

Political Science

(Bachelor of Arts)

Political Science is concerned with the systematic study of political behavior, governmental institutions and policy-making processes, public policies and their implementation, and political values in local, state, national, cross-national and international settings.

The program acquaints students with the structure and operation of political systems; the cultural, social, economic, and ideological context of these systems; the major philosophical questions and relevance to understanding modern political phenomena; and the major methods of inquiry and analysis used in the contemporary study of politics, government and public policy.

Political Science is a major often chosen by students who plan to attend law school. It is useful as well for students anticipating careers in journalism, planning, education, business, foreign service, politics, and public service positions with private and public agencies at the local, state, regional, federal, and international levels.

Political Science majors have entered graduate study in political science, public administration, education, and related fields. Many students choose complimentary minors, such as Public Administration, Urban and Regional Studies, Environmental Policy and Planning, Communication, Democracy and Justice Studies, and Business Administration.

Students seeking information on teacher certification should contact the Education Office.

Major

Code	Title	Credits
Supporting Courses		13
POL SCI 100	Global Politics and Society	
POL SCI 101	American Government and Politics	
POL SCI 202/PU EN AF 202 or PU EN AF 215	Introduction to Public Policy Introduction to Public Administration	
Choose one of the following:		
BUS ADM 220	Business Statistics	
COMM SCI 205	Social Science Statistics (strongly recommended)	
MATH 260	Introductory Statistics	
Upper-Level Courses		24
Core Courses		
POL SCI 351	Comparative Politics	
POL SCI 340 or POL SCI 349	Political Theory American Political Thought	
Choose one of the following:		
POL SCI 360 or POL SCI 370	International Relations Foreign and Defense Policies	
Choose one of the following:		
POL SCI 316	Congress: Politics and Policy	
POL SCI 318	Political Behavior	
POL SCI/DJS 320	Constitutional Law	
Choose 12 additional credits from the following list, not taken above:		
DJS 325	Law and Society	
DJS/WOST 348	Gender and the Law	
GERMAN 358	German Politics and Society	
POL SCI 301/PU EN AF 301	Environmental Politics and Policy	
POL SCI 305/UR RE ST 305	Urban Politics and Policy	
POL SCI 306/PU EN AF 306	Regulatory Policy and Administration	
POL SCI 310	The American Presidency	
POL SCI 312/UR RE ST 312	Community Politics	
POL SCI 314/PU EN AF 314	Administrative Law	
POL SCI 316	Congress: Politics and Policy	

POL SCI 318	Political Behavior
POL SCI/DJS 320	Constitutional Law
POL SCI/DJS 349	American Political Thought
POL SCI 353	Politics of Developing Areas
POL SCI 360	International Relations
POL SCI 370	Foreign and Defense Policies
POL SCI 380/PU EN AF 380	Global Environmental Politics and Policy
POL SCI 406/PU EN AF 406	State and Local Government
POL SCI 408/PU EN AF 408	Public Policy Analysis
POL SCI 480	Senior Seminar/Capstone in Political Science
POL SCI 497	Internship
POL SCI 498	Independent Study
POL SCI 499	Travel Course
PU EN AF 378	Environmental Law
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Total Credits	37

Minor

Code	Title	Credits
Supporting Courses		6
Choose two of the following:		
POL SCI 100	Global Politics and Society	
POL SCI 101	American Government and Politics	
POL SCI 202/PU EN AF 202	Introduction to Public Policy	
PU EN AF 215	Introduction to Public Administration	
Upper-Level Courses		12
Choose four of the following:		
DJS/WOST 348	Gender and the Law	
GERMAN 358	German Politics and Society	
POL SCI 301/PU EN AF 301	Environmental Politics and Policy	
POL SCI 305/UR RE ST 305	Urban Politics and Policy	
POL SCI 306/PU EN AF 306	Regulatory Policy and Administration	
POL SCI 310	The American Presidency	
POL SCI 312/UR RE ST 312	Community Politics	
POL SCI 314/PU EN AF 314	Administrative Law	
POL SCI 316	Congress: Politics and Policy	
POL SCI 318	Political Behavior	
POL SCI/DJS 320	Constitutional Law	
POL SCI 340	Political Theory	
POL SCI/DJS 349	American Political Thought	
POL SCI 351	Comparative Politics	
POL SCI 353	Politics of Developing Areas	
POL SCI 360	International Relations	
POL SCI 370	Foreign and Defense Policies	
POL SCI 380/PU EN AF 380	Global Environmental Politics and Policy	
POL SCI 406/PU EN AF 406	State and Local Government	
POL SCI 408/PU EN AF 408	Public Policy Analysis	
POL SCI 497	Internship	
POL SCI 498	Independent Study	
POL SCI 499	Travel Course	
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Total Credits		18

Curriculum Guide

The following is only an example of a four-year Political Science degree program and is subject to change without notice. Students should consult a Political Science program advisor to ensure that they have the most accurate and up-to-date information available about a particular four-year degree option.

An example: Four year plan for **Political Science Major; Minor in Public Administration**

120 credits necessary to graduate.

Plan is a representation and categories of classes can be switched. Check with your advisor.

Course	Title	Credits
Freshman		
Fall		
POL SCI 101	American Government and Politics	3
First Year Seminar		3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
		Credits
		15
Spring		
POL SCI 100	Global Politics and Society	3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
		Credits
		15
Sophomore		
Fall		
POL SCI 202	Introduction to Public Policy	3
POL SCI 340	Political Theory	3
BUS ADM 220 or COMM SCI 205 or MATH 260	Business Statistics or Social Science Statistics or Introductory Statistics	3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
		Credits
		15
Spring		
POL SCI 351	Comparative Politics	3
PU EN AF 215	Introduction to Public Administration	3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
General Ed		3
		Credits
		15
Junior		
Fall		
PU EN AF 315	Public and Non-Profit Management	3
POL SCI 318	Political Behavior	3
POL SCI 320	Constitutional Law	3
Elective		3
Elective		3
		Credits
		15
Spring		
POL SCI 316	Congress: Politics and Policy	3
POL SCI 370	Foreign and Defense Policies	3
POL SCI Upper Level Elective		3

Elective		3
General Ed		3
	Credits	15
Senior		
Fall		
PU EN AF 408	Public Policy Analysis	3
POL SCI Upper Level Elective (could include one counting toward Public Administration minor)		
Elective		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
	Credits	15
Spring		
POL SCI Upper Level Elective (could include one counting toward Public Administration minor)		
Elective		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
	Credits	15
	Total Credits	120

Faculty

Ekaterina M Levintova; Professor; Ph.D., Western Michigan University, chair

Aaron C Weinschenk; Professor; Ph.D., University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee*

Alise Coen; Associate Professor; Ph.D., University of Delaware

David J Helpap; Associate Professor; Ph.D., University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee*

Alison K Staudinger; Associate Professor; Ph.D., University of Maryland

Elizabeth E Wheat; Associate Professor; Ph.D., Western Michigan University*