

American Politics Minor

Requirements for Political Science Minors

A general minor in political science can be arranged, as well as specialized minors in eight different subfields of the discipline. Interested students should see a faculty adviser to plan a coherent program of study as a minor field.

Students must achieve a cumulative 2.0 GPA in the political science courses chosen to qualify for the minor. Students may count no more than 3 hours in political science taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis toward the minor. Students taking an internship POL SCI 3940 may count no more than three hours of the internship toward the minor.

American Politics

Designed for those students interested in careers in communications, education, business, social work, political consulting, and other fields requiring knowledge of American urban, state, and national politics and institutions. Education majors planning to teach in the social studies field, communications majors planning on a career in journalism, or business majors thinking about working in corporate relations may especially wish to consider a double major in political science with a focus in this area. In addition to the core curriculum and common requirements for all majors, students are advised to take:

Required Course

POL SCI 1100	Introduction to American Politics (MOTR POSC 101)	3
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Select at least four of the following: 12

POL SCI 1450	Labor, Work, Society, and Politics
POL SCI 2280	Judicial Politics
POL SCI 2300	State Politics
POL SCI 2320	African Americans and the Political System
POL SCI 2330	The American Presidency
POL SCI 2331	Congressional Politics
POL SCI 2350	Introduction to Urban Politics
POL SCI 2370	The Politics of Identity and Social Justice
POL SCI 2380	The Politics of Gender in the United States
POL SCI 2420	Introduction to Public Policy
POL SCI 2820	United States Foreign Policy
POL SCI 2900	Studies in Political Science (when appropriate)
POL SCI 3200	Constitutional Law
POL SCI 3330	Public Opinion and Political Participation
POL SCI 3350	Political Parties and Elections
POL SCI 3390	Studies in American Politics
POL SCI 3480	Environmental Policy
POL SCI 3900	Special Readings (when appropriate)

POL SCI 3940

Public Affairs Internship (when appropriate)

Total Hours

15

In addition, students may wish to choose other political science courses listed below under the public policy and administration program of study. Given the growing reality of international interdependence, students should not restrict their studies completely to American politics but should take some course work in comparative and international politics as well. Depending on their specific career interest, students may wish to round out their program with course work in other social science departments such as criminal justice, communications, economics, or social work.

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate knowledge of the institutions, political culture, and processes of American politics.
- Analyze the actions of political actors and their motives.
- Assess political issues, formulate evidence-based recommendations, and communicate them with clarity and coherence.