

Political Science

Bachelor of Arts

Integrated B.A. / M.A.

Undergraduate Minor

Master of Arts

Graduate Certificate

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Departmental Goals and Objectives

The State of Illinois has one of the nation's more interesting political cultures. Located in Springfield, the hub of Illinois political activity, UIS is able to provide a laboratory for the study of government and politics, enriched with internship opportunities for practical experience.

UIS students get a rigorous academic program in a highly engaged Political Science, where practical politics brings theoretical studies to life. Political Science at UIS emphasizes the practical importance of theory and the academic importance of practice. Opportunities for experiential learning are available through a legislative internship program for undergraduate majors and through internships and assistantships for graduates. By focusing electives in particular areas of interest, students are able to develop research skills and acquire broad academic backgrounds reflecting the rich political resources readily available in the capital city.

Students are encouraged to participate in special activities related to their course of study. The Political Science Department is directly involved in Model Illinois Government and, with faculty and students in Global Studies, in Model United Nations. Students and faculty in Political Science also regularly attend and present their work at public forums and conferences.

The B.A. program can be taken fully on-campus or fully online, and on-campus students may use a blended approach of mixing on-campus and online course work.

The Bachelor's Degree

A major in Political Science provides students with a systematic knowledge of political life, helping them evaluate public issues and make decisions through a balanced program of study in which philosophical, empirical, and policy concerns complement one another. The Political Science curriculum offers a flexible course of study that provides a solid foundation for a career in law, politics, public service, research, or teaching. The department is strong in the study of American national and state politics, politics and law, political philosophy, comparative and international politics, and political behavior. Individual faculty have special competencies in such topics as public opinion, elections and election reform, voting behavior, legislative politics, state politics and policy, human rights, women's rights, sexuality and politics, globalization, critical theory, international political economy, and American foreign policy. Faculty are also active in the UIS Institute for Legal, Legislative, and Policy Studies and participate in several internship programs sponsored by UIS.

Advising

Entering students are assigned to an undergraduate college advisor when they declare Political Science as their major field of study. They will also be assigned a faculty advisor. After their first semester, when students are acquainted with the faculty and are more knowledgeable about the department and the campus, they may wish to select a specific faculty advisor. The course of study for the B.A. is planned jointly with the college advisor, so students should consult with their advisor before each registration and from time-to-time during the semester.

One distinct advantage of the program is its location in Springfield, affording opportunities to participate directly in politics. Cooperation between UIS and governmental and private agencies provides many opportunities for experiential learning in public affairs research and politics.

Grading Policy

The Political Science department has no grading policy different from that used by the UIS campus.

Honors in Political Science

Students with at least 15 completed hours in Political Science courses with a minimum 3.50 GPA in those courses may apply for participation in the department's honors program. To graduate with Honors in Political Science, students must successfully complete an independent research project in PSC 486 Honors Closing Seminar. Students are also able to take a graduate-level course in Political Science as an elective. (Please be aware that any graduate-level course counted toward credit in a student's undergraduate degree cannot later be counted toward a graduate degree.)

Communication Skills

Both the study and the practice of politics require that students/citizens speak, write, and read well. These skills are also critical for successful careers in government, law, and business.

Degree Requirements

Following is a list of required courses. Students who believe that they have had a comparable course at their four-year or community colleges may submit a Student Petition form to department to waive the course requirements. Students may submit a Student Petition form to count a maximum of four courses as transfer credit toward the PSC major. Students are encouraged to take the foundation courses, including PSC 451, before taking other 400-level courses.

Core Courses

PSC/LES 201	Introduction to the American Political System	3
PSC 325	Introduction to Political Philosophy	3
PSC 371	Introduction to Comparative Politics	3
PSC 373	Introduction to International Relations	3
PSC 451	Empirical Political Analysis	3
PSC 485	Closing Seminar	2
or PSC 486	Honors Closing Seminar	

Political Science electives ¹

Must be at the 300- and 400-level.	15
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Total Hours	32
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¹ Core courses may not be used to fulfill this requirement.

Students should consult with academic advisors in the major for specific guidance regarding completion of general education requirements. Students seeking a double major in Political Science and Legal Studies may count cross-listed courses with a Legal Studies (LES) prefix as electives in Political Science and may count cross-listed courses with a Political Science (PSC) prefix as electives in Legal Studies. These students may also use PSC 451 toward the Legal Studies' requirement LES 472.

Engagement Experience/ECCE

Students are required to complete a minimum of 10 semester hours of Engaged Citizenship Common Experience (ECCE) requirements in the areas of U.S. Communities, Global Awareness, Engagement Experience, and ECCE Speaker Series.

In political science, all majors must complete six hours of Engagement Experience – an internship program which emphasizes improvement of the student's ability to learn from experience, career assessment, relationships between theory and practice, and realistic appreciation of public affairs. The PSC department requires that students use six hours of ECCE credit toward the Engagement Experience. Students fulfill this requirement by enrolling in IPL 300 for six credit hours.

If a student can justify a different distribution of the 10-hour requirement, (s)he may claim an exception to the rule by petitioning the Political Science department.

Students must also take a three or four hour U. S. Communities Course as a part of completing ECCE requirements.

Degree Plan*

*Listed below is a SUGGESTED Degree Plan. For OFFICIAL program information, please refer to the catalog content above and consult your academic advisor.

