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 and comparative politics. 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 nongovernmental 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, the Career Development Center 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 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

What is the overall goal?
The goal of general education is to enable you to live a rich, meaningful life by developing: an informed appreciation of the arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences; an ability to intelligently follow and participate in current events; and a sensitive and tutored appreciation of diverse cultures and ways of living.

What are the expected outcomes?
Embedded throughout general education and furthered in the major are the skills that enable graduates to contribute productively to society and the ongoing culture. Therefore, upon graduation the faculty expects you to:

- Have acquired knowledge in the arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences
- Think critically and independently
- Write and speak effectively
- Employ analytical reasoning and problem solving techniques

Major Requirements

A major consists of:

- POL S 121
- POL S 220
- POL S 226
- POL S 232
- POL S 365
- POL S 600

15 additional hours in selected courses in American Politics, Comparative Politics, and International Relations

Minor Requirements

A minor consists of POL S 121 and 12 additional hours, at least six 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

For information about the Political Science program, contact:

Dr. Carolyn Shaw
Associate Professor and Chairperson
Department of Political Science
(316) 978-3165
wichita.edu/polsci

If you have further questions or would like to schedule a campus visit, please contact the Office of Admissions.

Marcus Welcome Center
Office of Admissions
1845 Fairmount
Wichita, KS 67260-0124

KSDegreeStats.org