dean for Senate EPC
13. Wed, 09 Sep 2026 16:38:35 GMT
    Melissa Reedy (murray): Approved for KV Dean

14. Wed, 09 Sep 2026 17:56:00 GMT
    Tom Teper (tteper): Approved for University Librarian
15. Wed, 09 Sep 2026 19:29:39 GMT
    Suzanne Lee (suzannel): Approved for COTE Programs
16. Wed, 09 Sep 2026 21:26:40 GMT
    Brooke Newell (bsnewell): Approved for Provost

New Proposal

Date Submitted: Fri, 26 Jun 2026 15:37:24 GMT

Viewing: : Political Science: Law, Policy, and Institutions, BALAS
Last edit: Wed, 09 Sep 2026 22:25:30 GMT

Changes proposed by: Alyssa Prorok

Proposal Type

Proposal Type:

Concentration (ex. Dietetics)

Administration Details

Official Program Name

Political Science: Law, Policy, and Institutions, BALAS

Sponsor College

Liberal Arts & Sciences

Sponsor Department

Political Science

Sponsor Name

Alyssa Prorok

Sponsor Email

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College Contact

Stephen R. Downie

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College Budget Officer

Michael Wellens

College Budget Officer Email

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If additional stakeholders other than the Sponsor and College Contacts listed above should be contacted if questions during the review process arise, please list them here.

Melissa Reedy, murray@illinois.edu (LAS Assistant Director Course & Cir Dvt)

Does this program have inter-departmental administration?

No

Catalog Term

Desired Effective Catalog Term

Fall 2027

Effective Catalog

2027-2028

Proposal Title

Proposal Title (either Establish/Revise/Eliminate the Degree Name in Program Name in the College of XXXX, i.e., Establish the Bachelor of Science in Entomology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, include the Graduate College for Grad Programs)

Establish the Concentration in Law, Policy, and Institutions in the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Political Science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Are there other related proposals that should be considered simultaneously with this one? If yes, please list the program keys and/or titles. Consider Majors, Minors, Concentrations & Joint Programs in your department. Please know that this information is used administratively to move related proposals through workflow efficiently and together as needed. Format your response like the following "This BS proposal (key 567) is related to the Concentration A proposal (key 145)"

This concentration proposal (Key 1418) is related to:
The BALAS proposal (Key 697)
World Politics (Key 698)
Public Policy and Democratic Institutions (Key 699)
Law & Power (Key 700)
International Relations (Key 701)
General Political Science (Key 702)
Civic Leadership (Key 703)
Citizen Politics (Key 704)

Program Justification

Provide a brief justification of the program, including highlights of the program objectives, and the careers, occupations, or further educational opportunities for which the program will prepare graduates, when appropriate.

The concentration name Political Science: Public Policy & Democratic Institutions (Key 699) has changed to Political Science: Law, Policy, and Institutions (Key 1418). This change reflects a revision of the concentration to (1) broaden and internationalize its focus beyond U.S. institutions to comparative political and legal institutions, and (2) more explicitly examine legal institutions and the reciprocal relationship among law, public policy, and political processes. This revision is pedagogically valuable because it places U.S. institutions in comparative perspective, providing students with broader substantive knowledge of how political and legal institutions develop and function across diverse contexts. It also strengthens students' understanding of constitutional and legal foundations while maintaining the existing program learning outcomes.

Program objectives are to provide students with a strong foundation in political science and the study of political and legal institutions; develop students' understanding of the historical, legal, and organizational foundations of governance and policymaking in both U.S. and comparative contexts; strengthen students' ability to apply political science theories and research methods to the analysis of political and legal issues; and prepare students to evaluate how law, institutions, and public policy shape political outcomes.

The concentration prepares graduates for careers in public service, government, public policy analysis, legislative affairs, nonprofit organizations, advocacy, international organizations, public administration, political consulting, research, and related fields. The

curriculum also provides excellent preparation for graduate and professional study, including law school, master's and doctoral programs in political science or public policy, public administration (MPA), international affairs, and related social science disciplines.

This program of study was copied from the old concentration (Key 699), but the following revisions have been made:

1. The formatting of the POS and additional text (i.e., graduation requirements, university requirements, and general education requirements) has been modified to adhere to the campus General Education Template, per Office of the Provost General Education initiative for transparency and accessibility.

2. The LAS Orientation and Professional Development table has been added to the POS, per LAS for transparency and accessibility.

3. Added the heading "Major Requirements" after the LAS Orientation and Professional Development table and added the one course common among all concentrations, PS 100. This heading was adding for increased accessibility and clarity for students.

