

Political Science, A.A.

Degree Offered

- Associate of Arts

Nature of the Program

Why Study Political Science?

Political Science offers students a chance to explore the dynamics of control that shape our world, here in America and internationally. What leads people to take political action? Why do political events unfold a certain way? What are the moral and ethical questions that surround politics? When it comes to answering these questions, Political Science is built on the core aspects of the great liberal arts tradition. Our strengths are logic, appropriate data, analysis, and communication. Explaining the outcomes of political processes and events involves developing theories, using scientific methods to gather relevant evidence and test those theories, and then using strong communications skills to explain the research. Honing these skills and learning the knowledge that is shared in our classes prepares students for careers in law, politics, government, the military, academia, private enterprise, and non-profit service.

Career Opportunities

Career opportunities for a four-year graduate in political science include: city manager, lawyer, diplomat, educator, labor relations specialist, political consultant, public recreation director, public health official, urban planner, journalist, law enforcement officer, and lobbyist.

FACULTY

CHAIR

- Cassandra Pritts - M.A. History (Duquesne University)
Year @ PSC (2011)

Admissions

Entering freshmen are admitted directly into the major.

Benchmark Requirements

Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA overall and in the major. If a course is repeated, all attempts will be included in the calculation of the GPA unless the course is eligible for a D/F repeat. Students must meet with their POLS adviser each semester. Students who do not meet these benchmarks may be removed from their major.

General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (<http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef/>)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations		
F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		3-6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102 or ENGL 103	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research Accelerated Academic Writing	
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology		4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Reasoning		3-4
F4 - Society & Connections		3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past		3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity		3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity		3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)		9
Total Hours		31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Cumulative GPA of 2.0 is required in all POLS courses.		
GEF Elective Requirements (2, 5, and 6)		12
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research (GEF 1)	6
Select one of the following (GEF 3):		3
MATH 121	Intro Concepts Of Mathematics	
MATH 124	Algebra with Applications	
POLS 102	Introduction to American Government (GEF 4)	3
POLS 103 or POLS 260	Global Political Issues (GEF 7) Introduction to International Relations	3
POLS 210 or POLS 220	Law and the Legal System State and Local Government	3
POLS 250	Introduction to Comparative Politics	3
WVUE 191	First Year Seminar	1
Foreign Language (GEF 8)		6
Elective		20
Total Hours		60

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
POLS 102 (GEF 4)		3 POLS 103 or 260 (GEF 7)	3
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)		3 Foreign Language	3
Foreign Language		3 GEF 2	3
GEF 2		3 Select one of the following (GEF 3):	3
WVUE 191		1 MATH 121	
Elective		2 MATH 124	
		Elective	3
		15	15

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
POLS 210 or 220		3 POLS 250	3
ENGL 102 (GEF 1)		3 GEF 6	3
GEF 5		3 Elective	3
Elective		3 Elective	3
Elective		3 Elective	3
		15	15

Total credit hours: 60

Major Learning Outcomes

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Upon successful completion of the A.A. degree, **Political Science** majors will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a command of basic substantive knowledge about the basic institutions, political actors, and relevant processes in state, national, and international political systems.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of major policy issues in state, national, and international affairs and an appreciation of the complexity reflective of the uncertainties, trade-offs, and institutional/bureaucratic context of problems confronting governments.

3. Think critically about political phenomena in a way that applies alternative explanatory perspectives across the major theoretical schools of thought in the political science literature.
4. Demonstrate an appreciation of the policy implications of different theoretical approaches and, more generally, how they relate to the larger ethical issues facing the West Virginia, national, and international communities.