

What is Political Science?

Political scientists study topics such as the exercise of power and influence; sources and resolution of conflicts; the relation of politics to the economy, culture, and other aspects of society; the adoption and implementation of public policies; and the development of political systems. These topics are studied at all levels, from local communities to the global community. The scope of the discipline is reflected in the main areas of specialization that make up the undergraduate curriculum: political theory, comparative government and politics, international relations, and American governmental systems and processes. In addition, undergraduates may choose from several optional concentrations: business and politics; campaigns and elections; citizenship and civic action; global politics; law and politics; democratization and development; political psychology, beliefs, and behavior; and public affairs.

What are the major requirements?

Go to www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html and select “Undergraduate majors.”

How do I declare a Political Science major?

You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits.

1. Talk with someone from the department: an adviser or a professor, to learn more about the major and its requirements.
2. When you decide upon Political Science as a major, meet with the undergraduate adviser in the department to complete a Major Program form.
3. If you decide to change your major, inform the department of political science of your decision. Contact your CLA student community to learn about your new major’s declaration process.

What can I do with a major in Political Science?

Skills

Political Science majors develop skills that are applicable to a wide variety of careers.

These skills include:

- Verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to formulate clear and persuasive messages
- Listening, clarifying, questioning and responding skills
- Ability to work well with diverse groups

Employment

Common areas of employment for this major include but are not limited to:

- Government—public information, campaigns, research
- Media—writing, editing, public relations, management
- Business—marketing, human resources, sales, international business, consulting

For more information:

About the Political Science major:

Undergraduate Advising
1482 Social Science
(612) 624-8517
<http://www.polisci.umn.edu/>

About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:

CLA Social Sciences Student Community
575 Heller Hall
(612) 626-7714
<http://socsci.class.umn.edu/>

or

CLA Martin Luther King, Jr. Program
19 Johnston Hall
(612) 625-2300
<http://www.class.umn.edu/mlk/>
mlk@class.cla.umn.edu

About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:

Career and Community Learning Center
135 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-7577
www.cclc.umn.edu/
cclc@class.cla.umn.edu

About graduation with honors:

CLA Honors Division
20 Nicholson
(612) 624-5522
www.honors.class.umn.edu/
honors@class.cla.umn.edu

- Public Relations and Advertising—corporate public affairs, lobbying
- Education—teaching, research, admissions, advising, student affairs
- Nonprofit—fundraising, programming, management

Today's workplace requires individuals with interpersonal skills, the ability to communicate effectively, an ability to solve problems, and adaptability. CLA graduates find that they are well-prepared in all these areas and that their education—especially when combined with experience gained through internships, volunteer positions, past jobs, and other collegiate involvement—makes them competitive.

The **Career & Community Learning Center** provides students with the tools to identify and pursue potential careers. An extensive resource room, career courses and workshops, and a helpful staff are just some of the ways we can help.

Remember!

You have not declared a major until you have:

- completed a Major Program form with your major adviser,
- filed a copy with the major department,
- and filed a copy with your CLA student community.

Don't forget: keep a copy for yourself!