4. Added the heading "Concentration Requirements" after the Major Requirements. This heading was adding for increased accessibility and clarity for students.

5. Changed the heading, "Select at least one course from the following:" to "Select one course from the following:" and added PS 248 to this list of options. PS 248 was created in FA25 to fill a gap and focus on rich democracies, serving as a foundational course for upper division courses like PS 348, PS 385, and PS 485.

6. Changed the heading "Select any additional 100- or 200-level Political Science Courses" to "Select six hours of any 100- or 200-level Political Science (PS) courses." The heading was updated to be consistent among all headings within the concentration and among all concentrations. The 200 level courses from the concentration specific course list previously found at the bottom of the POS was removed since students can select any 100/200 level PS course

7. Increased the required hours of 300- or 400- level Political Science courses from 15 hours to 21 hours and separated this requirement into two headers. First header, "Select nine hours of 300- or 400-level Law, Policy, and Institutions Political Science courses from the list below." This list was previously found at the bottom of the POS (see justification 9), and is now incorporated here, listing all 300-/400-level courses from it.
The second header, "Select twelve hours of any 300- or 400-level Political Science (PS) courses." Previously this was six hours and is now twelve. This hour change includes what was "Select 300- or 400-level Political Science courses, at least nine hours of which come from the Public Policy and Democratic Institutions Concentration list maintained by the department. The other six hours may be any 300- or 400-level Political Science course." and "Select Political Science courses at any level" (Note: this former title was the old concentration name). This was done to address the Implementation of the Illinois Board of Higher Education 40 Upper-Division Hour Criterion (EP.24.068), to simplify the POS requirements for student clarity, and to be clear that the courses allowed must be in the PS subject.

8. The heading "Students will select a second major, or a minor, or a set of courses of at least 12 hours of thematically-related coursework outside political science, developed in conjunction with an academic advisor." has been updated to "Select thematically-related undergraduate coursework at the 300- level or higher that is outside political science and developed in conjunction with an academic advisor." to address the Implementation of the Illinois Board of Higher Education 40 Upper-Division Hour Criterion (EP.24.068) and to simplify the POS requirements for student clarity.

9. Updated the Law, Policy, and Institutions Course List. PS 312, PS 318, PS 325, PS 329, PS 348, PS 362, PS 370, PS 378, PS 384, PS 386, PS 387, PS 390, PS 392, PS 399, PS 485, PS 486, PS 487, PS 488 were added to the list. Based upon an audit of current PS undergraduate syllabi and discussion among the PS faculty, it was determined that each of these courses contains substantial content related to political and legal systems and institutions, which are the central foci of the Law, Policy, and Institutions concentration. PS 323 was removed from the list because it is a niche course that was offered by a faculty member who has left the university. An offering of this course in the future is unlikely.

Qualifying statements were added to courses (PS 300, PS 494) as they are only approved if the topic is in this concentration area.

Instructional Resources

Will there be any reduction in other course offerings, programs or concentrations by your department as a result of this new program/ proposed change?

Yes

Please describe:

Phasedown of the concentration Public Policy and Democratic Institutions (Key 699) with a new concentration titled Political Science: Law, Policy, and Institutions, BALAS (key 1418).

Does this new program/proposed change result in the replacement of another program?

Yes

If yes, choose program(s) being replaced

Programs Being Replaced
Political Science: Public Policy & Democratic Institutions, BALAS

If yes, which program(s), what is the anticipated impact on faculty, students, and instructional resources?

Phase down of the concentration Public Policy and Democratic Institutions (Key 699) with this new concentration titled Political Science: Law, Policy, and Institutions, BALAS (key 1418). There is no anticipated impact on faculty nor instructional resources as this new concentration is a repackaging of the former. This change will provide students broader substantive knowledge and understanding of how institutions develop and function in different environments. This new concentration serves to better ground student learning in foundational constitutional and legal knowledge.

Does the program include other courses/subjects outside of the sponsoring department impacted by the creation/revision of this program?

No

Program Features

Academic Level

Undergraduate

Does this program prepare graduates for entry into a career or profession that is regulated by the State of Illinois?

No

Program of Study

Provide detailed information (course rubrics, numbers, and credit hours) of how a student could obtain 40 credit hours of upper-division coursework.

300-/400- level Law, Policy, and Institutions Political Science Courses: 9 hours
300-/400- level Political Science Courses: 12 hours
Thematically related 300+ coursework: 12 hours
LOTE: 8-10 hours
Total: 41-43

Attach Program of Study related information here.

