

Political Science Honors Program

Application Guide Sheet

Eligibility:

Students must have completed at least two semesters at BU and have junior standing

Overall GPA: 3.5 or above

Curriculum:

Students will complete the following courses*:

PO 359 Qualitative Methods and Research Design**	PO 493 Directed Study w/ Faculty Advisor
PO 399 Data Science for Politics	PO 494 Directed Study w/ Faculty Advisor

*Students will need to pass both 300 level courses with the grade of a B. Students must also pass the Directed Study courses with a B+. In order to graduate with Honors students must successfully complete and defend their thesis as well as present their research.

** This course is not required for students who are applying for the Honors program in Spring 2026 and who plan to graduate in Spring 2027

Before Applying:

1. Find a Faculty Advisor (Must be a Full-Time Professor in the Department of Political Science). We recommend finding a professor whose research aligns with your thesis topic.
2. Meet with your Faculty Advisor and discuss your intended research. Ensure they are willing to submit a recommendation letter for you.
3. Meet with your Undergraduate Academic Advisor to go over your remaining academic requirements.

Application Materials:

1. Application Form (found on PO website)
2. Unofficial Transcript
3. One faculty recommendation letter from your Faculty Advisor
4. Signed Faculty Advisor and Student Contract
5. Research Statement (3-5 pages)

Thesis Requirements:

1. The thesis must be distinct from previous undergraduate coursework
2. Students may not resubmit work done during undergraduate coursework as their thesis, but they may build off of topics explored in previous courses
3. Students will present and defend their thesis at the end of the year to a committee of three faculty members

Contacts:

Professor Katie Einstein

Director of Undergraduate Studies

Email: kleinst@bu.edu

Giovanna Karlovic

Academic Advisor (A-F)

Email: gigikar@bu.edu

Derek Briand

Academic Advisor (O-Z)

Email: dbriand1@bu.edu

Jonathan Eyeberse

Academic Advisor (G- N)

Email: jeyberse@bu.edu