

# POLITICAL SCIENCE, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

## Program Description

The Political Science minor consists of 18 credits with at least one course in each of the following Political Science areas: American, theory/methodology, comparative, and international relations. Six (6) of these 18 credits must be at the 400 level.

When electing this minor, the student should have junior (fifth-semester) standing. Special attention should be given to the fact that courses used to satisfy general education, degree requirements, electives, and major requirements may also be used to satisfy minor requirements.

## What is Political Science?

Political science is one of the social sciences. It is the study of systems of governance and governmental institutions, political activity, political thought, and political behavior. Political science draws from many other academic disciplines, including economics, law, sociology, history, philosophy, geography, psychology, and anthropology. There also are subfields of political science, such as comparative politics, political theory, international relations, international law, public administration, and public policy. Political science students study how American government works (and doesn't work) and what can be done to improve government at the federal, state, and local level. In comparative government and international relations course work, students study the politics and policies of other countries. Political theory courses examine the ideas of famous political philosophers, while courses on law and the legal process provide knowledge about the criminal justice and civil litigation systems.

## You Might Like This Program If...

You are in a major where your intended career is increasingly involved with governmental regulation or policy or if you want political or law background. It may lay the ground for better understanding your own field. It will also help you make sense of an increasingly complicated political world that confronts them in their own roles as citizens. A minor in political science is designed for students who want to improve their ability to deal intelligently and critically with issues and ideas about government and politics.

## Program Requirements

Requirement	Credits
Requirements for the Minor	18

## Requirements for the Minor

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor, as specified by Senate Policy 59-10 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/>). In addition, at least six credits of the minor must be unique from the prescribed courses required by a student's major(s).

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Additional Courses</b>		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		

Select 18 credits in Political Science, include at least one course in each of the following areas: American, Comparative, International Relations, and Theory<sup>1</sup> 18

<sup>1</sup> Select at least 6 credits at the 400 level.

## Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

## University Park

### Liberal Arts Academic Advising

814-865-2545

Use the Liberal Arts Meet the Academic Advisers web page (<https://la.psu.edu/student-services/academic-advising/meet-the-academic-advisers/>) to see the contact information for the specific adviser(s) of this program

## Altoona

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## Harrisburg

### Juliette Tolay, Ph.D.

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## World Campus

### Undergraduate Academic Advising

100 Innovation Blvd

Suite 225  
University Park, PA 16803  
814-863-3283  
[advising@worldcampus.psu.edu](mailto:advising@worldcampus.psu.edu)

## Career Paths

A minor in political science can add depth to a variety of majors. For example, if students are interested in a career in medicine, public health or business, it can help them understand how the political system shapes regulations that will impact their professional lives. If students are studying philosophy or history, political science can add social science analytical tools to complement what students are learning in their study of the humanities. If a student is interested in becoming a lawyer, studying political science is invaluable in providing a basic grounding for studies in the law.

## Careers

The political science minor is excellent supplemental preparation, in addition to a student's major, for a career in law, public service, Foreign Service, non-profit organizations, business and education.

## Contact

### University Park

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
401 Susan Welch Liberal Arts Building  
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814-865-4597  
<https://polisci.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/advising/>  
<https://polisci.la.psu.edu/>

### Altoona

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<https://altoona.psu.edu/academics/minor-programs/political-science/request-information/> (<https://altoona.psu.edu/academics/minor-programs/political-science/request-information/>)

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<https://harrisburg.psu.edu/public-affairs/political-science-minor/> (<https://harrisburg.psu.edu/public-affairs/political-science-minor/>)

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<https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/penn-state-online-political-science-minor/> (<https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/penn-state-online-political-science-minor/>)