

Political Science

Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Arts

Nature of Program

The undergraduate curriculum in the Department of Political Science has five main objectives:

- To acquaint students with the nature and role of government in modern society, thus contributing to the general education of political science majors. In order to achieve this objective, the department offers the general political science emphasis. This emphasis is open to any student who has an interest in political science but who has not yet focused on a specific career goal.
- To impart a broad understanding of the American political system. Courses are offered on national institutions, political actors, and political behavior. Other courses focus on the policy making process and on various substantive policy issue-areas. Students who seek to work in politics and/or government should enroll in the American politics and policy area of emphasis.
- To provide a broad foundation of relevant courses for students who plan careers in law.
- To prepare students who wish to pursue future careers in international relations, comparative politics, and national security area.
- To provide pre-professional training for students who intend to pursue political science as a career. Those who intend to be teachers, researchers, or administrators should plan to enroll in graduate school after completing their bachelor's degrees, and our major is designed to provide a strong foundation for that.

Students who earn a degree in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences must complete the University requirements, the College requirements for their specific degree program, and their major requirements.

Minors

All students have the possibility of earning one or more minors; view a list of all available minors and their requirements (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/minors>) here. Please note that students may not earn a minor in their major field.

Certificate of Global Engagement

Students in the Eberly College, regardless of their major, can earn a Certificate of Global Engagement. Completion of the Certificate demonstrates the student's knowledge of diverse cultures, as well as the ability to communicate and interact effectively with people of different cultural backgrounds. Students will be required to apply their knowledge of contemporary issues and global social contexts to their course work and their broader citizenship. For details regarding Certificate requirements, please visit the Eberly College page (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/#otherdegreestext>).

Honors Program

The Department of Political Science, in cooperation with the University Honors College, offers courses that are open exclusively to honors students. These courses are listed in the University's Schedule of Courses each semester. Students who meet the standards of the University Honors Program may enroll in these courses.

FACULTY

CHAIR

- R. Scott Crichlow - Ph.D. (Louisiana State University)

DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

- John C. Kilwein - Ph.D. (Ohio State University)

PROFESSORS

- Joe D. Hagan - Ph.D. (University of Kentucky)
Barnette Professor in Political Science.
- Erik Herron - Ph.D. (Michigan State University)
Eberly Family Professor
- Jeffrey S. Worsham - Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

- Erin Cassese - Ph.D. (SUNY at Stony Brook)
- R. Scott Crichlow - Ph.D. (Louisiana State University)

- Christina Fattore - Ph.D. (Florida State University)
- John C. Kilwein - Ph.D. (Ohio State University)
- Jason MacDonald - Ph.D. (The George Washington University)
- Philip Michelbach - Ph.D. (University of California)
- Trisha Phillips - Ph.D. (Rice University)

TEACHING ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

- Clarissa Estep - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
- David Hauser - Ph.D. (University of Pittsburgh)

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

- Shauna Fisher - Ph.D. (University of Washington)
- William Franko - Ph.D. (University of Iowa)
- Simon Haeder - Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin)
- Patrick Hickey - Ph.D. (University of Texas)
- Matthew Jacobsmeier - Ph.D. (University of Rochester)
- Jay Krehbiel - Ph.D. (Washington University)
- Mason Moseley - Ph.D. (Vanderbilt University)
- Matthew Wilson - Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University)

TEACHING ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

- Boris Barkanov - Ph.D. (University of California)

PROFESSORS EMERITI

- Richard Brisbin - Ph.D. (Johns Hopkins)
- Robert E. DiClerico - Ph.D. (Indiana University)
- Allan S. Hammock - Ph.D. (University of Virginia)
- Sophia L. Peterson - Ph.D. (University of California)
- Susan Hunter - Ph.D. (The Ohio State University)
- James Whisker - Ph.D. (University of Maryland)

Admission Requirements

All first-time freshmen and first-time transfer students are admitted directly to the major. Students admitted from other majors must have an overall GPA of 2.0 and have completed at least one POLS class with a grade of C- or higher.

