

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political science is the study of governments, public policies, and political behavior. Political science uses both humanistic perspectives and scientific skills to examine the United States and all countries and regions of the world.

Students enrolled in Political Science courses explore American Politics, International Affairs, Comparative Politics, and Urban and Minority Affairs. Students address critical issues such as public policy, globalization, terrorism, the environment, civil rights, political development, and foreign policy. Political Scientists examine theories concerning the ideal government and how power and resources are allocated in society.

As a political science major, you will hone the writing, communications, analytical and computer skills that are critical to a liberal arts education. This kind of education will prepare you to think critically and independently, with tolerance for others and concerns for current affairs. Today, students can reasonably expect to change jobs more than once and even to have more than one career. An undergraduate education in the liberal arts and sciences is excellent preparation for the flexibility in employment that you are likely to encounter.

Majoring in political science can qualify you for many different

careers in private for-profit and nonprofit organizations, as well as public sector organizations. A political science major prepares you for graduate studies or a career in business, law, consulting, state, local and federal government, journalism and communications, international organization, finance, polling and campaign management, lobbying, community service and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and pre-college and college teaching.

Political science education also provides valuable preparation for participating in community organizations, electoral politics, movements on behalf of specific policies, and for seeking elective or administrative positions in government. While many of these are voluntary activities, participation in them develops skills and creates opportunities for career success.

Admission

Following your admission to the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, you may declare a political science major. The faculty advisor in the political science department will help you develop your program of study.

If you are still deciding on a major when you start at Wichita State, the Liberal Arts and Sciences Advising Center can help you explore career and major options.

Related Opportunities

As a political science student you may earn both academic credit and practical experience by participating in the internship program, which sponsors internships in Washington and Topeka.

Additionally, WSU's Cooperative Education and Work-Based Learning program allows students to acquire relevant work experience while also taking classes.

Political science majors are encouraged to participate in the Political Science Club and, if eligible, to join Pi Sigma Alpha, our national honorary society. Merit-based scholarships are also available.

The political science department sponsors WSU's award-winning Model United Nations program, which culminates each spring with travel to regional and national Model UN conferences.

If eligible, you may be selected for University academic honor societies such as Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi and Mortar Board.

Honors Track

For those students who qualify, the department offers an honors track. Upon graduation, honors track participants receive a special honors designation on their transcript.

Related Programs

Many political science majors carry double majors, studying philosophy, history, journalism, or even business. It is possible for you to major in political science and earn certification to teach government, American history, and world history in grades 7-12.

GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The General Education Program is an integral component of every degree at Wichita State University. These courses make up about one third of any degree. The goals of the General Education program are:

- **To study and apply mathematical principles;**
- **To study and apply principles of written and oral communication;**
- **To study and apply basic library research skills including basic assessment of various kinds of sources;**
- **To study the natural sciences, social and behavioral sciences, humanities and fine arts in order to understand how scholars in those fields work;**
- **To study human diversity and its implications for society on a global basis.**

Successful completion of the General Education Program and LAS College requirements provides knowledge and skills leading to life-long learning in an ever-changing global world.

Descriptions of the General Education Program and of the courses that are included in it are available both in the *University Catalog* and in the *Schedule of Courses*. These documents are available both in hard copy form and online at the WSU Web site: www.wichita.edu. Click on "Browse A-Z" and use C for the *Catalog* and S for the *Schedule of Courses* menu option, and then select "General Education."

When you enter the university, you will work with an academic advisor to select general education courses for your major and your degree choice.

For More Information

To receive more information, or to arrange a campus visit, contact:
Office of Admissions
Wichita State University
1845 Fairmount St.
Wichita, Kansas 67260-0124
Telephone (316) 978-3085
Toll-free (800) 362-2594
www.wichita.edu/admissions

Major Requirements

A major consists of POL S 121, 220, 226, 232, 365 and 600 and 15 additional hours of study distributed in the following fashion:

Electives in the major (15 hours) - POL S 310, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 325, 330, 336, 337, 340, 345, 358, 360, 370, 375, 385, 444, 523, 524, 533, 534, 547, 551, 552, and 580.

Minor Requirements

A minor consists of POL S 121, and 12 additional hours, at least 6 of which must be in upper-division courses

*Some of the courses listed in Major Requirements will count toward the LAS General Education Requirements.

For more information about the Political Science program, contact:

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Wichita State University
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The University reserves the right to revise or change rules, charges, fees, schedules, courses, requirements for degrees, and any other regulations affecting students whenever considered necessary or desirable.

Notice of Nondiscrimination: Wichita State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, status as a Vietnam-era veteran, or disability. Any person having inquiries concerning this may contact the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount St., Wichita, Kansas 67260-0145; telephone (316) 978-3001.