

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political science is the study of politics, government and related topics. This includes the investigation of political behavior, international relations, law and political values. The purpose of classes in political science is to provide students with knowledge to assist them in understanding how government and politics affect their everyday lives.

The Program

The political science program at North Dakota State University offers a number of avenues for the study of government. Through political science, you can draw upon the many resources of the University and the community. The Tri-College University (North Dakota State College of Science, NDSU, Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Minnesota State University Moorhead and Concordia College) makes possible a wide variety of political science courses taught by faculty members from all three institutions. The urban center of Fargo-Moorhead enables you to observe and participate in metropolitan judicial and governmental affairs.

Internship/Field Experience

The Department of Criminal Justice and Political Science is able to place students in state and national government where they can experience first-hand the functioning government. The department has available a professional-degree program, whereby students can prepare for careers in government service and in management with political party organizations. Internships assist students in preparing for such careers.

Career Opportunities

One out of five persons in the United States today is employed by some level of government. This expansion of government has created a vital need for thoughtful, active people who are professionally trained in government and in political science. Typically, as a political science student at NDSU, you may become involved in one of the following areas:

National Government – Graduates with training in political science often occupy administrative positions in the civil service, which offers the advantage of an established promotional system. NDSU works with regional colleges in conducting student internships for the study of the federal government in Washington, D.C.

State and Local Government – The greatest expansion in government is taking place at the state and local levels. Political science students at NDSU may gain experience in this area by participating in internships in Fargo, Washington D.C., at the state capitol in Bismarck or by participating in the North Dakota Intercollegiate Student Legislature.

Teaching, Research and Graduate Work – Political science offers an excellent background for graduate work. In a study of graduate school examination scores, it was found that of all the social sciences, students of political science scored highest on the verbal ability test.

Law – Many students interested in attending law school elect political science as an undergraduate major. Political science provides an analytical and substantive background relevant to the study of law. The department offers a special program of pre-law advisement and a pre-law emphasis for those students who major in political science. Law schools that political science graduates have attended include University of North Dakota, University of Minnesota, University of Washington, Northwestern, Duke and George Washington University.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The Department of Criminal Justice and Political Science works closely with the Pre-Law Club, which is designed to provide students with information about law schools, entrance examinations and career opportunities in the field of law.

The Faculty

Jeffrey Bumgarner, Professor and Department Head, Ph.D.
2000, University of Minnesota
Thomas Ambrosio, Professor, Ph.D.
2000, University of Virginia
Nicholas Bauroth, Associate Professor, Ph.D.
2003, Loyola University
Kjersten Nelson, Associate Professor, Ph.D.
2009, University of Minnesota
Daniel Pemstein, Assistant Professor, Ph.D.
2010, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Political Science Plan of Study

Please note this is a sample plan of study; actual student schedules will vary depending on start year, individual goals, applicable transfer credit, and course availability. Students are encouraged to work with their academic advisor on a regular basis to review degree progress and customize their own plan of study.

First Year			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
POLS 110 or 115 Introduction to Political Science or American Government	3	POLS 220 or 225 International Politics or Comparative Politics	3
MATH 104 or 103 Finite Mathematics or College Algebra	3	Gen Ed Humanities & Fine Arts	3
ENGL 110 College Composition I	4	ENGL 120 College Composition II	3
Gen Ed Humanities & Fine Arts	3	Gen Ed Science & Technology	3
COMM 110 Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3	Minor	3
	16		15
Second Year			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
POLS 240 Political Ideologies	3	POLS 325 or CJ 325 Applied Research Methods or Applied Research Methods	4
POLS 200-300 level elective	3	AHSS Requirement	3
STAT 330 Introductory Statistics	3	Gen Ed Wellness	3
Gen Ed Science & Technology w/Lab	4	Minor	3
Minor	3	General Elective	3
	16		16
Third Year			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
POLS Area 1	3	POLS Area 2	3
POLS Area 3	3	POLS Area 4	3
ENGL 320 or 358 Business and Professional Writing or Writing in the Humanities and Social Sciences	3	Gen Ed Science & Technology	3
Minor	3	AHSS Requirement	3
AHSS Requirement	3	Minor	3
	15		15
Fourth Year			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
POLS elective	3	POLS 489 Senior Seminar	3
POLS elective	3	Minor	3
Minor	3	Minor	3
300-400 level general elective	3	300-400 level general elective	3
300-400 level general elective or Gen Ed Global Perspectives if needed	3	300-400 level general elective or Gen Ed Cultural Diversity if needed	3
	15		15
Total Credits: 123			

View NDSU equivalencies of transfer courses at: www.ndsu.edu/transfer/equivalencies

For Further Information

Department of Criminal Justice and Political Science
 North Dakota State University
 Putnam Hall
 Dept #2315
 PO Box 6050
 Fargo, ND 58108-6050

Phone: (701) 231-8567
 Fax: (701) 231-5877
 Web: www.ndsu.edu/cjps