

# Political Science



Political Science is the study of government and politics, and the behavior of people and societies who are governed under a variety of different rules, procedures and political institutions. Political scientists conduct research in a variety of areas including elections and democratic processes, institutions like the Congress and the presidency, foreign affairs and national security issues, and political philosophy.

You'll learn to express yourself effectively in writing and in public speaking, think critically and logically, and acquire the analytical skills needed to make sense of political and social phenomena in your own country and around the world.

## Degree Details

The Department of Political Science offers the B.A. and B.S. degree with a major in Political Science and an emphasis in the following areas:

- Politics and Governance
- Public Law
- Public Administration and Service
- International Politics
- Justice and Democracy:  
The American Experiment

We also offer a minor if your interests are in government and politics.

## Student Activities

You'll have a wide range of group activities to choose from including:

- Mock Trial
- Model United Nations
- Model Illinois Government
- Pre-Law Society
- Spring break trip to Washington, D.C.
- Summer Study Abroad in Oxford, England

## Professional Development and Mentorship Program

Our professional development course will help you develop a career strategy, learn how to apply to professional schools, assemble an effective résumé and develop job interview skills.

Our Mentorship Program matches current junior or senior Political Science majors with NIU alumni and friends of the department. The program is designed to provide you with invaluable professional development advice and opportunities by tapping into our pool of talented and successful friends of the department.



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

**Department of Political Science**

*College of Liberal Arts and Sciences*

# Degree Requirements

Our Political Science major requires 36 credit hours with a minimum of three freshman-sophomore level courses and additional courses taken at the 300 or 400 level. For more information about the different emphases and their respective courses, please see our website at [polisci.niu.edu](http://polisci.niu.edu).

Our courses satisfy requirements for various interdisciplinary minors including the minors in Environmental Studies, Black Studies, Global Studies, Chinese/Japanese Studies, Southeast Asian Studies, and Women and Gender Studies.

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Zulauf Hall, Room 415  
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[niu.edu/polisci](http://niu.edu/polisci)



## Pre-Law Studies and Accelerated Law

We offer the region's most comprehensive undergraduate public law program, staffed by three nationally recognized scholars (two of whom also hold law degrees) who specialize in public law topics and who have faculty affiliations with NIU College of Law. They offer a wide range of law-related courses that utilize diverse instructional methods such as seminar approaches, the traditional lecture format, the Socratic "case method" and online instruction.

Exceptional students have the opportunity to participate in our Accelerated Law Degree program, which offers the opportunity to earn both a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a J.D. degree in only six years, rather than seven. For more information about the accelerated law program, go to [niu.edu/law/academic/accelerated-program.shtml](http://niu.edu/law/academic/accelerated-program.shtml).

## Engaged Learning

Internships are integral to your success. Diverse internship opportunities are available, including positions with:

- Congressional and state legislative offices.
- Local, state and federal government offices.
- State's attorney and public defender offices.
- Political campaigns for national, state and local offices.
- Nonprofit organizations.
- Public interest law firms.
- Interest groups.

## Careers in Political Science

Political Science is a well-rounded, high-quality liberal arts major that provides a solid basis for intellectual and personal growth, civic participation and professional success. NIU political science majors have gone on to careers in:

- Law
- Public policy analysis
- Local, state and federal government
- Business
- Journalism
- Diplomacy
- Education
- Public service
- Intelligence
- Armed forces