Key1418_PoliticalScience_LawPolicyInstitiutions_SS (2).docx
ACE Letter of acknowledgement.pdf

Catalog Page Text - Overview Tab

Catalog Page Overview Text

This concentration explores political and legal institutions and processes, and how and why they work as they do. Courses use historical and contemporary examples to understand political and legal systems in the US and beyond, and how they have shaped modern politics. Students study institutions such as the presidency, Congress and legislatures, courts, bureaucracies, and political parties, with a focus on their organization, important patterns of behavior within them, and how they are shaped by and interact with laws and legal systems.

Statement for Programs of Study Catalog

Graduation Requirements

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours. Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be taken on this campus.

University Requirements

Minimum of 40 hours of upper-division coursework, generally at the 300- or 400-level. These hours can be drawn from all elements of the degree. Students should consult their academic advisor for additional guidance in fulfilling this requirement. The university and residency requirements can be found in the Student Code (https://studentcode.illinois.edu/article3/part8/3-801/) (§ 3-801) and in the Academic Catalog (http://catalog.illinois.edu/general-information/degree-general-education-requirements/).

General Education Requirements

Follows the campus General Education (Gen Ed) requirements (https://courses.illinois.edu/gened/DEFAULT/DEFAULT/). Some Gen Ed requirements may be met by courses required and/or electives in the program.

Code	Title	Hours
Composition I		4-6
Advanced Composition		3
Humanities & the Arts (6 hours)		6
Natural Sciences & Technology (6 hours)		6
Social & Behavioral Sciences (6 hours)		6
fulfilled by PS 100 and PS 101 or PS 248		
Cultural Studies: Non-Western Cultures (1 course)		3
Cultural Studies: US Minority Cultures (1 course)		3
Cultural Studies: Western/Comparative Cultures (1 course)		3
Quantitative Reasoning (2 courses, at least one course must be Quantitative Reasoning I)		6-10
Language Requirement (Completion of the fourth semester or equivalent of a language other than English, or completion of the third semester in two different languages other than English is required)		0-20

Code	Title	Hours
Orientation and Professional Development		
LAS 101	Design Your First Year Experience	1
OR		
LAS 100 & LAS 101	Success in LAS for International Students and Design Your First Year Experience	3
OR		
LAS 102	Transfer Advantage	1
Total Hours		**1 or 3**

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
PS 100	Intro to Political Science	3

Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Select at least one of the following:		3
PS 101	Intro to US Gov & Pol	
PS 248	Comparative Politics in Rich Democracies	
Select six hours of any 100- or 200-level Political Science (PS) courses.		6
Select nine hours of 300- or 400-level Law, Policy, and Institutions Political Science courses from the list below.		9

PS 300	Special Topics (if content is appropriate for concentration, see advisor)	
PS 301	The US Constitution I	
PS 302	The US Constitution II	
PS 303	The US Congress	
PS 304	The US Presidency	
PS 305	The US Supreme Court	
PS 306	Judicial Politics	
PS 307	Separation of Powers	
PS 309	State Gov in the US	
PS 310	Politics of Organizations	
PS 311	Political Parties in the US	
PS 312	Politics and the Media	
PS 318	Interests Grps & Soc Movements	
PS 321	Principles of Public Policy	
PS 322	Law and Public Policy	
PS 325	Environmental Politics of the Midwest	
PS 329	Immigration & Citizenship	
PS 348	Gov & Pol in Western Europe	
PS 355	Democratization	
PS 356	Comparative Political Economy	
PS 362	Qualitative Research on Politics	
PS 370	Justice in the Law	
PS 378	Philosophies of Law	
PS 379	Intl Rel & Domestic Politics	
PS 384	Politics of Globalization	
PS 385	Politics of the European Union	
PS 386	International Law	
PS 387	National Security Policy	
PS 390	American Foreign Policy	
PS 392	Intl Organizations&Regionalism	
PS 395	International Organization	
PS 399	Politics of International Treaties	
PS 457	Dem Gov in a Global Setting	
PS 485	The Politics of Transatlantic Relations	
PS 486	International Institutional Order	
PS 487	Global LGBT Politics	
PS 488	International Human Rights Law	
PS 494	Junior Honors Seminar (if content is appropriate for concentration, see advisor)	
Select twelve hours of any 300- or 400-level Political Science (PS) courses.		12
Select thematically-related undergraduate coursework at the 300- level or higher that is outside political science and developed in conjunction with an academic advisor.		12
Total Hours		**45**

Program Relationships

Corresponding Program(s):

Corresponding Program(s)
Political Science, BALAS

Program Regulation and Assessment

Plan to Assess and Improve Student Learning

Illinois Administrative Code: 1050.30(b)(1)(D) Provision is made for guidance and counseling of students, evaluations of student performance, continuous monitoring of progress of students toward their degree objectives and appropriate academic record keeping.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the program, students will be able to:

1. Describe the discipline of political science and its major subfields, and distinguish political science from related social science disciplines.

