

ABOUT THE MAJOR

Are you interested in understanding how laws and policies affect peoples' lives? Do you care about community engagement and social change? If so, then political science is a great fit for you! As a political science major, you will study a broad range of topics related to the world of politics. You can analyze different types of regimes and learn how people organize, administer, and seek to improve their governments. You can also customize your major by selecting from four emphasis areas: Community Involvement & Nonprofit Leadership, International Politics, Public Policy, and Law & Politics. You will gain the analytical, problem-solving, decision-making, research, and communication skills needed to find professional success in public, private, and nonprofit sectors. This major provides excellent preparation to pursue advanced studies in law, public policy and administration, and/or careers in business, government, law, media, education, or public service, among others.




LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understand political ideas, institutions, policies, and behaviors across the globe
- Apply major concepts and theories to the study of politics
- Identify, analyze, and assess information from a variety of sources and perspectives
- Craft compelling arguments and present them verbally and in writing
- Possess the research and communication skills necessary to understand and participate in the world of politics
- Be prepared for entry-level positions in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors or to undertake graduate study

PLAN & PREPARE

At the U, we plan for our students to have an Exceptional Educational Experience identified by four broad categories we call the Learning Framework: Community, Knowledge & Skills, Transformation, and Impact. This major map will help you envision, explore, design, and plan your personalized Exceptional Educational Experience with the Learning Framework at the core. In addition to assisting you in planning your coursework and navigating the requirements of your major, this map will help you incorporate other kinds of experiences to expand your knowledge, support your development, and prepare you for the future you want.

GET STARTED TODAY

-  Schedule an appointment with an advisor: advising.utah.edu
-  Visit ugs.utah.edu
-  Learn more about the Learning Framework: ugs.utah.edu/learning-framework



260 South Central Campus Drive
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"My education in Political Science from the University of Utah allowed me to understand national and international political dynamics. It prepared me to be a leader in the fight for equality and equity for all."

*>> Candelario Saldana Associate Attorney;
Cadwalader, Wickersham, & Taft LLP*

POLS

POLITICAL SCIENCE

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE



Community



Knowledge & Skills



Transformation



Impact

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Use this map to explore, envision, design, and plan your Exceptional Educational Experience.

GETTING STARTED

MAKING PROGRESS

FINISHING UP

WHERE CAN I GO AFTER GRADUATION?

COURSES

- Meet with an advisor
- Complete WRTG 2010 - Intermediate Writing & POLS 1100 - US National Government
- Join a learning community like LEAP, BlockU, Diversity Scholars, & the Honors College

- Complete 3 POLS Introductory courses (POLS 2100, 2200, 2300, or 2700)
- Consider an area of emphasis, second major, minor, or certificate
- Check your progress towards graduation in DARS¹

- Complete upper-division POLS courses based on personal interests & career goals
- Explore for-credit Hinckley Internship courses or research opportunities
- Meet with an advisor to stay on track

- Complete all required courses
- Finish your internship, research project, or thesis if applicable
- Meet with an advisor to stay on track
- Apply for graduation

COMMUNITY

- Attend PlazaFest to learn more about student organizations & connect with students who share your interests
- Follow @UofUPoliScience on Facebook, Instagram, & Twitter for updates

- Join the POLS Student Advisory Committee
- Attend Hinckley Political Forum Series
- Get connected with student government through ASUU²

- Apply for leadership within ASUU or campus clubs
- Engage in mentorship by becoming an orientation leader, peer advisor, college ambassador, or solutions scholar

- Become a student member of a professional association aligned with your major like the American Political Science Association
- Get involved with the Alumni Association

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

- Learn to use online tools like CIS & Degree Dashboard
- Become familiar with academic resources like the Marriott Library, the Writing Center, the Math Lab, & the Learning Center

- Connect with faculty members to identify possible research opportunities
- Take a related research methods course such as POLS 3001, 3005, or 5001
- Explore double major or minor

- Become a research assistant
- Apply for research opportunities through UROP³
- Gain new skills by taking courses or workshops outside of your major

- Present or publish research
- Attend an academic or professional conference
- Take test prep courses for graduate school applications (GRE, GMAT, LSAT, etc.)

TRANSFORMATION

- Attend Hinckley Political Forums
- Attend a Learning Abroad 101 session
- Meet with your advisor to discuss goal-setting that goes beyond the classroom

- Take a for-credit Hinckley course such as HNKLY 3160, 3910, or 4914
- Embark on a Learning Abroad experience
- Utilize faculty office hours

- Compete in Hinckley Talks through the Hinckley Institute
- Attend the Learning Abroad Returnee Student Panel
- Keep copies of the projects & assignments you are most proud of

- Participate in graduation ceremonies
- Create a portfolio (hard copy or digital)
- Complete a national or global internship
- Submit to the *Hinckley Research Journal*

IMPACT

- Explore volunteer opportunities with the Bennion Center & other community partners
- Apply to participate in Alternative Breaks
- Join the First Year Service Corps

- Enroll in a Community Engaged Learning Course
- Participate in the Campus Dialogue series with the Hinckley Institute
- Make a difference every week with regular volunteer service

- Apply to be a Student Leader within the Bennion Center
- Become a CSBS⁴ Ambassador
- Seek leadership opportunities with campus, campaign, & nonprofit organizations

- Lead an Alternative Breaks trip
- Write a thesis based on your community engaged learning, service, or internship experience
- Become a mentor to other students

CAREER

- Meet with a Career Coach in CPDC⁵ to explore your strengths, values, & career interests
- Expand your network by creating LinkedIn, AlumniFire, & Handshake accounts

- Attend CPDC events like Career Treks and Meet & Eats
- Attend career fairs & expos
- Create a resume & have it reviewed by a Career Coach

- Establish relationships with faculty so they can efficiently serve as references in the future
- Secure an internship or part-time job in an area of interest
- Conduct informational interviews with faculty, staff, & alumni

- Refine your resume & application materials with the help of a Career Coach
- Practice interviewing skills
- Apply for jobs &/or graduate programs

- Activism
- Campaign Management
- Consulting
- Data Analyst
- Federal Government (FEMA, FBI, etc.)
- Graduate School
- International & Foreign Services
- Law School
- Legal & Judicial Services
- Museums/Public History
- National Park Services
- Nonprofit Sector
- Public Office & Relations
- Public Policy
- Research Associate Work
- Social Services
- State & Local Government
- Teaching (Secondary or Higher Education)
- Think Tanks
- Volunteer Coordination