Frequently Asked Questions and Advice about the BA MA Advance Track in Political Science

What is the BA/MA Advance Track?

The BA/MA Advance Track program is designed to allow exceptional Political Science majors to enroll in certain graduate courses while they are still undergraduates. These courses would be used to satisfy undergraduate course requirements for the BA in Political Science. Then, assuming formal admission to the MA program, the graduate requirements attached to these courses would be waved. The intention is to allow students to graduate with an MA in Political Science with only 1 additional year of enrollment instead of the usual 2 years.

Who can apply?

- x Junior standing (75 credits) by the beginning of their first graduate course taken in the program. (pro tip: Stathinking about how you will did whenyou are a sophomore see advice below)
- x 3.5 or better GPAn the Political Science major
- x Completion of least 13 Political Science undergraduate credits includ 101, PSC 200, PSC 211, PSC 231

How do I apply?

There are two stages to applying for the BA/MA. In the first stage you apply to the Political Science Department directly. Admissianthis stage will allow you enroll in 700 level courses on a limited basis. The second stage is the formal application to the MA program. Admission at this stage will elevate you to graduate status and allow you to complete the MA program.

- x Stage One Materials: Completed Application Form (LINK), Two Letters of Recommendation from UNLV Faculty (at least one from Political Science), Transcripts from UNLV and other colleges attended. All materials should be submitted via email to the Political Science Graduate Coordinator (psc.gradcoord@unlv.e) before the endf the semester of the semester pwidnen you wish to begin taking 700 level classes.
- x Stage Two Materials: Two new letters of recommendation (both from UNLV Political Science Faculty), Transcripts from UNLV and other colleges attended, Personal Statement addressing why you wish to enter the MA program. The GRE would be waved for students who have participatethe BA/MA Advance Track. All materials to be submitted via the Graduate College application portal here (

What graduate courses can participant in the program take?

The programs limited to introductory graduate seminars and Introductory Research and Design course: PSC 701, PSC 710R, PSC 740, PSC 760R, PSC 780R.

Courses availablare:

- x PSC701 Research Design an Methodology
- x PSC710R Proseminain American Politics
- x PSC740 Proseminan International Relations
- x PSC760R Proseminain Comparative Politics
- x PSC780R Proseminain Political Theory

710R, 740,760R and 80R can be used to satisfy 400 level course requirements for the BA in the corresponding subfields.

For example: 710R for any 400 level American Politics counselfor any 400 level International Relations course etc. PSC 701 can be used to satisfy the PSC 302 requirement for the BA

What if I take graduate coursesout do badly in them?

Students do not receive graduate credit for courses if they earoracter. That said, an undergraduate who earns airBa 700 level course can still use that course to satisfy undergraduate requiremensus long as they earn above a C-. So, for examiple out took PSC 710R (Pro-Seminar in American Politics), and received a B-, you would not be able to count that course towards a future MA degree, but you could still use it to count towards your BA in Political Science.

ADVICE:

It is possible take PSC 701 instead of PSC 302.

PSC701: Research Design al Methodology is the graduate version PSC302. It is a more in depth and faster paced version. But PSC 302 is not a prerequisite for PSC 701 and instructors for PSC 701 do not assume any prior research methods training. If you are especially worried about taking research methods classes, perhaps you should take C302 as an undergrad and take PSC 701 your first semester as a fully admitted MA student. But if you are comfortable with research design and research methods, consider taking PSC 701 as an undergraduate instead of PSC 302.

Be aware of how many 400 leveburses you have already taken your BA!

Remember that your A requires you take 2 400 level courines subfields, and 1 400 level course in the other 3 subfields. If you have already taken 2 400 level courses in, for example merican Politics and then take SC710R (Proseminar in American Politics), you will not be able to count PSC 710R towards any 400 level \$ PHULFDQ FRXUVHV EHFDXVHIN REACTION this Drope about DG \ WDN you need to think about your course selections before you begin the BA/MA Advance Track.

Take the Pro-seminar for your expected major **fine MI**A while you are still an undergraduate:

The MA requires you to take 6 credits (2 courses) of upper level graduate seminars in your major field (American, Comparative, International Relations, or Theory). Satisfactory completion **tf**e preseminar is required to enroll in these courses.So if you intendto make American Politics your major field, you should take *PSC 710R - Proseminar in American Politics* while you are still an undergraduate.

Be aware that graduate seminars are not offeedery semester.

Typically, the Political Science Department offetscore courses on a set schedule.

FALL: PSC 701, PSC 710R, PSC 760R

SPRING: PSC702, PSC 740PSC780R

You are encouraged frequently discuspour interests with faculty

Graduate programs are smaller than undergraduate programs and students are encouraged to seek one-one advice from faculty. Students in the BA/MA program should especially seek out the advice of faculty who teach graduate courses in their areas of interest.

Sample Degree Plans:

Focus in Comparative Politics, International Relations or Political Theory (finished in 1 year even)		
Semester	Graduate Credits	Course(s)

Summer following 1st	3	1 directed reading
year		
Total	30	

Focus in Comparative Politics, International Relations or Political Theory (finished in 1 year even)				
Semester	Graduate Credits	Course(s)		
Spring Jr. Year	3	PSC 701 Research Design and Methodology (along with a manageable selection of undergraduate course)		
Fall Sr. Year	3	PSC760R: Proseminan Comparative Politics (along with a manageable selection of undergraduate course)		
Spring Sr. Year	3	PSC780R - Proseminain Political Theory (along with a manageable selection of undergraduate course)		
Fall 1styear	9	PSC710R,1 upperlevel in major field, 1 Directed Reading		
Spring 1styear	12	PSC702, PSC740,1 upper leveln major field, 1 directed reading		
Total	30			

Focusin Comparative Politics, International Relations or Political Theory (finished in 1 year even)		
Semester	Graduate Credits	Course(s)
Spring Jr. Year	3	PSC 701 Research Design and Methodology (along with a manageable

Spring 1styear	9	PSC702,PSC740, 1upper leveln majorfield,
Summer following 1st	3	1 directed reading
year		
Total	30	