Benchmark Expectations

Within four semesters in the POLS major, students must have completed four of the following courses: 102, 230 or 240, 250, 260, 270. Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA overall and in the major. They must declare an Area of Emphasis in consultation with an adviser. Students must meet with their POLS adviser each semester. Students who do not meet these benchmarks may be removed from their major.

Click here to view the Suggested Plan of Study (p. 4)

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.

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 Skills		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.

Degree Requirements

Students must complete WVU General Education Foundations requirements, College B.A. requirements, major requirements, and electives to total a minimum of 120 hours. For complete details on these requirements, visit the B.A. Degrees tab on the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences page (<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/#bachelorofartstext>).

Departmental Requirements for the B.A. in Political Science

All students wishing to obtain a degree in Political Science must complete a minimum of 39 credits of POLS courses, and comply with the following:

- **Capstone Requirement:** The General Education Foundations requires the successful completion of a Capstone course. Political Science majors must successfully complete one of the following: POLS 487, POLS 488, POLS 489.
- **Writing Requirement:** The Department of Political Science is a SpeakWrite Affiliated Program, committed to fostering and assessing students' written, verbal, visual, and mediated communication skills. The Political Science major requires its Bachelor of Arts program graduates to complete ENGL 101 and ENGL 102 (or ENGL 103), and a minimum of four additional **SpeakWrite Certified Courses™** as a part of their programs of study.
- **Calculation of the GPA in the Major:** A cumulative and political science GPA of 2.0 is required for graduation. 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.
- **Area of Emphasis:** All Political Science majors must complete a minimum of 39 credits of POLS courses. Students may select an Area of Emphasis, depending on their academic or career interests.
- **Minor:** All students must complete a minor in a related area, except for students who select the Pre-Law and Legal Studies Area of Emphasis.
- **Benchmarks Expectations:** For details, go to the Political Science admissions tab (p. 2).

Curriculum Requirements

UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS	22
WVUE 191 First Year Seminar	
GEF: number of classes will vary depending on overlap	
ECAS B.A. Requirements	12
Fine Arts Requirement	
Foreign Language	
International Studies Requirement	
DEPARTMENTAL REQUIREMENTS	36
Core Requirement	
POLS 102 Introduction to American Government	
Political Science Policy Analysis or Public Administration requirement:	
POLS 230 Introduction to Policy Analysis	
or POLS 240 Introduction to Public Administration	
POLS 250 Introduction to Comparative Politics	
Political Science International Requirement:	
POLS 103 Global Political Issues	
or POLS 260 Introduction to International Relations	
POLS 270 History of Political Thought 1	
or POLS 271 History of Political Thought 2	
POLS 300 Empirical Political Analysis	

Political Science Economics:		
POLS 334	Politics of Economic Policy	
or POLS 360	International Political Economy	
15 additional credit hours in POLS above the 100-level, excluding POLS 230, 240, 260, 270, 271, 334, 360		
Capstone Experience		3
Select one of the following:		
POLS 487	Capstone: Senior Paper	
POLS 488	Capstone: Political Simulation	
POLS 489	Capstone: Citizenship Seminar	
Minor		15
All Political Science majors must complete a minor in a related area, except for students who choose to complete the Law and Legal Studies Area of Emphasis		
General Electives		32
Number of General Electives may vary depending on GEF overlap and Area of Emphasis		
Total Hours		120

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
WVUE 191	1 ENGL 101 (GEF 1)	3
GEF 2A	3 GEF 2A	3
Foreign Language 101	3 GEF 3	3
POLS 102 (GEF 4)	3 Foreign Language 102	3
POLS 103 or 260 (ECAS Glo. St. & Div.; GEF 7)	3 POLS 270 or 271	3
General Elective	2	
	15	15

