

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE: Bachelor of Arts | Minor

Learn about everything from comparative politics and legal studies to governance and public policy analysis.

Studying political life is a fascinating - and vital - part of the liberal arts. Political science examines how humans organize their societies and make collective choices for the whole. When you pursue your Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in political science, you'll focus on the behavior of individuals (both ordinary people and leaders) and on the groups and institutions that humans use to make and implement public policy. Getting a bachelor's in political science from Creighton University will give you valuable skills that you can apply to a variety of career paths.

The Department of Political Science and International Relations prepares students to be independent and responsible citizens. The Department strives to strengthen these skills through classroom instruction, research and other department activities.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- Develop high-level analytical, problem-solving and critical thinking skills necessary for a rapidly changing world and gain the ability to manage and interpret information.
- Conduct research along-side faculty, participate in internships and engage in compelling dialogue through the Model UN and student government.
- Research, Design and Analysis track prepares students to excel in an emergent data science industry. Students have studied human trafficking in an effort to assist the FBI while others have focused on consumer research or STRATCOM internships.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Political Science Research Conference

Each spring students have the opportunity to attend the annual Political Science Student Research Conference held at various colleges and universities. You could present research papers and discuss your research with undergraduates from other schools. Every April, a group of students also travels to the Midwest Political Science Association meeting in Chicago to present their research.

Capitol Hill Internship Program

Through the Capitol Hill Internship Program (CHIP), you could spend a semester living and working in Washington, D.C., the hub of U.S. politics and international relations. You would work at a compelling internship 4 days a week (32 hours) and attend classes 1 day per week. Creighton's CHIP townhouse is a short walk from Capitol Hill, the Supreme Court, the House and Senate Office Buildings, Union Station (and its Metro station), the Capitol Mall and museums, restaurants and galleries.

State and Local Internships

The Department of Political Science and International Relations actively places students in internships with city, state and local government, as well as with local interest groups and nonprofits. During election years, many students also intern with local political campaigns.

CAREER OUTLOOK

The median salary of a political scientist in 2012 was \$104,000, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, well above the national average. Employment in the field is projected to grow 21% by 2022, faster than most occupations.

Graduates with a degree in political science are well suited for a variety of careers. Some enter the job market directly after completing their bachelor's degrees, and others enroll in graduate or professional programs.

CAREER OUTCOMES

Employment Opportunities

Creighton's political science program provides skills, knowledge and perspective appropriate for many different careers, including:

- Law
- Business
- Public administration
- Journalism or public relations
- Community service agencies
- Public affairs
- Education
- Military or intelligence and anti-terrorism
- Political campaign management or public office

Graduate Studies

Our students have gone on to some of the best graduate schools in the country, including:

- Harvard University
- Princeton University
- University of Michigan
- University of North Carolina
- University of Rochester

POLITICAL SCIENCE TRACKS

Four tracks are available through the department.

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Major in Political Science

- Political Science Track
- Public Policy Track
- Legal Studies Track
- Research Design and Analysis Track

For more details on the full curriculum, visit:

<http://catalog.creighton.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/political-science/#majorstext>

CLASSES FOR THE POLITICAL SCIENCE TRACK

Required PLS Major Courses

PLS 121	American Government And Politics	3
PLS 215	Comparative Political Systems	3
PLS 310	Political Science Research Methods	4
PLS 591	Senior Research Seminar In Political Science	3

Select 1 course from each of the following Political Science subfields:

American Government and Politics

PLS 321	American Tribal Indian Government and Politics	3
PLS 323	Campaign Management	
PLS 328	Mass Media In American Politics	
PLS 465	Faith and Political Action	

Complete option listing on catalog entry

Comparative Politics

PLS 303	Politics Of Russia And The USSR Successor States	3
PLS 313	Politics of the Middle East	
PLS 316	Government and Politics of People's Republic of China	
PLS 411	Politics of Africa	

Complete option listing on catalog entry

International Relations

PLS 341	Issues And Challenges In American Foreign Policy	3
PLS 342	Foreign Policy And Diplomacy Of Major Powers	
PLS 343	National Security and Strategic Studies	
PLS 472	International Conflict	

Complete option listing on catalog entry

Political Philosophy and Theory

PLS 357	Alternative Political Futures	3
PLS 360	Liberal Democracy And Its Critics	
PLS 362	Conservative Political Thought	
PLS 459	Marxism	

Complete option listing on catalog entry

Public Policy and Law

PLS 333	Environmental Politics And Policy	3
PLS 334	Public Policy and Healthcare	
PLS 372	Equality, Minorities, And Public Policy	
PLS 433	Public Policy Analysis	

Complete option listing on catalog entry

Upper-level Electives

Select 6 additional credits in Political Science at or above the 200 level. 6

Total Credits 34

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Pi Sigma Alpha

Creighton's award-winning chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society, was established in 1977 and is popular with international relations majors. Members organize student-faculty events and bring speakers to campus. Since 2000, seven Creighton students have been awarded "Best Paper" or "Best Thesis Paper" by Pi Sigma Alpha's national office.

Journal of Political Research

Creighton's Journal of Political Research is student-led and student-edited. The journal publishes research papers written by undergraduate students from across the country.

International Relations Club

The International Relations Club (IRC) is ideal if you have special interests in international politics. The IRC sponsors speakers, campus crisis simulations and award-winning delegations to Model United Nations conferences across the country and around the world.

Model United Nations

Creighton's Model United Nations team participates in several Model UN conferences throughout the year. Students have traveled to conferences in Boston, Montreal, Chicago, Turkey, Germany, Egypt, Japan, Korea, Brazil and Singapore.

Public Affairs Colloquium

Several times a semester, students and faculty gather over lunchtime for speakers, research presentations or discussion on current political topics. The colloquium is a great opportunity for informal interaction by students, faculty and staff.