

POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR

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Mission

The mission of the Political Science program is to prepare graduates for employment, scholarship, or further study in the areas of law, public policy, or criminal justice in service to their professional disciplines and social communities.

- Students who major in Political Science choose one of three program concentrations:
 - The **Pre-Law Concentration** emphasizes course work appropriate for those who plan to attend law school upon completion of undergraduate studies.
 - The **Public Policy Concentration** emphasizes the interconnectedness of political science, policymaking, and specific policy areas. This concentration is appropriate for those who want to pursue positions working directly or indirectly with government. It is also appropriate for those who wish to continue their education with graduate studies in social sciences, such as Political Science, History, or Sociology.
 - The **Criminal Justice Concentration** focuses on developing the skills needed to pursue careers in law enforcement, criminology, homeland security, or corrections with a focus on those skills needed in management positions. Students are also prepared to pursue graduate studies in Criminal Justice.
- The program structure encourages students to double major in other fields such as Psychology, English, or Business.
- Prestigious internship opportunities with local and state government agencies provide valuable field-work experience in the discipline.
- Opportunities to present student research at state, regional and national meetings provide students with real world skills and allow them to network with professionals in the field.
- Students work with experienced and engaged faculty who are published authors and have taught at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

FROM THE FACULTY

“Students who major in Political Science study the actors and institutions of government and examine their interactions with significant ‘others’ that influence lawmaking. In addition, the process of how policy is made within this environment is emphasized. Those who choose to study Political Science at the University of Charleston are immersed in a comprehensive program that integrates the merging of traditional approaches with modern research techniques to prepare students for graduate study, law school, applied work in the disciplines and life-long learning.”

ADMISSION

Students must gain general admission to the University of Charleston. A visit to the campus to meet with Admissions personnel and program faculty is strongly encouraged.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The graduate will:

1. Evaluate political phenomena using political science concepts and theories.
2. Apply historical and global perspectives to political problems and policy issues; and
3. Formulate research hypotheses using current social science research tools.

Concentration Outcomes

In addition to the program outcomes for all students,

- Pre-law graduates will be able to evaluate the relationship between society and legal institutions using legal reasoning skills
- Public Policy graduates will be able to integrate knowledge of governmental and non-governmental actors to analyze public policy
- Criminal Justice graduates will be able to evaluate societal responses to crime, terrorism and security

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

The Political Science major focuses on the actors and institutions of government and the complex relationships that exist among those who seek to influence the process. Introductory courses in policymaking and policy analysis are also included in this core. Coursework to explicitly promote critical thinking and logic are integrated throughout the curriculum. These requirements are important for all students in the major, but especially for those who intend to pursue a law degree or other graduate degree upon completion of their undergraduate education.

Beyond these requirements, all students seeking a Bachelor of Arts degree must earn a minimum of 120 credit hours. Students must also, when constructing their plan of study, meet all of the Liberal Learning Outcomes required for graduation by the University of Charleston. These additional hours may be utilized to earn a second major, if the student so desires.

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

CORE REQUIREMENTS - 42 CREDIT HOURS		
HIST 212	World Cultures II: 17 th Century to Present	3 credits
HIST 251	Foundations of the American Republic	3 credits
HIST 252	Contemporary America	3 credits
MATH 116	Survey of Mathematics (or higher math)	3 credits
POLS 101	American National Government	3 credits
POLS 102	State and Local Government	3 credits
POLS 210	Comparative Government	3 credits
POLS 200	Foundations of Public Policy	3 credits
POLS 300	Political Science Research Methods	3 credits
POLS 400	Senior Thesis	3 credits
POLS 490	E.A.G.L.E. Internship	12 credits

Pre-Law Concentration

PRE-LAW CONCENTRATION – 18 CREDIT HOURS		
POLS 230	Introduction to Political Philosophy	3 credits
POLS 260	Judicial Branch Politics	3 credits
POLS 280	Debating Political Issues	3 credits
POLS 314	Constitutional Law I	3 credits
POLS 316	Constitutional Law II	3 credits
POLS Elective	200 or 300-Level Political Science Elective	3 credits

Public Policy Concentration

PUBLIC POLICY CONCENTRATION – 18 CREDIT HOURS		
POLS 240	Legislative Branch Politics	3 credits
POLS 250	Executive Branch Politics	3 credits
POLS 380	Interest Group Politics	3 credits
POLS 390	Ethical Dilemmas in Policy Making	3 credits
POLS 314	Constitutional Law I	3 credits
POLS Elective	200 or 300-Level Political Science Elective	3 credits

Criminal Justice Concentration

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CONCENTRATION - 18 CREDIT HOURS		
CRJS 101	Introduction to Criminal Justice	3 credits
CRJS 242	Introduction to Law Enforcement	3 credits
CRJS 260	Terrorism and Homeland Security	3 credits
CRJS 331 OR POLS 314	Criminal Procedure Constitutional Law I	3 credits
CRJS 356	Criminal Law	3 credits
POLS 260	Judicial Branch Politics	3 credits

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Each graduating major in the program must complete and pass a comprehensive examination in their final semester before expected graduation.

COMPLETING A DOUBLE MAJOR

Political Science students are encouraged to double major with other programs in the broader university community. Students pursuing a double major must complete all requirements for BOTH majors, with the exception that a single senior thesis is required. Students choosing a double major and who choose to do a senior thesis or project outside of Political Science, must consult with program faculty on the nature of the outside project. The Program expects that a senior thesis completed as part of a double major with a Program degree will engage the discipline in a meaningful way. Possible double majors include:

- Political Science and Business
- Political Science and English
- Political Science and Psychology