Second Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3 GEF 5	3
Foreign Language 203	3 ECAS Fine Arts Requirement (GEF 6)	3
POLS 250	3 Foreign Language 204	3
General Elective	3 POLS 230 or 240	3
General Elective	3 POLS 300	3
	15	15

Third Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
POLS 334 or 360	3 POLS Elective 200-level or above 3	3
POLS Elective 200-level or above 1	3 POLS Elective 200-level or above 4	3
POLS Elective 200-level or above 2	3 Minor Course 2	3
Minor Course 1*	3 General Elective	3
General Elective	3 General Elective	3
	15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
POLS Elective 200-level or above 5	3 POLS Capstone	3
Minor Course 3	3 Minor Course 5	3
Minor Course 4	3 General Elective	3
General Elective	3 General Elective	3
General Elective	3 General Elective	3
	15	15

Total credit hours: 120

* Students completing a minor, a double major or a dual degree fulfill the GEF 8 requirement.

Areas of Emphasis

AMERICAN POLITICS AND POLICY AREA OF EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS

Select five of the following courses:	15
POLS 261	Introduction to National Security
POLS 310	American Presidency
POLS 311	Political Parties & Elections
POLS 313	American Constitutional Law
POLS 314	Civil Liberties in the United States
POLS 315	Law and Public Policy
POLS 316	Public Opinion and Politics
POLS 317	Interest Groups and Democracy
POLS 320	American Federalism and Policy
POLS 321	West Virginia Government
POLS 322	Race, Ethnicity & US Politics
POLS 323	Religion & Politics
POLS 324	Sexuality, Law, and Politics
POLS 331	Criminal Law Policy and Administration
POLS 333	Politics of Social Welfare
POLS 334	Politics of Economic Policy
POLS 335	Civil Rights, Policy, and Politics
POLS 336	Energy Policy and Politics
POLS 337	Gender/Politics and Policy
POLS 338	Environmental Policy
POLS 339	National Security Analysis
POLS 342	Bureaucratic Politics
POLS 373	American Political Philosophy

Total Hours 15

PRE-LAW AND LEGAL STUDIES AREA OF EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS

PRE-LAW AND LEGAL STUDIES EMPHASIS

Law-Related Courses in Political Science 12

Select 2 classes:

POLS 210	Law and the Legal System
POLS 313	American Constitutional Law
or POLS 314	Civil Liberties in the United States

Select 2 classes:

POLS 312	Appellate Judicial Process
POLS 314	Civil Liberties in the United States ((alternate classes from above))
or POLS 313	American Constitutional Law
POLS 315	Law and Public Policy
POLS 324	Sexuality, Law, and Politics
POLS 331	Criminal Law Policy and Administration
POLS 344	Administrative Law
POLS 357	Comparative Law and Politics
POLS 363	International Law
POLS 452	European Union Law/Legal Systems
POLS 453	European Union Law/Institutions

Skills & Related Courses 6

Select two of the following:

CSAD 270	Effective Public Speaking
ENGL 304	Business and Professional Writing
PHIL 170	Introduction to Critical Reasoning
PHIL 260	Introduction to Symbolic Logic
PHIL 325	Philosophy of Law
STAT 211	Elementary Statistical Inference
or ECON 225	Elementary Business and Economics Statistics

Political Science Electives	3
Select 3 credits above 100 level, except POLS 230, 250, 260, 270 or 300 for 39 total credits in POLS.	

