

# Political Science Major

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## About

Today, no less than in the past, it is essential for citizens in a democracy to be educated about the political system in which they live and to know how that system relates to other governments and international issues. The study of political science will educate you about timely and important political issues on a national and global scale while helping you develop a set of analytical, reasoning and research skills to last a lifetime. As a political science major, you will learn about American politics, comparative politics, international relations and political theory; become familiar with the methodology of social science inquiry and learn how to conduct research; build competence in oral and written expression; develop reasoning and analytical skills; become a politically engaged citizen-leader; prepare for any number of politically-oriented careers or for [graduate or professional training](#). As a political science major, you will learn how political leaders operate; governments make decisions; politics shapes public policy; governments respond to internal and international conflicts; people develop political attitudes and preferences; groups attempt to influence government; and governments can best serve their people.

**Program:** [Political Science](#)

**Type:** Bachelor of Arts

## PRIMARY MAJOR (122 credits)

## Required Major Courses (33 credits)

In the context of the liberal arts tradition, the Department of Political Science seeks to encourage in its students a commitment to intellectual curiosity, academic excellence, and responsible civic engagement. The Department is committed to helping students improve their skills of observation, critical reading, rigorous thought, careful evidence-based argumentation, and effective communication, and to develop values of good citizenship.

### *Program Notes:*

- Foundational courses should be taken immediately upon declaring the major. They serve as prerequisites for many of the upper division courses and the senior seminar.
- With the exception of internships (up to 3 credits), courses taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis cannot be used to satisfy requirements for the major.
- Any senior with a GPA of 3.0 or above may request to take a graduate PSC course.
- Capsone: A student may substitute PSC 7000 and above for PSC 6900.

Course	Title	Credits
PSC 1100	American Government	3
PSC 1200	International Relations	3
PSC 1300	Comparative Politics	3
PSC 1400	Political Theory	3
PSC 1900	Research Seminar	3
PSC 6900	Political Sci Seminar	3
	Upper-Level PSC Electives for B.A.	15

## Core Curriculum Requirements (38 credits)

Political Science Majors meet the following core requirements in the major and therefore are omitted from the summary below:

- Social Sciences (6 cr)

Course	Title	Credits
ACS 1000	Ancients	3
ACS 1001	Moderns	3
THL 1000	Faith, Reason, and Culture	3
PHI 1000	Knowledge, Reality, Self	3
ETH 2050	The Good Life:Eth & Cont Prob	3
	Mathematics or Statistics (1 course)	3
	Natural Science (2 courses with laboratory)	8
	Literature and Writing Seminar (1 course)	3
	History (1 course)	3
	Fine Arts (1 course)	3
	Upper-Level Theology (1 course)	3
	Language Requirement (Proficiency)	
	Diversity Requirement (2 courses)	

## Free Elective Requirement (51 credits)

Students with a Political Science primary major have fifty-one (51) required free elective credits.

# Degree Credit Summary

- **Major Credits:** 33 credits
- **Core Credits:** 38 credits
- **Free Electives Credits:** 51 credits
- **Total Required Credits:** 122 Credits

*Note: The above credit totals are based on the minimum number of required credits in each degree area. The minimum number of required credits in each area listed above must be met. Credits taken beyond the required minimum for one area may not be applied to another area.*

## SECONDARY MAJOR

Students who declare Political Science as a **secondary major** must complete the Required Major Courses to achieve this major. Students are able to count any eligible course taken in their primary major, the core curriculum, minors, concentrations, or free electives toward these requirements.

## Category Descriptions

### Upper-Level PSC Electives for B.A.

Credits: 15

Select any five courses of 3 or more credits numbered from PSC 2000:6899 or any courses with the PSC attribute (15 cr).

### Mathematics or Statistics (1 course)

Credits: 3

Students must take one course in either Mathematics or Statistics. Any course offered by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics fulfills the Core Curriculum requirement. Certain courses offered by other departments (e.g., Computer Science and Philosophy) also fulfill the requirement. These courses are designated by the Mathematics A & S Core attribute.

### Natural Science (2 courses with laboratory)

Credits: 8

Non-science majors meet the Core Curriculum Natural Science requirement by taking two semesters of Mendel Science Experience (MSE), thematically-based lecture/laboratory courses designed for non-science majors; or two semesters of lecture/laboratory courses designed for science majors.

Science (AST, BIO, BIOC, CHM, CBN, CSC, ENV, MAT, PHY - B.S. only, PSY - B.S. only) majors meet the science requirement through the regular program of study in their major.