2. Demonstrate foundational knowledge of key facts, concepts, institutions, and typologies within their chosen subfield of political science.

3. Explain and critically evaluate major theories in their chosen subfield of political science.

4. Apply the scientific method to the study of political phenomena, including the analysis of evidence and the drawing of appropriate inferences from quantitative and qualitative data.

5. Apply political science concepts, methods, and theories to research projects, internships, community engagement, and other experiential learning opportunities.

6. Analyze the historical foundations, organizational structures, and functions of political and legal institutions and explain how these influence political and legal processes.

Program Description and Requirements Attach Documents

Delivery Method

This program is available:

On Campus - Students are required to be on campus, they may take some online courses.

Enrollment

Number of Students in Program (estimate)

Year One Estimate

20

5th Year Estimate (or when fully implemented)

75

Budget

Will the program or revision require staffing (faculty, advisors, etc.) beyond what is currently available?

No

Additional Budget Information

Attach File(s)

Program Support

Provide a brief description of the support for this program, including the financial, faculty, space, advisors/staff. Discuss plans to acquire any additional support that will be needed. If new or additional facilities or significant improvements to already existing facilities is needed, describe the Facility Need, Year 1 and 5 cost, and any other applicable notes.

The proposed program revision will be supported through existing academic, financial, advising, and instructional resources within the Department of Political Science.
Financial Support. The program revision will not require any changes to the current funding model for the Political Science department or major.
Faculty Support. The revised curriculum is built from existing Political Science courses already offered by the department. Existing PS faculty will continue to contribute to instruction, curriculum oversight, assessment, and student mentoring.
Advising and Staff Support. Academic advising for the revised program will continue to be provided by the Department of Political Science advising staff. Existing PS faculty and advising staff will oversee the revised curriculum, continue to monitor student progress toward degree completion, and continue to provide guidance regarding career and graduate school opportunities.
Space and Facilities. No new facilities are required. The revised program will continue to utilize existing classrooms, facilities, and instructional spaces available to the political science department.
Future Support Needs. We do not anticipate that these curriculum revisions will substantially affect the size of the political science major, above or beyond regular program growth. Existing college and departmental resources are expected to be sufficient to support future projected enrollments, and no additional facilities or major infrastructure investments are anticipated. The revised program will utilize existing instructional and advising resources within the Department of Political Science.

Attach any supporting documents as applicable.

Library Resources

Describe your proposal's impact on the University Library's resources, collections, and services. If necessary please consult with the appropriate disciplinary specialist within the University Library.

The proposal team consulted with Cindy Ingold and, based upon their input, determined that the Library’s resources, collections, and services are sufficient to meet the needs of the program outlined in this proposal.

HLC Section

Credit Hours

Existing or repackaged curricula (Courses from existing inventory of courses):

Number of Credit Hours:

45

Percent of Total:

100

Revised or redesigned curricula (Courses for which content has been revised for the new program):

Number of Credit Hours:

0

Percent of Total:

0

New curricula (Courses developed for the new program that have never been offered):

Number of Credit Hours:

0

Percent of Total:

0

Total Credit Hours of the Program:

Number of Credit Hours:

45

Percent of Total:

100

EP Documentation

EP Control Number

EP.27.013

Attach Rollback/Approval Notices

Non-EP Documentation

U Program Review Comments

Rollback Documentation and Attachment

DMI Documentation

Attach Final Approval Notices

Banner/Codebook Name

Program Code:

Minor Code

Conc Code

Degree Code

BALAS

Major Code

0343

Senate Approval Date

Senate Conference Approval Date

BOT Approval Date

IBHE Approval Date

HLC Approval Date

DOE Approval Date

Effective Date:

Program Reviewer Comments

Melissa Steinkoenig (menewell) (Thu, 09 Jul 2026 22:06:41 GMT): Gen Ed Table: Good
Brooke Newell (bsnewell) (Tue, 21 Jul 2026 20:18:43 GMT): Rollback: Per discussion with Melissa R.
Barbara Lehman (bjlehman) (Wed, 02 Sep 2026 17:47:15 GMT): Rollback: rollback per request of Melissa Reedy.

Key: 1418