

POLITICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM

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ABOUT THE POLITICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM AND MAJOR

The UW-Platteville Department of Social Sciences offers a major and minor in political science. Political science is the study of governmental institutions and decision-making in the political arena and part of the liberal arts approach to education. It focuses on political systems by examining American institutions, public law, public policy, political theory/philosophy, political behavior, comparative politics, and international relations.

Students in political science learn to develop and hone their critical thinking, analytical, and writing skills. They are asked to learn to question, analyze, and consider solutions to political problems. Research abilities are important for future individual and professional success. Students also participate in various high-impact learning experiences (including internships, independent study, and/or study abroad programs).

MISSION STATEMENT

The political science program enables its majors to improve substantially their understanding of themselves and the world. The department seeks to educate students to have knowledge and appreciation of politics, the development of political thought and governance, and the essential knowledge of their chosen fields. It attempts to enable students to live more meaningfully in the world. The department seeks to prepare its graduates for employment and/or advanced study and to stimulate students to anticipate their future roles as professionals and engaged citizens.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Graduates will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of various theoretical perspectives in Political Science courses.
2. Develop critical thinking and analytical skills (lower order and higher order) and be able to identify similarities & differences among various political institutions & processes.
3. Be able to communicate effectively using academic language from various disciplinary & theoretical perspectives.
4. Demonstrate a proficient use of methodological approaches specific to Political Science.
5. Garner learning experiences via high-impact practices (including internships, independent study, and/or study abroad programs) prior to graduation.
6. Analyze the role of diversity and interlocking systems of power in shaping public opinion, public policy, and everyday practices of citizenship. Diversity is understood here in its broadest terms including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, religion, ability status, socioeconomic status, immigration status and other forms of difference.

MAJORS

- Political Science Major, B.A. (<https://catalog.uwplatt.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-education/social-sciences/political-science/ba/>)
- Political Science Major, B.S. (<https://catalog.uwplatt.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-education/social-sciences/political-science/bs/>)

MINOR

- Political Science Minor (<https://catalog.uwplatt.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-education/social-sciences/political-science/minor/>)

CERTIFICATE

- Law Certificate (<https://catalog.uwplatt.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-education/social-sciences/political-science/law-certificate/>)

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

- Political Science Major, Four-Year Plan (<https://catalog.uwplatt.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts-education/social-sciences/political-science/four-year-plan/>)

FACULTY AND LECTURERS

Additional information about the Faculty and Lecturers below may be found in the Faculty and Academic Staff (<https://catalog.uwplatt.edu/faculty-academic-staff/>) section of this catalog.

Hammermeister, Nancy K.

Nelson, Travis B.

Sapleton, Shan J.