

Q&A on the 2020 BA-MA Honors (Political Science) Application Process

1. What is the BA-MA Honors (Political Science) Program?

The BA-MA Honors (Political Science) program is a 5-year program of accelerated study intended for students interested in an academic career in Political Science. Students are admitted into the program after their second year in the BA (Political Science) program. They are then expected to complete the BA Honors component of the BA-MA program within two years before completing the MA Honors component within one additional year. In the process, students will be required to take four readings courses (POLSC 140 series) in place of taking the comprehensive exams required under the regular MA (Political Science) program in addition to the requirements of the regular BA (Political Science) program. They will also begin taking graduate level classes during their fourth year. Lastly, BA-MA Honors students are expected to complete both an undergraduate and graduate thesis in their fourth and fifth years respectively.

2. Who can apply for the BA-MA Honors program this 2020?

Eligible applicants for the BA-MA Honors program are students who...

- a) Are currently enrolled in the BA (Political Science) program,
- b) Have a General Weighted Average (GWA) of 1.75 or better,
- c) Have never incurred a grade of 4.0 or 5.0,
- d) Have enrolled in at least 15 units each semester while in UP, and
- e) Have completed at least 63 units credited under BA (Political Science) curriculum at the time of application.

3. Will grades incurred during the 2nd Semester of AY 2019 – 2020 be considered under the GWA requirement?

No. Only the student's GWA as of the end of the 1st Semester of AY 2019 – 2020 will be considered.

4. Are students who incurred a grade of 4.0 or 5.0 in a course not credited by the BA – MA Honors (Political Science) curricula (e.g. Acctg 1) disqualified?

Yes. Because courses not credited under the BA-MA Honors (Political Science) are still considered in determining whether or not a student graduates with honors, they are also considered in the BA-MA (Honors) application process.

5. Are students who incurred a grade of F, 4.0 or 5.0 in a course non-credit course (e.g. Math 20, NSTP, or PE) disqualified?

No. Because a student's grade in Math 20, NSTP, or PE has no direct bearing on whether or not

the student graduates with honors, these courses are not considered in the BA-MA (Honors) application process.

6. *Can a student who has enrolled in less than 15 units in any semester for a valid reason still apply?*

Per University rules, students who underload may still graduate with honors if they had underloaded for at least one of the following conditions:

- a) health-related concerns,
- b) work-related concerns,
- c) the non-provision of required courses in a student's curriculum.

Documents proving the existence of at least one of these conditions must have been submitted to the student's college secretary within the semester during which the student underloaded. Students who have underloaded but are unsure as to whether or not they have sufficient documentation for at least one of these conditions may still submit an application to the BA-MA Honors program so that the Department can consult the CSSP Office of the College Secretary.

7. *Will courses taken during the 2nd Semester of AY 2019 – 2020 count towards the 63-unit requirement?*

Yes. Both courses with letter and numeric grades will be considered.

8. *Will courses taken during the 2nd Semester of AY 2019 – 2020 in which the student incurred a deferred grade count towards the 63-unit requirement?*

Yes. However, if by the end of the 2nd Semester of AY 2020 – 2021, the student with a deferred grade still has no grade for the course or receives a grade of DRP for the course, the student will be reassessed and may be removed from the BA-MA Honors (Political Science) program if the student is deemed unable to finish the BA Honors portion of the program by the end of the 2nd Semester of AY 2021- 2022.

9. *Is POLSC 110 (Introduction to Political Analysis) a prerequisite to being admitted into the BA-MA Honors program?*

No. A student who enters the BA-MA Honors program having already taken POLSC 110 is at an advantage because this allows them an additional semester to complete their undergraduate thesis (POLSC 200). The Department is considering making this a requirement in future BA-MA Honors application processes. However, this is not a requirement for the 2020 application process.

10. *Is Math 20 (Precalculus: Functions and their Graphs) a prerequisite to being admitted into the BA-MA Honors Program?*

No. However, students who require Math 20 as a prerequisite for Math 21 but have yet to complete the course by the end of the 2021 Midyear Term will revert to the regular BA

(Political Science) curriculum.

11. Must a student have a proposed research topic to apply for the BA-MA Honors program?

No, but students are encouraged to think of research topics as early as possible, regardless of whether they are pursuing the BA-MA Honors program.

12. What are the courses required under the BA-MA Honors (Political Science) Curriculum?

See Appendix 1 below.

13. What are the retention rules for the BA-MA Honors (Political Science) program?

At the end of each semester, a student is retained in the BA-MA Honors program if they:

- a) Maintain a General Weighted Average (GWA) of 1.75,
- b) Complete at least 15 units the preceding semester, and
- c) Incur no grade of INC, DRP, 4.0, or 5.0 the preceding semester, excluding NSTP, Math 20, or PE.

Students who do not meet any of these retention requirements at the end of each semester will automatically revert to the regular BA (Political Science) curriculum. In addition, a student will also automatically revert to the regular BA (Political Science) curriculum if:

- a) They require Math 20 as a prerequisite to Math 21 but are unable to complete Math 20 before the 1st Semester of AY 2021 – 2022, or
- b) They are unable to complete the BA Honors component of the BA-MA Honors program by the end of the 2nd Semester of AY 2021 – 2022.

14. Are there any courses required by the regular BA (Political Science) programs that are not required by the BA Honors component of the BA-MA Program.

No. Thus, a student who automatically reverts to the regular BA program during the 2nd Semester of AY 2021 – 2022 will still graduate on time provided that they pass all courses being taken that semester that are required by the regular BA program.

15. Can a student admitted into the BA-MA Honors program voluntarily revert to the regular BA curriculum?

Yes. A student may voluntarily revert to the regular BA curriculum for any reason by writing a letter of request to the Chair at any time before the start of enrollment for the 2nd Semester AY 2021 – 2022. After this point, reversion can no longer be requested.

