Are you interested in elections, international affairs or political economy? Do you want to learn more about the values and institutions that govern the United States and other countries? Do you want to acquire leadership and citizenship skills? If so, political science may be a great fit for you.

The department offers courses in each of the four main subfields of political science plus training in data analysis. The subfields are:

- American politics— the study of political behavior and institutions in the United States
- Comparative politics— the study of non-U.S. political behavior and institutions
- International relations— the study of relationships between countries
- Political theory— the study of the concepts and values that inform political life

**Pursuing Political Science at Ohio State**

All freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus; find admissions criteria at [go.osu.edu/admissions](http://go.osu.edu/admissions).

Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in political science within the College of Arts and Sciences.

Students majoring in political science at Ohio State should meet with their academic advisors as soon as possible. Advisors work with students to plan a course of study, including General Education (GE) courses and introductory and upper-level political science courses.

**Program Requirements**

Students can choose to pursue either a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science with a degree in political science.

The **BA in political science** offers students a wide range of opportunities to study the many dimensions of politics and government. Required courses include:

- at least one course in each of the four subfields of political science
- at least four courses in a subfield of focus

The **BS in political science** emphasizes methodological training and equips students to study and produce empirical research about politics. Required courses include:

- sequence of three core methodology courses
- additional elective methodology course
- at least one course in three out of the four subfields of political science

**Top-rated program**

In 2013, Ohio State’s Department of Political Science was ranked among the top 15 programs in the country and among the top 10 in three areas: international relations, American politics and political methodology. (U.S. News and World Report)

**Co-Curricular Opportunities**

The Department of Political Science offers a wide range of internship opportunities. Political science students have interned around the world and around the country, at every level of government as well as with law firms, lobbying groups, non-profit organizations and political campaigns.

Students in political science have the opportunity to be a part of more than 100 study abroad programs in more than 40 different countries. Three programs have exclusive partnerships with the department:

- The Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po) in Paris, France, specializes in political science, economics, history, sociology, law, finance, business, communication, social and urban policy, management, and journalism.
- The Canadian Parliament Internship Program is a five-week program during which interns work in the office of a Member of the Canadian Parliament.
- The Department of External Studies of the University of Oxford provides students the opportunity to study a variety of subjects in the British tradition of lectures and tutorials.

The Collegiate Council on World Affairs (CCWA), a student organization focusing on international politics and diplomacy, participates in activities such as Model United Nations, Model European Union, and Model African Union. CCWA hosts a mock conference and sends members to intercollegiate model UN competitions. Past conferences and competitions have been held at Georgetown University, Harvard University, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Chicago.

The Journal of Politics and International Affairs is published biannually by Undergraduate Political Science Organization.

**For more information, check these websites:**

- Political Science: [polisci.osu.edu](http://polisci.osu.edu)
- College of Arts and Sciences: [artsandsciences.osu.edu](http://artsandsciences.osu.edu)
- Ohio State: [osu.edu](http://osu.edu)
- Admissions: [undergrad.osu.edu](http://undergrad.osu.edu)
- Multicultural Center: [multiculturalcenter.osu.edu](http://multiculturalcenter.osu.edu)
- First Year Experience: [fye.osu.edu](http://fye.osu.edu)

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You may pursue independent research under the supervision of a faculty advisor or assist a world-renowned faculty member with his or her ongoing research.
Honors political science courses are offered at both the introductory and upper levels. The senior Honors thesis gives qualified students the opportunity to specialize in a topic of their own choosing and to work closely with a faculty supervisor. Recent Honors courses include:

- Supreme Court Decision Making
- Democracy in Muslim Majority Countries
- Politics and Ethics
- African Politics
- Data Analysis in Political Science

In addition, the faculty collaborate with other departments across campus to create unique interdisciplinary opportunities.

Career Prospects in Political Science

Graduates of the political science program receive a degree from a nationally-ranked department, in a discipline that is well-known for instilling strong critical reasoning, research and writing skills, and for training students who are curious and well-informed about the world in which they live.

Recent graduates have pursued advanced degrees at elite universities across the nation, including Harvard University, Stanford University and the University of Chicago, and have pursued careers in a variety of fields including law, business, political analysis and consulting, public policy, secondary and higher education, and journalism.

The data analysis skills that the Bachelor of Science provides will enhance students’ ability to pursue the careers traditionally associated with a political science degree.

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student will take to pursue a degree with a major in political science. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete General Education (GE) requirements. Because GE courses come from a variety of academic areas of study, this course work helps students develop fundamental skills essential to collegiate success and allows them to tailor these courses toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of many possible paths to a degree with a major in political science. Consult the departmental website, polisci.osu.edu, for details on the political science major.

Freshman Year:
Survey course 1
Pre-Political Science major 3
Political Science major course 3
GE courses 21–22
Electives and minor courses 3
**Total hours** 31–32

Sophomore Year:
Political Science major courses 9
GE courses 19–20
**Total hours** 28–29

Junior Year
Political Science major courses 9
Political Science methods elective 3
GE courses 13–14
Electives and minor courses 6
**Total hours** 31–32

Senior Year:
Political Science major courses 9
GE, electives and minor courses up to 23
**Total hours** up to 32

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Change the world
Political science will not only teach you what is happening in the world, but why—and how to change it.

Revised June 2014. Information subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the political science program, visit polisci.osu.edu.

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The Ohio State University