



**ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**
Illinois' first public university

POLITICS *and* GOVERNMENT

POLITICAL SCIENCE

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Politics and Government offers majors in political science and legal studies. We maintain 15 to 20 tenure/tenure-track faculty members annually, while serving 300 majors and 150 minors. We offer political science classes in the following areas: American Government, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political Theory, Public Administration, and Research Methodology. Legal studies courses are geared to help students prepare for a paralegal career. Paralegals may not provide legal services directly to the public except as permitted by law. The ISU legal studies program is approved by the American Bar Association.

POLITICAL SCIENCE CURRICULUM

Overview

- 120 credits to graduate from Illinois State
- 42 credits of senior-level courses (200- and 300-level courses)
- 39 credits of general education (13 classes, no MC-ICL req.)
- B.S. or B.A. requirement
- Foreign language requirement (must complete LAN 112, unless you had three years of the same foreign language in high school)

The major

Political science major requires 40 credit hours (eight required, six elective)

The eight required courses are:

- POL 100: INTRO TO POLITICS (3 HOURS)
- POL 106: U.S. GOVERNMENT (3 HOURS)
- POL 140: COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT (3 HOURS)
- POL 150 or 151: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (3 HOURS)
- POL 161: POLITICAL THEORY (3 HOURS)
- POL 138: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY (3 HOURS)
- POL 296: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (1 HOUR)
- POL 398A01: PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE (3 HOURS MINIMUM)
- The electives must consist of four, 200-level courses and two, 300-level POL courses.
- The minimum 18 senior hours (200- and 300-level courses) within the major exclude major required internship. A maximum of six professional practice credits count toward the major.
- A double major is strongly advised.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

The department requires POL 296, a one-credit hour, nine-week course that is to be taken prior to the required internship. This is a professional development course where students will create a resume, develop mock interview skills, receive information on graduate and law schools, and receive further prep for the required internship.

Upon completion of the professional development course students, will be required to fulfill three credit hours of an internship (one credit hour is equal to 45 work hours). The internship will provide students with valuable career experience. The department has a faculty internship director for each major who works with political science students seeking and securing their internship. The department posts requests from a variety of different governmental agencies but also expects students to finalize their own placement.

OUT-OF-CLASSROOM OPPORTUNITIES

Today's current job climate requires students to broaden their educational experience by getting hands-on training. It also allows students to network with individuals that may benefit them in the future. Here are just a few of the out-of-classroom experiences found in the Department of Politics and Government:

Political science related

Model UN—Students simulate the activities of actual countries at the United Nations. The experience culminates in a trip to the United Nations in New York.

Political Science Student Conference—Students present papers in a professional conference setting. ISU students organize the conference that is attended by students from colleges and universities across the world.

Study abroad opportunities—Exchange programs in different countries such as Peru, England, Sweden, Australia, Italy, Germany, Russia, France, and others

Domestic educational travel opportunities—Specialized programs to national party conventions and civic engagement trips in Washington D.C. in conjunction with the American Democracy Project.

Active membership in student organizations—You can join many groups that pursue interests in politics.

- Campus chapters for political parties—Democrat, Independent, Republican
- Campus chapters for specific interest groups—ACLU, NAACP, Pi Sigma Alpha
- Campus groups to pursue specific interests—Environmental, Peace, Religion
- Student governance groups—Student Government Association, Residence Hall Association, Academic Senate, college and departmental committees

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

There are several highly competitive awards available through the Department of Politics and Government at Illinois State University. Please visit the department website to view the different scholarships and awards.

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

The department, in conjunction with Honors, is proud to offer Honors in the Major. Students who meet the rigorous academic standards may qualify to earn this graduation distinction.

In order to graduate with honors in Politics and Government a student must complete the requirements for the political science major; three hours of in-course honors; POL 302: Honors Seminar; three hours of POL 299: Honors Independent Study; and have a major GPA of at least 3.5.

SAMPLE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Advocate/organizer
Budget analyst
Campaign worker
CIA agent
City housing administrator
City planner/manager
Community relations director
Congressional staff
County board member
Development director
Diplomat
Economic development officer
FBI agent
Federal agency employee
Foreign affairs specialist
Fundraiser
Government relations manager
Human resources specialist
Human rights officer
Intelligence specialist
International research specialist
Labor relations specialist
Lawyer
Legislative director
Lobbyist
Mediator
Parole/probation officer
Police officer
Policy analyst
Political consultant
Politician
Public affairs specialist
Public relations
Social services advocate
State agency employee
State governor's office
State legislator
Strategic planning consultant
Teacher
U.S. Embassy or United Nations
Urban policy planner