Total Hours	21
-------------	----

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, COMPARATIVE POLITICS, AND NATIONAL SECURITY AREA OF EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS

Select Five of the following:	15
POLS 261	Introduction to National Security
POLS 350	Government of Japan
POLS 351	Russian and Post-Soviet Politics
POLS 352	Politics of the European Union
POLS 353	Western Democratic Governments
POLS 354	Government of China
POLS 355	Governments of Latin America
POLS 356	Politics of the Middle East
POLS 357	Comparative Law and Politics
POLS 358	Politics of Africa
POLS 359	Politics of Terrorism
POLS 360	International Political Economy
POLS 361	International Law and Institutions
POLS 362	Comparative Foreign Policy
POLS 363	International Law
POLS 364	American Foreign Relations
POLS 365	Foreign Policy Decision-Making
POLS 368	Politics of War and Peace
POLS 369	Far East International Affairs
POLS 370	Dictatorship and Democratization
POLS 453	European Union Law/Institutions
POLS 452	European Union Law/Legal Systems
POLS 460	Gender and International Relations
POLS 461	Transformation of War

History	3
Select one of the following:	
HIST 209	Twentieth Century Europe
HIST 242	Latin America: Reform and Revolution
HIST 321	Colonial Africa and Independence
HIST 325	Modern China
HIST 463	American Foreign Relations to 1941
HIST 464	American Foreign Relations 1941 to Present

Total Hours	18
-------------	----

Major Learning Goals

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political Science Department Learning Outcomes

1. A command of basic substantive knowledge about the basic institutions, political actors, and relevant processes in state, national, and international political systems – in particular as they apply to the student's particular area of emphasis.
2. A 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. An ability to 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. A demonstrated capability to carry out systematic empirical research in political science, i.e. articulate a theoretical question, construct a rigorous research design, and analyze data or cases using appropriate methodological approaches.
5. 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.

POLITICAL SCIENCE (GENERAL) MINOR

MINOR CODE - U049

Students must earn an overall GPA of 2.00 in all courses applied to the minor.

Required Courses:

Select two of the following:		6
POLS 102	Introduction to American Government	
POLS 210	Law and the Legal System	
POLS 220	State and Local Government	
POLS 230 or POLS 240	Introduction to Policy Analysis Introduction to Public Administration	
POLS 250	Introduction to Comparative Politics	
POLS 260	Introduction to International Relations	

Upper-Division Electives

Select 3 courses from POLS 310-379		9
Total Hours		15

AMERICAN POLITICS & POLICY MINOR

MINOR CODE - U027

Students must earn an overall GPA of a 2.0 in all courses applied to the minor.

Required Courses:

Select two of the following: *		6
POLS 102	Introduction to American Government	
POLS 210	Law and the Legal System	
POLS 220	State and Local Government	
POLS 230 POLS 240	Introduction to Policy Analysis Introduction to Public Administration	
Select 3 courses from POLS 310-349 *		9
Total Hours		15

* Students may not take both POLS 230 and POLS 240.

INTERNATIONAL & COMPARATIVE POLITICS MINOR

MINOR CODE - U028

A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required in all courses applied toward the minor.

Required Courses:		6
POLS 250	Introduction to Comparative Politics	

POLS 260	Introduction to International Relations	
Upper-Division Electives:		9
Select 3 courses from POLS 350-369		
Total Hours		15

LAW & LEGAL STUDIES MINOR

MINOR CODE - U029

A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required in all courses applied toward the minor.

Core Courses:		6
POLS 102	Introduction to American Government	
POLS 210	Law and the Legal System	
Upper-Division Electives:		9
Select three of the following:		
POLS 312	Appellate Judicial Process	
POLS 313	American Constitutional Law	
POLS 314	Civil Liberties in the United States	
POLS 315	Law and Public Policy	
POLS 331	Criminal Law Policy and Administration	
POLS 335	Civil Rights, Policy, and Politics	
POLS 344	Administrative Law	
POLS 363	International Law	
Total Hours		15

POLITICAL THEORY MINOR

Minor Code - U030

Students must earn a minimum overall GPA of 2.0 in all courses applied toward the minor.

Core Courses:		6
POLS 270	History of Political Thought 1	
POLS 271	History of Political Thought 2	
Upper-Division Electives:		9
Select 3 additional POLS courses from 370-379		
Total Hours		15