16. Can a student admitted into the BA-MA Honors program participate in an exchange program for one or more semesters?

No, because those admitted into the program are expected to complete the BA Honors component by the end of the 2nd Semester of AY 2021 – 2022.

17. Will a student who completes the BA Honors program participate in the College and University recognition ceremonies?

Yes.

18. How many students will be accepted into the BA-MA Honors program this 2020?

In light of the difficulties posed by the current pandemic, the Department has decided to accept no more than 13 applicants to the BA-MA Honors program this 2020. Applicants will be ranked based on their GWAs. Contents of students' application letters will also be taken into consideration.

19. How can students apply for the BA-MA Honors program this 2020?

Applicants must submit a letter addressed to the Chair of the Department (Prof. Herman Joseph S. Kraft) stating their intention to pursue the BA-MA program and their reasons for doing so on or before the deadline stated below. Letters will be submitted online to through the BA-MA program coordinator (fadee@up.edu.ph). Invitations will not be circulated this year and applicants are encouraged to compute their GWAs on their own with the selection criteria in mind before applying.

20. How will applicants be notified of the result of their application?

Applicants will be informed of the result of their application via email from the BA-MA program coordinator on or before the date specified below.

21. Will there be an in-take interview for accepted applicants?

The Department is still deliberating on how to conduct in-take interviews for accepted applicants in light of the continued suspension of on-site classes. Interviews will take place over the course of the 1st Semester of AY 2020 – 2021.

22. Will there be an orientation for 2020 BA-MA application process?

Interested applicants may request an online orientation via Zoom from 8 – 24 June 2020. Please email your available dates and times to fadee@up.edu.ph. Group requests are appreciated.

23. What are the important dates for the 2020 BA-MA application process?

24 June – 17 July 2020	-	Application Period
17 July 2020	-	Deadline for Applications
29 July 2020	-	Announcement of Results

For additional inquiries, please email Asst. Prof. Francis Dee (fadee@up.edu.ph).

Appendix 1. BA-MA Honors Program in Political Science Curriculum (Total Units: 169)

BA Honors (Political Science) Component (Total Units: 145)			
First Year			
First Semester	Credit	Subjects	Credit
GE Course Eng 13	3	GE Course Fil 40 ¹	3
GE Course Kas 1 ¹	3	GE Course Philo 1	3
GE Course Free Choice 1	3	GE Course Speech 30	3
Cognate 1 ²	3	GE Course Soc Sci 2	3
POLSC 11	3	GE Course Free Choice 2	3
PE	(2)	Cognate 2 ²	3
		PE	(2)
	<hr/> 15		<hr/> 18
Second Year			
First Semester	Credit	Second Semester	Credit
GE Course Free Choice 3	3	GE Course Arts 1	3
GE Course Free Choice 4	3	GE Course Free Choice 6	3
GE Course Free Choice 5	3	POLSC 110	3
POLSC 101	3	POLSC 130	3
Math 21	4	Econ 100.1	3
NSTP	(3)	Cognate 3 ²	3
PE	(2)	NSTP	(3)
		PE	(2)
	<hr/> 16		<hr/> 18
Third Year			
First Semester	Credit	Second Semester	Credit
POLSC 120	3	POLSC 111	3
POLSC 180	3	POLSC 131	3
Cognate 4 ²	3	POLSC Elective 2	3
Soc Sci 103 ³	3	POLSC 141	3
Econ 100.2	3	Cognate 5 ²	3
POLSC Elective 1	3	Cognate 6 ²	3
		Econ 190.1	3
	<hr/> 18		<hr/> 21
Fourth Year			
First Semester	Credit	Second Semester	Credit
GE Course Free Choice 7	3	GE Course STS	3
POLSC 143	3	POLSC Elective 3	3
POLSC 144	3	POLSC 210	3
POLSC 145	3	POLSC 200	3
POLSC 199	3	PI 100	3
Econ 190.2	3	Political Science Graduate Elective 1	3
Cognate 7 ²	3		
	<hr/> 21		<hr/> 18

1. Kas 1 and Fil 40 satisfy the 6-unit Philippine Studies Requirement.
 2. Cognate Courses may be taken from at least two of the following disciplines or studies, twelve (12) units of which must be in courses numbered above 100, subject to the advising and approval of the Department:
 Anthropology, Art Studies, Broadcasting, Economics, English and Comparative Literature, Foreign Languages, Geography, History, Journalism, Linguistics, Mathematics, Philosophy, Filipino and/or Philippine Literature, Psychology, Public Administration, Sociology, Statistics, and Speech Communication and Theatre Arts.
 3. Sociology 180 (Social Statistics) may be taken in place of Social Science 103.

MA Honors (Political Science) Component

(Total Units: 24)

Fifth Year

<u>First Semester</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Second Semester</u>	<u>Credit</u>
Soc Sci 203/POLSC 211	3	POLSC 300	3
POLSC 299	3	Political Science Graduate Elec4tive 3	3
POLSC 300	3	Cognate 8 ⁴	3
Political Science Graduate Elective 2	3	Cognate 9 ⁴	3
	<hr style="width: 20%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 12		<hr style="width: 20%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 12

4. Graduate cognate courses can be taken in the following disciplines/areas:

Anthropology, Linguistics, Asian Studies, Economics, Public Administration, Geography, Sociology, History, Islamic Studies, and such other areas that may be designated and allowed by the Faculty.

NOTE: As a requirement for graduation, all students are required to take the one-year National Service Training Program in one of the following components: (a) Military Training Service/ROTC, (b) Civic Welfare Training Service/CWTS, and (c) Literacy Training Service/LTS.