

Political Science

College of Liberal Arts
Department of Political Science
(907) 474-7609
www.uaf.edu/polisci/

B.A. Degree

Minimum Requirements for Degree: 120 credits

The study of political science provides education for citizenship in a changing nation and world. Political science provides a sound preparation in the social sciences. As the study of power, political science explains who gets what, when, where and how. It examines the struggles over claims to authority that shape our lives and our world. As the study of values, it examines why citizens obey or rebel, the nature of just societies, and the ways individuals reconcile personal liberty with political authority. As the science of political behavior, it analyzes the actions of interest groups, political parties and public officials. Politics is an omnipresent force, not only in governments but in families, social organizations, schools and decision-making bodies of all types—from student councils to international institutions. A solid understanding of local, national and international politics will benefit any student throughout his or her career.

Courses are offered in the traditional fields of international and comparative politics, American government, political theory, public policy, and public law. The department also offers classes in environmental policy and politics, Native American studies, the politics of science, and women's studies. Political science majors and minors graduate with excellent communications skills. We provide several writing- and oral-intensive courses, as well as two core curriculum requirements. In addition to our course offerings and faculty expertise, our department presents real world opportunities for political science students to apply their learning. Those include numerous internship and scholarship opportunities in Alaska and the rest of the United States. Students can participate in model United Nations simulations, join the political science honor society Pi Sigma Alpha, aid faculty as research assistants, and take part in numerous other department projects such as bringing speakers to campus or hosting roundtables on important issues. Graduate students may also serve as teaching assistants.

The department provides students with stepping-stones to success in a variety of careers. The political science B.A. has led our students to graduate work in the social sciences; employment in the media and public relations; teaching at high school and university levels; and careers in business corporations and non-profits at the state and national levels. Political science provides a broad understanding of the formation, application and change of the law, as well as research techniques and standards of argumentation essential to legal practice. Our majors have been admitted to the nation's top law schools. The study of political science also prepares students for work in various fields of government. Alaska offers exciting job prospects for our graduates as managers in state and local governments and as legislators and legislative staff members. Our students are also qualified to work outside of Alaska in numerous public and private sector jobs.

Major—B.A. Degree

1. Complete the general university requirements (page 106. As part of the core curriculum requirements, complete: PS 100X, PS 300X and HIST 100X.)
2. Complete the B.A. degree requirements (page 109).

3. Complete the following major (program) requirements:
 - PS 101—Introduction to American Government and Politics 3
 - PS 222—Political Science Research Methods..... 3
 - PS 492W—Senior Seminar in Political Science..... 3
4. Complete 24 credits in political science. Include at least 1 course from 4 of the following sub-disciplinary groups:
 - a. Group A—American Government and Politics
 - PS 212—Introduction to Public Administration..... 3
 - PS 301—American Presidency 3
 - PS 302—Congress and Public Policy 3
 - PS 401W—Political Behavior..... 3
 - PS 403W—Public Policy 3
 - PS 462—Alaska Government and Politics 3
 - b. Group B—Public Law
 - PS 303—Politics and the Judicial Process..... 3
 - PS/JUST 404—Introduction to Legal Research and Writing 3
 - PS 435W—Constitutional Law I: Federalism 3
 - PS 436W—Constitutional Law II: Civil Rights and Liberties 3
 - c. Group C—Comparative Politics
 - PS 201—Comparative Politics 3
 - PS 202—Democracy and Global Society 3
 - PS 460W—Government and Politics of Canada 3
 - PS 464W—East Asian Governments and Politics 3
 - PS/HIST 467W—Political Development in Latin America and the Caribbean..... 3
 - PS 468W—Government and Politics of Russia..... 3
 - d. Group D—International Politics
 - PS 321—International Politics 3
 - PS 322—International Law and Organization..... 3
 - PS 323—International Political Economy..... 3
 - PS 437—United States Foreign Policy 3
 - e. Group E—Political Theory
 - PS 314W—Political Ideologies..... 3
 - PS 315—American Political Thought 3
 - PS/WMS 340—Women and Politics..... 3
 - PS/PHIL 411W,O—Classical Political Theory 3
 - PS/PHIL 412W—Modern Political Theory 3
5. Minimum credits required120

** Student must earn a C grade or better in each course.*

Minor

1. PS 101—Introduction to American Government and Politics ..3
2. Complete at least 1 course from 4 of the sub-disciplinary groups listed in the requirements for the B.A. degree in political science.12
3. Minimum credits required15

Note: Page numbers refer to the UAF 2004-2005 academic catalog, which can be viewed online at www.uaf.edu/catalog/.

General University Requirements

All degrees (e.g. B.A., B.S., etc.) require additional courses.
Refer to specific degree and program requirements.

COMMUNICATIONS (9)

Complete the following:

ENGL 111X (3) _____
ENGL 211X OR 213X (3) _____
COMM 131X OR 141X (3) _____

LIBRARY & INFORMATION SKILLS (0-1)

Complete the following:

LS 100X OR 101X (0-1) _____
OR Successful completion of library skills competency test.

PERSPECTIVES ON THE HUMAN CONDITION (18)

Complete either the following six courses:

ANTH 100X OR SOC 100X (3) _____
ECON/PS 100X (3) _____
HIST 100X (3) _____
ART/MUS/THR 200X, HUM 201X OR ANS 202X (3) _____
ENGL/FL 200X (3) _____
PHIL 322X, NRM 303X, COMM 300X,
PS 300X OR JUST 300X (3) _____

OR Complete 12 cr from the above list PLUS two semester-length courses in a single non-English or Alaska Native language at the university level OR three semester-length courses (9 cr) in American Sign Language.

MATHEMATICS (3-4)

Complete 3-4 credits from the following:

MATH 107X (3) _____
OR MATH 131X (except for BBA) (3) _____
OR MATH 161X (3) _____
MATH 200X (4) _____
MATH 201X (4) _____
MATH 202X (4) _____
MATH 262X (4) _____
MATH 272X (3) _____

NOTE: Additional 3 cr of math needed for degree requirements.

NATURAL SCIENCES (8)

Complete 8 credits from the following:

ATM 101X (4) _____
BIOL 103X OR 104X (4) _____
BIOL 105X-106X (8) _____
BIOL 111X-112X (8) _____
CHEM 100X (4) _____
CHEM 103X-104X (8) _____
CHEM 105X-106X (8) _____
GEOG 205X (4) _____
GEOS 100X OR 120X OR 125X (4) _____
GEOS 101X-112X (8) _____
MSL 111X (4) _____
PHYS 102X OR 175X (4) _____
PHYS 103X-104X (8) _____
PHYS 211X-212X (8) _____
PHYS 211X-213X (8) _____
PHYS 212X-213X (8) _____