

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 Department of Political Science offers a B.A. degree as well as minors in law and society, environmental politics and political science. Graduate-level courses in political science are available through the northern studies concentration in environmental politics and policy. Doctoral study in political science is available through the interdisciplinary studies program of the Graduate School.

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. In addition to course offerings and faculty expertise, the 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 political science B.A. has led 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. The study of political science also prepares students for work in various fields of government. Alaska offers job prospects for political science graduates as managers in state and local governments and as legislators and legislative staff members. Graduates 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. (See page 124. As part of the core curriculum requirements, complete PS F100X, PS F300X and HIST F100X.)
2. Complete the B.A. degree requirements (page 128).
3. Complete the following major (program) requirements:*
PS F101—Introduction to American Government and Politics3
PS F222—Political Science Research Methods.....3
PS F499W or PS F475 or the Alaska Universities Legislative Internship Program or other approved internship earning at least 3 transferable upper-division credits3
4. Complete 24 credits in political science. Include at least one course from four of the following sub-disciplinary groups:*
 - a. Group A—American Government and Politics
PS F212—Introduction to Public Administration3
PS F301—American Presidency3
PS F302—Congress and Public Policy3
PS F401W—Political Behavior3
PS F403W—Public Policy3
PS F462—Alaska Government and Politics.....3
 - b. Group B—Public Law
PS F303—Politics and the Judicial Process3
PS/JUST F404—Introduction to Legal Research and Writing ...3
PS F435W—Constitutional Law I: Federalism.....3
PS F436W—Constitutional Law II: Civil Rights and Liberties .3
 - c. Group C—Comparative Politics
PS F201—Comparative Politics.....3
PS F202—Democracy and Global Society3
PS F460W—Government and Politics of Canada3
PS F464W—East Asian Governments and Politics3
PS/HIST F467W—Political Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.....3
PS F468W—Government and Politics of Russia.....3
 - d. Group D—International Politics
PS F321—International Politics3
PS F322O—International Law and Organization.....3
PS F323—International Political Economy3
PS F437—United States Foreign Policy.....3
 - e. Group E—Political Theory
PS F314W—Political Ideologies.....3
PS F315—American Political Thought.....3
PS/WMS F340—Women and Politics.....3
PS/PHIL F411W,O—Classical Political Theory3
PS/PHIL F412W—Modern Political Theory.....3
5. Minimum credits required120
* Student must earn a C grade or better in each course.

Minor

1. Complete the following:
PS F101—Introduction to American Government and Politics3
Complete at least four political science courses at the F200-, F300- or F400-level12
2. Minimum credits required15

Baccalaureate Core Requirements

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

COMMUNICATION (9)

Complete the following:

ENGL F111X (3) _____
ENGL F190H may be substituted.

Complete one of the following:

ENGL F211X OR ENGL F213X (3) _____

Complete one of the following:

COMM F131X OR COMM F141X (3) _____

PERSPECTIVES ON THE HUMAN CONDITION (18)

Complete all of the following four courses:

ANTH F100X/SOC F100X (3) _____
ECON F100X OR PS F100X (3) _____
HIST F100X (3) _____
ENGL/FL F200X (3) _____

Complete one of the following three courses:

ART/MUS/THR F200X, HUM F201X OR ANS F202X (3) _____

Complete one of the following six courses:

BA F323X, COMM F300X, JUST F300X, NRM F303X,
PS F300X OR PHIL F322X (3) _____

OR complete 12 credits from the above courses PLUS

- two semester-length courses in a single Alaska Native language or other non-English language OR
- three semester-length courses (9 credits) in American Sign Language taken at the university level.

MATHEMATICS (3)

Complete one of the following:

MATH F103X, MATH F107X, MATH F161X OR
STAT F200X (3 – 4) _____
** No credit may be earned for more than one of MATH F107X or F161X.*

OR complete one of the following*:

MATH F200X, MATH F201X, MATH F202X,
MATH F262X OR MATH F272X (4) _____
**Or any math course having one of these as a prerequisite.*

NATURAL SCIENCES (8)

Complete any two (4-credit) courses:

ATM F101X (4) _____
BIOL F100X (4) _____
BIOL F103X (4) _____
BIOL F104X (4) _____
BIOL F111X (4) _____
BIOL F112X (4) _____
BIOL F115X (4) _____
BIOL F116X (4) _____
CHEM F100X (4) _____
CHEM F103X (4) _____
CHEM F104X (4) _____
CHEM F105X (4) _____
CHEM F106X (4) _____
GEOG F205X (4) _____
GEOS F100X (4) _____
GEOS F101X (4) _____
GEOS F112X (4) _____
GEOS F120X (4) _____
GEOS F125X (4) _____
MSL F111X (4) _____
PHYS F102X (4) _____
PHYS F103X (4) _____
PHYS F104X (4) _____
PHYS F115X (4) _____
PHYS F116X (4) _____
PHYS F175X (4) _____
PHYS F211X (4) _____
PHYS F212X (4) _____
PHYS F213X (4) _____

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION RESEARCH (0 – 1)

Successful completion of library skills competency test OR
LS F100X or F101X prior to junior standing (0 – 1) _____

UPPER-DIVISION WRITING AND ORAL COMMUNICATION (0)

Complete the following:

Two writing intensive courses designated (W) (0) _____
One oral communication intensive course designated (O) (0) _____
OR two oral communication intensive courses designated (O/2), at the upper-division level (see degree and/or major requirements) (0) _____

TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED 38 – 39