Bachelor of Science – Political Science

School of Arts and Sciences

Political Science is an academic discipline that prepares students to use both humanistic and scientific approaches to understanding governments and other decision-making institutions, public policies, and political behavior, both in the United States and internationally. The major combines courses in American and international government systems with studies in law, civic rights, and political policies. The program enables students to choose from two concentrations, based on their own interests and career plans.

Pre-Law
This concentration gives students the background needed for application to law schools at the graduate level, in preparation for a J.D. degree. The program throughout emphasizes skills that U.S. law schools identify in their successful candidates for admission: critical thinking, clear written spoken communication, ability to work collaboratively, and a global perspective. Pre-Law advising includes co-curricular support in LSAT preparation, dialogues on legal issues, and career planning.

Public Policy and Advocacy
This concentration prepares students for active civic engagement and teaches ways they can have an impact on local and national governments at the grassroots level. The program offers a concrete application of Ursuline’s mission, as it calls students to identify their values, use their voice, and stretch their vision.

Course Requirements for Political Science Major
The Political Science major requires 36 credit hours. All students in the major are required to take 21 credits in these foundation courses: PO 106, 230, 420, 430, 475; MAT 212; and PH 331. In addition, all students in the major must select one of two concentrations, Pre-Law or Public Policy and Advocacy. In either concentration, students must take 3 courses, 3 credits each. The Pre-Law concentration includes PO 115, 210, and 310. The Public Policy and Advocacy concentration includes PO 220, 250, and 340. Also, all students in the major are required to select two courses, 3 credits each, from the following interdisciplinary offerings: PO 288/488, EC 102, EC 103, HI 208, HI/SO 215, HI 233, HI 342, PR 211, RS 360A, RS 360B, SO 319, SO 322, SW 318.

Required Coursework
PO 106 Introduction to American Government 3
PO 230 International Relations 3
PH 331 Social and Political Philosophy 3
MAT 212 Statistics 3
PO 420 Political Science Research Methods 3
PO 430 Law and Public Policy Seminar 3
PO 475 Academic Internship 3

Pre-Law Concentration
PO 115 Introduction to Law 3
PO 210 Civil Rights and Civil Liberties 3
PO 310/LS 310 Constitutional Law 3

Public Policy and Advocacy Concentration
PO 220 Civic Engagement 3
PO 250 Major Policy Issues 3
PO 340 Public Policymaking 3

Students Must Choose 2 Electives Courses, 3 Credits Each
PO 288/488 Special Topics 3
EC 102 Macroeconomics 3
EC 103 Microeconomics 3
HI 208 Survey of Middle Eastern History 3
SO 215 Civil Rights Movement 3
HI 233 History and Government of Ohio 3
HI 342 Modern Europe 3
PR 211 Public Opinion and Persuasion 3
RS 360A Peace and Justice 3
RS 360B Ecojustice 3
SO 319 Criminology 3
SO 322 Urban Sociology 3
SW 318 Policies, Program and Issues 3

Total Credits 36
Course Requirements for Political Science Minor

The Political Science minor requires 18 credit hours. All students in the minor are required to take 9 credits in these foundation courses: PO 106, PO 230 and PH 331. In addition, students in the minor must select 9 credits from these electives: PO 115, 210, 220, 250, 310, 340, 420 or 475.

Required Coursework

PO 106 Introduction to American Government 3
PO 230 International Relations 3
PH 331 Social and Political Philosophy 3

Students Must Choose 3 Electives Courses, 3 Credits Each

PO 115 Introduction to Law 3
PO 210 Civil Rights and Civil Liberties 3
PO 220 Civic Engagement 3
PO 250 Major Policy Issues 3
PO 310 Constitutional Law 3
PO 340 Public Policymaker 3
PO 420 Political Science Research Methods 3
PO 475 Internship 3

Total Credits 18

Career Opportunities

Students in Political Science are well qualified for exciting careers in law, business, public service, non-profit administration, politics, teaching, government, research analysis and grass roots engagement.