Year 1	
Fall	Hours
ENG 101 ² Rhetoric and College Writing	3
Visual/Performing Arts Humanities Requirement ²	3
Non-lab Science (life or physical science) ²	3
Freshman Seminar ²	3
Elective (lower division 100/200) ¹	3
Hours	15
Spring	
ENG 102 ² College Writing and Civic Engagement	3
Humanities Course ²	3
PSC 201 Introduction to the American Political System (Social Science) ²	3
Comparative Societies (Humanities or Social Science) ²	3
Math Skills ²	3
Hours	15
Year 2	
Fall	Hours
COM 112 ² Oral Communication	3
Social Science Course ²	3

Lab science (life or physical science) ²	4
PSC 325, Introduction to Political Philosophy 371, or 373 ¹	3
Elective (lower division 100/200) ¹	3
Hours	16
Spring	
Math Applied ²	3
PSC 325, Introduction to Political Philosophy 371, or 373 ¹	3
ECCE U.S. Communities ³	3
Elective (lower division 100/200) ¹	3
Elective (lower division 100/200) ¹	3
Hours	15
Year 3	
Fall	Hours
300-400 level PSC Elective ⁴	3
PSC 325, Introduction to Political Philosophy 371, or 373 ¹	3
PSC 451 ¹ Empirical Political Analysis	3
300-400 level PSC Elective ⁴	3
300-400 level General Elective ⁵	3
Hours	15
Spring	
300-400 level General Elective ⁵	3
300-400 level General Elective ⁵	3
300-400 level General Elective ⁵	3
300-400 level PSC Elective ⁴	3
300-400 level General Elective ⁵	3
Hours	15
Year 4	
Fall	Hours
300-400 level PSC Elective ⁴	3
300-400 level General Elective ⁵	3
ECCE Speaker Series ³	1
IPL 300 ³ ECCE: Internship Applied Learning	6
300-400 level General Elective ⁵	3
Hours	16
Spring	
300-400 level General Elective ⁵	3
300-400 level PSC Elective ⁴	3
300-400 level PSC Elective ⁴	3
300-400 level General Elective ⁵	3
PSC 485 ⁴ Closing Seminar	2
Hours	14
Total Hours:	121

¹ These courses are Lower Division Foundation course requirements- 24 Hours

² This course fulfills General Education requirements- 43 Hours

- ³ Students must complete ECCEs in at least two of the three ECCE categories - U.S. Communities, Global Awareness, Engagement - per major requirements in addition to Speakers Series - 10 Hours
- ⁴ Political Science Major course work- 20 Hours
- ⁵ Upper Division electives- minimum 12 hours that can be selected to earn a minor and can be outside of major.

Online Political Science Bachelor's Degree Program

Students in the online Political Science BA Degree Program complete all of their courses and degree requirements 100% online. Both the on-campus Political Science Bachelor's Degree Program and the online program have identical curricular requirements.

In order to be admitted to the online BA program in Political Science, students must have a minimum of 3.0 GPA and reside at least 50 miles outside of Springfield. Students should apply directly through the Office of Admissions.

The University of Illinois is not authorized to offer online distance education programs to students in the State of Maryland.

To graduate with a BA in political science, students must complete 32 credit hours consisting of 17 core hours, including the closing seminar, and 15 elective hours. Students must also complete the ECCE requirements. Core courses and electives are offered online. Some elective choices may not be offered online.

Online BA students are able to complete their internship where they reside; course work and field visits can be completed online and by phone respectively.

Integrated B.A./M.A. Program

This special curriculum is designed for undergraduates who know early on that they would like to complete a Political Science Master's Degree. It is an academic program that makes it possible for a major in political science to complete the B.A. and M.A. degrees in a shortened time period when undertaking full-time study.

Students in the B.A./M.A. curriculum must satisfy all the requirements for the B.A. in political science.

Admission to the Integrated B.A./M.A. Program

Students must first be admitted to UIS. Qualifications for admission include a GPA of at least 3.0 for all previous college work and completion of a basic course in American government or PSC 201 Introduction to the American Political System.

Undergraduate Political Science majors may apply for admission any time before registering for the internship. However, interested students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible after being admitted to UIS.

Integrated B.A./M.A. Curriculum

Upon graduation with the B.A. degree, students are evaluated for admission to continue on in the M.A. phase of the curriculum. Students in the B.A./M.A. program still need to apply to the M.A. program through UIS Admissions.

The requirements for the M.A. phase of the B.A./M.A. curriculum are the same as those for the M.A. program, except that the number of elective courses will be reduced by two. The integrated B.A./M.A. plan includes an enhanced internship counting for graduate-level elective credit. With those reductions, the number of hours required for the M.A. phase is 32.

The integrated B.A./M.A. program is available to both on-campus and online students.

Political Science Minor

To earn a minor in Political Science, students must complete a minimum of **15** semester hours.

Core Courses

Select two of the following:	6
PSC/LES 201 Introduction to the American Political System	
PSC 325 Introduction to Political Philosophy	
PSC 371 Introduction to Comparative Politics	
PSC 373 Introduction to International Relations	

PSC Electives ¹

Courses must be selected at the 300- or 400-level.	9
Total Hours	15

¹ Courses selected as part of the core course requirements for the PSC minor cannot be used as PSC electives.