

BA in Political Science

45 units

Political science is concerned with the knowledge that is needed by citizens and government officials. This knowledge is required to make and recognize good laws, distinguish justice from injustice, and understand the legitimate purposes and necessary limits of political power. The political science major (<https://www.apu.edu/clas/programs/political-science-major/>) prepares students to take an informed, intelligent, and leading role in the affairs of their community, country, and world. In addition to classroom, research, and seminar experiences, students are encouraged to become directly involved in politics through internship experiences on the local, state, or national level.

Career Opportunities

The political science major studies politics as part of a traditional liberal arts education. This discipline helps develop intellectual curiosity and the abilities to write and speak well, think critically, judge wisely, and exercise leadership. These skills help prepare students for a future in a variety of careers. The most common vocations pursued by political science majors include law, foreign affairs, journalism, public relations, and criminal justice. Careers in government, politics, and public service agencies are popular. Opportunities for teaching, research, consulting, and graduate study are also available.

Requirements

The Department of History and Political Science maintains the following requirements for each of the majors it offers:

1. Students must complete all prerequisites for any HIST or POLI course with a C- or better before taking the course (except as noted in the course description).
2. Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 in all political science and history courses required for the major.
3. Students must complete each HIST or POLI course with a C- or higher for the course to meet a degree requirement in the Department of History and Political Science.

Code	Title	Units
Core Courses		
POLI 150	American Government ¹	3
POLI 160	Introduction to Politics	3
POLI 180	Intro to International Relations	3
POLI 300	Writing 3: Research and Writing ²	3
POLI 399	Political Science Practicum ³	3
POLI 496	Senior Seminar: Religion and Politics ⁴	3
Select one of the following:		3
MATH 130	Introduction to Statistics ⁵	
ECON 250	Principles of Macroeconomics ⁶	
Subject Courses		
Select two courses in each of the following subfields:		18
American Institutions		
POLI 405	The American Presidency	
POLI 410	Congress	
POLI 415	The Federal Judiciary	
Comparative/International		
HIST 334	History of American Foreign Affairs	
POLI 320	Comparative Politics	
POLI 383	National Security	
Political Philosophy		
POLI 360	Classical Political Thought	
POLI 363	Modern Political Thought	
POLI 376	The American Founding	
Elective Courses		
Select two electives from the list below. A course taken to meet any of the above subject course requirements may not also count for elective credit.		6
HIST 334	History of American Foreign Affairs	

POLI 220	State and Local Government
POLI 250	Introduction to Criminal Law
POLI 260	Introduction to Legal Transactions
POLI 310	Political Geography
POLI 320	Comparative Politics
POLI 325	Seminar in International Relations
POLI 350	Constitutional Law: Fundamental Freedoms
POLI 351	Constitutional Law: Criminal Justice
POLI 352	Constitutional Law: National Powers
POLI 353	Seminar on Legal Studies
POLI 360	Classical Political Thought
POLI 363	Modern Political Thought
POLI 376	The American Founding
POLI 380	Terrorism and Counterterrorism
POLI 381	Theories of International Relations
POLI 382	Diplomacy and Foreign Policy
POLI 383	National Security
POLI 385	Politics of Developing Countries
POLI 390	History and Politics of the Non-Western World
POLI 399	Political Science Practicum ³
POLI 400	Seminar on American Politics
POLI 405	The American Presidency
POLI 410	Congress
POLI 415	The Federal Judiciary
POLI 420	Women in Politics
POLI 421	Regional Studies
POLI 422	International Organizations
POLI 450	Principles and Practice of Research Design
POLI 471	Political Topics
POLI 497	Readings
POLI 498	Directed Research
POLI 499	Thesis/Project

Total Units
45

¹ Meets the General Education Civic Knowledge and Engagement requirement.

² Meets the General Education Writing 3 requirement.

³ Up to 8 units may be earned over the course of several semesters or during one semester, though only 6 units are counted toward the political science major (and 3 units toward the political science minor), with the remaining 2 units counting as general elective credits toward graduation.

⁴ Meets the General Education Integrative and Applied learning requirement.

⁵ Meets the General Education Quantitative Literacy requirement.

⁶ Meets the General Education Social Sciences requirement.

Program Learning Outcomes

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Students who successfully complete this program shall be able to:

1. American Government: Explain the principles, purposes, and main features of American government.
2. International Politics: Explain the main features of international politics.
3. Political Philosophy: Analyze the writing of major thinkers in the history of political philosophy.
4. Christian Foundation: Articulate a Christian understanding of politics and government.
5. Professional Writing: Demonstrate ability to write and cite sources to professional standards within the discipline.