



Department of Political Science FAQs

1. What is the introductory course, POLS 104: Government and Politics like?

POLS 104 is the foundation of our department's curriculum. We've designed it to provide an engaging and thoughtful introduction to critical concepts and theories in political science, as well as an introduction to the methods used by political scientists. Specifically, this course provides a comparative examination of the political institutions, processes, and policy issues of a variety of political systems, with the United States as the primary case study. POLS 104 is a Writing-Intensive course and fulfills the Social Scientific Analysis requirement of the core curriculum.

2. What other disciplines do political science students tend to double-major or minor in?

It depends on your interests and goals. Many political science students double-major or minor in International Studies, Economics, History, or Justice and Peace Studies. We also have several interdisciplinary programs in the College of Arts and Sciences, such as American Culture and Difference or Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, which are often of interest to political science students.

3. What kinds of internships do political science students do?

We encourage and support internships, although they are not required nor linked to academic credit. Our students intern in a variety of settings, including the offices of United States Senators and members of the House of Representatives, the Governor's office, and the Minnesota Senate. Students also intern with political campaigns and non-profits. Our department places two interns per academic year with the Citizens League, a nonpartisan organization that champions the role of all Minnesotans to govern for the common good and promote democracy.

4. What do political science students do when they graduate?

So many interesting things! Some of our graduates do work that would be expected of someone with a political science major, such as working as a legislative assistant or communications director. They work in public policy or they head to law school. Since political science prepares you with many different skills, some of our graduates take a more corporate route and end up at Target Corporation, General Mills, or U.S. Bank. We have a strong alumni network within Minnesota and Washington, D.C.

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