

POLITICAL SCIENCE, B.A.

Contact

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Mission

Our mission is to cultivate in our students a passion for understanding and solving political problems. Students work closely with faculty throughout their coursework, culminating in a major independent research project. Through this work, students will develop the imagination and skills in analysis and communication that prepare them for life after college.

Major Description

Political science is the study of the problems and opportunities that arise when people live together in communities of all sizes. Political scientists study government, citizenship, relations among nation-states, and theories of politics. Political science addresses fundamental issues confronting modern society — globalization, war, inequity, poverty, the environment — and seeks to evaluate the processes, policies, and theories that have been devised to deal with them. The Political Science program provides courses in theory, methods and case studies within the four sub-fields of political theory, comparative politics, international relations, and American politics, as well as many courses that cross subfields.

The Political Science major emphasizes the development of skills in effective writing and speaking, as well as creative problem solving — some of the most useful skills in a wide variety of careers in the public, non-profit and private sectors. These skills are also crucial to success in graduate school. Our small classes and abundant individual attention from faculty give students ample opportunity to hone those skills. Political Science is also an excellent choice for students planning to study politics, public policy or law at the graduate level.

The program also offers Political Science majors the opportunity to select all of the EDU secondary education certification courses (listed below) as their electives in order to become middle or high school teachers (grades 7–12) in the area of social studies.

Pre-Law Emphasis

The pre-law emphasis allows students interested in studying law to receive special advising and to develop a liberal arts program of study appropriate as preparation for admission to law school and success in the legal profession, and careers and jobs in various areas such as government, media, business, international affairs, foreign service, non-government organizations, and teaching. The study of law involves many aspects of social life and integrates many fields of study. Judges and lawyers are expected to handle different litigations, ranging from social to medical, environmental and other applications. Thus, law schools encourage students to have diverse undergraduate majors. UNE students who are majoring in any program can take advantage of the pre-law emphasis.

Although the choice of major is open, law schools expect students to have acquired skills that enable them to think critically, reason logically, and speak and write effectively. The Pre-law Advisor will help students build their interdisciplinary program of study that includes not only

humanities courses, but also courses in biology, environmental studies, psychology, and management.

Admissions

See Undergraduate Admissions (<https://catalog.une.edu/undergraduate/admissions/>) for more information.

Transfer Credit

See Undergraduate Admissions (<https://catalog.une.edu/undergraduate/admissions/>) for more information.

Financial Information

Tuition and fees for subsequent years may vary. Other expenses include books and housing. For more tuition and fee information, please consult this catalog's Financial Information (<https://catalog.une.edu/undergraduate/financial-information-undergraduate-programs/>) section.

Curricular Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Nor'easter Core Requirements		
Nor'easter Core Requirements (https://catalog.une.edu/undergraduate/core-curriculum/)		40
Program Required Courses		
PSC 105 or PSC 202	Intro Political Science	3
One Introductory level course in American Politics including:		3
PSC 101	Intro to American Politics	
PSC 103	Why American's Hate Politics (and sometimes Government)	
PSC 205	(Intro to Politics & Environment)	
One Introductory level course in Comparative Politics including:		3
PSC 110	Power & Knowledge: Inventing Traditions	
PSC 204	Intro Comparative Politics	
PSC 205	(Intro to Politics & Environment)	
One Introductory level course in International Relations including:		3
GLS 100	Introduction to Global Studies	
PSC 201	Intro Intern Relations	
PSC 240	American Foreign Policy	
PSC 241	The Role of Human Rights in World Politics	
One Introductory level course in Political Theory including:		3
PSC 200	Intro to Political Theory	
PSC 206		
PSC 207	(American Political Theory)	
One Advanced level course in American Politics (300-level or higher)		3
One Advanced level course in Comparative Politics (300-level or higher)		3
One Advanced level course in International Relations (300-level or higher) ¹		3
Three Electives with PSC Prefix (at least one must be 300- or 400-level) ¹		9
PSC 490	Senior Seminar	3
PSC 491	Integrative Essay	3

Open Elective Courses (Students complete open elective credits as necessary to meet the University's 120-credit minimum for graduation. The total number of elective credits required will depend on the student's completed program, core, and other degree requirements.) 41

Total Hours 120

¹ Exclusions may apply. Please consult your advisor for further clarification.

Please note: While some courses can fulfill both core and program requirements, the credits earned do not count twice towards the minimum total required credits for the degree.

Double majors or minors of all types are encouraged. All students can pursue internships and study abroad opportunities while majoring in political science.

Academic and Technical Standards

A grade point average of 2.00 is necessary to be approved to add a major in Political Science. A minimum grade of C- must be achieved in all courses used toward program requirements in Political Science.

See Undergraduate Academic Policy (<https://catalog.une.edu/undergraduate/academic-policy-regulations/>) also.

Learning Outcomes

At the Completion of this Major Students Will

- Have developed a mature political imagination which includes an ability to envision what constitutes an important political question/issue and to understand the various ways in which a political scientist might address such a question/issue.
- Have mastered essential facts relevant and necessary to the study of global political life. This involves a working knowledge of the key actors, structures, institutions and historical dynamics that constitute the contemporary political order. It also includes a broad familiarity with the historical roots of that order.
- Be able to think critically, analytically and rigorously about the world of politics.
- Have an informed sense of the historical dimension of the various political issues, developments, trends, theories and forms of inquiry relevant to the students' interests.
- Have an enlightened understanding of the multicultural nature of global (but especially American) political life.
- Be able to convey information, analyze results and persuasively argue, in both written and oral form, clearly and effectively.
- Be able to conduct sound and rigorous social inquiry using a variety of methodologies and techniques.
- Be able to compete successfully for placement in graduate programs or employment relevant to the field of study.

Direct Measures of Student Learning

- Capstone course
- Senior thesis
- Oral defense of senior thesis
- Internship supervisor evaluations
- Symposium presentations

- Annual program review of graded assignments and exams, and samples of student writing
- Performance on exams

Indirect Measures of Student Learning

- Admission rates into graduate programs
- Alumni and employer satisfaction
- End-of-course student evaluation forms