

The political science program encourages students who are interested in politics, history, law, or government to examine political institutions and analyze how they influence society, culture, and economics.

Featuring courses in American government, comparative politics, international relations, political theory and foreign policy, the political science undergraduate program allows students to select from several elective options to complete their degrees.

As a political science student, majors and minors develop analytical and problem-solving abilities and improve their communications skills. Undergraduates are able to evaluate the international dimensions of politics and put contemporary issues into historical context in order to build persuasive political arguments.

In addition to receiving a solid foundation for graduate school, Webster students who study political science go on to exciting careers in government, law, business, education, or politics.

## POINTS OF DISTINCTION

- With small classes of 25 students or fewer, student receive personalized attention from faculty
- An option degree emphasis in Public Law prepares students to examine the judiciary and legal system in the context of broader political structures and forces at both national and global levels
- Because the political science program is housed in a combined department, political science students get exposure to relevant work in history, international relations, and human rights
- Webster's partnering institutions offer opportunities for practicums and internships at organizations such as the Missouri General Assembly, World Trade Center St. Louis, and the office of Congressman William Lacy Clay

## BACHELOR OF ARTS POLITICAL SCIENCE



## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the program, students will be able to:

- Put contemporary political issues in historical context and use historical facts to build arguments about politics.
- Demonstrate familiarity with the political institutions and processes of the United States.
- Understand and evaluate the international and transnational dimensions of particular problems and policies.
- Demonstrate familiarity with several methods and analytical approaches used by political scientists to examine political institutions and processes.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 128 credit hours consisting of the following:

- 42 required credit hours in the Department of History, Politics, & International Relations
- 30 of the required 42 credit hours must be in political science, including INTL 1500, POLT 2600 or INTL 2700, a research requirement (completed by placing on file with the department a substantial research paper from an upper-level course or a senior thesis) and senior overview.
- 3 international language requirement credit hours
- Applicable University Global Citizenship Program hours
- Electives

Courses completed with a grade of D+ or below do not count toward fulfilling the specific course requirements of the major.

Political science students must take a minimum of 6 credit hours of HIST and at least 12 credit hours of upper-level coursework (3000-level or above) in the department, of which a minimum of 6 credit hours must be POLT.

At least 18 of the 42 credit hours must be taken at Webster University.

## CURRICULUM

Political science majors must complete at least 30 credit hours in political science\* including:

Core Courses (18 hours)

- **INTL 1500** The World System since 1500 (3 hours)
- **POLT 1060** Introduction to American Politics (3 hours)
- **POLT 1080** Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 hours)
- **POLT 1050** Introduction to International Relations (3 hours)
- **POLT 1070** Introduction to Political Theory (3 hours)
- or **HIST 3000** Ideas in History: History of Economic Thought (3 hours)
- **POLT 2600** Research Methods and Approaches in Political Science (3 hours) (INTL 2700 may be substituted)

### Additional Required Courses (12-13 hours)

- **POLT 4000** Research Requirement (0 hours) (to be taken in conjunction with a designated 3000-level or 4000-level course)
- **Senior overview** (0-1 hours)
- **History courses** (6 hours)
- **Departmental electives** (can include courses in POLT or INTL) (6 hours)

\* "Political science" includes courses labeled POLT (political science) and those labeled INTL (international relations).

HIST 1800 may not be used to satisfy the 42-credit-hour requirement in political science.

Teacher certification courses (HIST 3800, HIST 3810) may not be used to satisfy the upper-level coursework, methods, or practicum requirements. A maximum of 3 credit hours of individualized learning experiences (INDZ), practicum, or debate may be applied to the total upper-level coursework requirement. A maximum of 6 credit hours of INDZ, practicum, or debate may be applied to the total of 42 credit hours.

## ALUMNI CAREERS

Political science alumni have gone on to careers such as:

- Legal partner for Carpenter Moser, LLC
- Director of St. Louis County Election Board
- Network Controller for Defense Information Systems Agency
- Regional Digital Strategist at Stand for Children
- Associate Director of Undergraduate Recruitment at School of Science at Indiana University, Indianapolis
- Trade Marketing Representative for British American Tobacco



### ACCREDITATION

Webster University is accredited by  
The Higher Learning Commission  
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