

POLITICAL SCIENCE - BS

Political science is the study of power, governance, and political behavior in domestic and global contexts. At St. Catherine University, students in this major examine how decisions are made, how policies are created and implemented, and how people engage in civic life. With a foundation in political theory, public policy, and comparative and international politics, students also gain critical experience in data analysis, research methods, professional writing, and public communication.

Courses emphasize real-world applications and core skills that prepare students for a range of careers—particularly as policy analysts, legislative aides, advocates, campaign strategists, government affairs professionals, and more. Through rigorous academic training and hands-on opportunities, students develop the tools to interpret data, craft persuasive arguments, and lead conversations about justice, democracy, and equity.

The political science major strongly supports leadership development and public service. Students often pursue internships with organizations such as the Minnesota Legislature, Center for Victims of Torture, the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, and the Minnesota Association of Women Lawyers. Some engage directly in policy work through the Diplomacy Lab, a program that allows students to collaborate with the U.S. State Department. Others attend short-term academic intensives through the Public Leadership Education Network (PLEN) or participate in semester-long study through American University's Washington D.C. Program.

Many students broaden their education through study abroad programs in regions including Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. Faculty expertise spans diverse areas such as urban politics, transnational movements, elections, constitutional law, and gender and public policy.

Graduates of the political science program are well-prepared for careers in government, international affairs, nonprofit leadership, education, law, and political journalism, or for further study in public policy, law, international relations, or public administration. Students leave with the skills to analyze complex problems, advocate for change, and lead with integrity in any setting.

The political science major is available to students enrolled in the College for Women only.

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Curriculum

Code	Title	Credits
POSC 1710W	Introduction to American Government and Policy	4
POSC 2200W	Introduction to Comparative Politics	4
POSC 2250	Introduction to World Politics	4
POSC/ECON 4850W	Theory to Action	4
ECON 1090	Statistical Analysis for Decision Making ¹	4
Choose 5 Classes From:		20
POSC/ECON 3000	From Nudges to Nuclear War: Game Theory and Behavioral Economics	
POSC/ECON 3070	Public Policy	
POSC 3150	Women and Globalization	
POSC 3350	Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict	

POSC 3351	Public Finance
POSC/ECON 3450W	Haves and Have Nots: Development, Poverty, and Inequality
POSC/ECON 3480W	International Economics: Trade and Immigration
POSC 3600	Politics of Global Cities
POSC/HIST 3700	History of Feminism in Western Society
POSC/ECON 3994	Topics
POSC 4602/4603/4604	Internship ^{2,3}
POSC 4951/4952/4954	Independent Study ³
POSC 4994	Topics

Total Credits **40**

¹ Students interested in political science or international relations as a major or minor are encouraged to take ECON 1090 Statistical Analysis for Decision Making to fulfill the mathematics and logical reasoning liberal arts core requirement.

² Students are encouraged to take advantage of internships available at the local, state and national government levels. Students may earn up to 8 credits via internships.

³ Students must complete at least one related political science course prior to taking an independent study or internship

Political science majors satisfy the Writing Requirement for Majors by completing POSC 1710W Introduction to American Government and Policy and POSC 2200W Introduction to Comparative Politics. They complete the Liberal Arts and Sciences Core Writing Requirement with two other writing-intensive courses (CORE 1000W The Reflective Woman and CORE 3990W Global Search for Justice).

The Political Science major can be completed in four years or two years. Both programs of study are provided below.

Four-Year Plan

Code	Title	Credits
Fall Term		
POSC 2250	Introduction to World Politics	4
Spring Term		
ECON 1090 or SOCI 2200	Statistical Analysis for Decision Making People, Stories and Images: Qualitative Social Research	4
Upper-division Political Science course		4
Fall Term		
POSC 1710W	Introduction to American Government and Policy	4
Spring Term		
POSC 2200W	Introduction to Comparative Politics	4
Fall Term		
Upper-division Political Science course		4
Upper-division Political Science course		4
Spring Term		
Upper-division Political Science course		4
Fall Term		
Upper-division Political Science course		4
Spring Term		

POSC 4850W	Theory to Action	4
Total Credits		40

Two-Year Plan

Code	Title	Credits
Fall Term		
ECON 1090 or SOCI 2200	Statistical Analysis for Decision Making People, Stories and Images: Qualitative Social Research	4
POSC 2250	Introduction to World Politics	4
Spring Term		
POSC 2200W	Introduction to Comparative Politics	4
Upper-division Political Science course		4
Upper-division Political Science course		4
Fall Term		
POSC 1710W	Introduction to American Government and Policy	4
Upper-division Political Science course		4
Upper-division Political Science course		4
Spring Term		
POSC 4850W	Theory to Action	4
Upper-division Political Science course		4
Total Credits		40