Transfer Guide Leading to a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science

All degree requirements are subject to the provisions and notices in the NIU Undergraduate Catalog. Information is valid through August, 2016.

How to Choose Between a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

Choose a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) if: you feel comfortable completing a 2-4 semester sequence of a foreign language.

Choose a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) if: you feel comfortable completing a sequence of math and computer science or laboratory science classes, as well as a course on political analysis.

Courses Needed Prior to Transfer (if student is transferring to NIU with general education requirements complete):

POLS 100 – American Government and Politics

Courses Highly Recommended Prior to Transfer:

Any two of the following courses:

- POLS 210 – Introduction to Law and Courts
- POLS 220 – Introduction to Public Policy
- POLS 251 – Introduction to Political Philosophy
- POLS 260 – Introduction to Comparative Politics
- POLS 285 – Introduction to International Relations

Courses to be Completed at NIU:

A major in Political Science requires 36 credit hours, the equivalent of 12 classes. If a student transfers in to NIU with POLS 100 and two 200-level courses already completed, they have completed the lower-level requirements for the major and will need an additional 27 credit hours to complete the major. At least 21 credits of those courses must be 300- or 400-level. The specific courses required vary by emphasis, but a list of the current and past course offerings and syllabi can be found at http://niu.edu/polisci/courses/index.shtml. For questions about required classes for specific emphases, please contact the Political Science advisor at polsadvising@niu.edu or by phone at 815-753-7045.

About the Department

The Department of Political Science at NIU provides undergraduate students with a broad liberal arts education while gaining critical thinking skills that are vital to becoming social responsible citizens with an understanding of the political dynamics that shape our everyday lives. Graduates of the political science program go on to careers in government, law, journalism, education, intelligence, foreign affairs, and many other exciting professions.

Engaged Learning Opportunities:

We offer a number of engaged learning opportunities, including:

- Accelerated Law Degree Program
- Washington, D.C. Summer Congressional Internship Scholarship
- Study abroad program in Oxford, England
- Spring break trip to Washington, DC
- Departmental Honors program
- Mentorship program
- Internships for credit
- Independent studies

Student Organizations:
- Mock Trial Team
  - The Mock Trial team competes in collegiate mock trial competitions, in which participants play the roles of attorneys and witnesses in trial simulations while competing against other colleges and universities in tournaments. For more information, please contact Dr. Pickerill at pick@niu.edu
- Model United Nations
  - Model United Nations is a series of simulations run throughout the country and the world with the aim of furthering an understanding of the United Nations, educating participants about world issues, and promoting peace. The NIU Model UN organization attends two Model UN conferences each year. For more information, please contact polsadvising@niu.edu
- Pre-Law Society
  - Pre-Law Society is an organization designed to help potential law students and those interested in the legal field to prepare for the difficult law school admissions and entry process of law school. For more information, please contact Dr. Swedlow at bswedlow@niu.edu
- Political Science Student Advisory Committee (POLS-SAC)
  - POLS-SAC is a group of student leaders who act as liaisons between the department’s faculty and undergraduate students and provide student input on proposed policy changes. For more information, please contact Dr. Radasanu at aradasanu@niu.edu

Emphases in Political Science
As a Political Science major, you can choose from five different emphases to personalize and tailor your major to your interests and future career. Our emphases are:
- Politics
  - For students who want the maximum flexibility within their program of study or wish to create a particular specialization within political science
- Public Administration
  - For students interested in careers in federal, state, or local government, as well as non-profit or regional quasi-governmental bodies
- Public Law
  - For students interested in politics and law, with an emphasis on constitutional issues
- International Politics
  - For students interested in studying international relations and the politics of other countries
- Justice and Democracy: The American Experiment
  - For students interested in studying the theme of justice and democracy across the fields of public law, American politics, and political theory

Department Contact Information:
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