



Political Science Student Resource Guide

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<https://sbs.arizona.edu/advising/student/login.php>

- select Political Science

Why Study Political Science?

Are you interested in American politics? Fascinated by international affairs? Stimulated by critical issues such as health care, the environment, or civil rights? Do you want to study these subjects and pursue a career based on your interests? If so, you should consider selecting political science as your major.

Political science is the study of government and public policy and of the political behavior of individuals and groups. Political science uses both humanistic and scientific perspectives to examine the United States, all countries and regions of the world, and international relations. The study of political science begins with survey courses on American political institutions, comparative politics, international relations, and political theory. These courses not only introduce students to concepts in politics, policy issues, and the structure of governments and the relationships among societies and nations, but they also impart analytical and communication skills. Further study of political science includes advanced courses on more specific institutions, policies and aspects of political life throughout the world. Because of its breadth and diversity, political science is a very popular undergraduate major.

Political science majors qualify for many different careers in private and public sector organizations, including careers in business, the law, state, local and federal government, journalism, international organizations and finance, political campaigns, interest groups and associations, and teaching at the primary, secondary and college levels. Political science training also provides valuable preparation for participation in community organizations, electoral politics, social movements, and even seeking elected or appointed positions.

The political science major assumes no special background or technical expertise beyond a general knowledge of civics and government such as is commonly provided in most secondary schools via social studies and history courses. Since most political science courses involve a substantial writing component, students should be able to write clearly and coherently

Useful Resources:

sgpp.arizona.edu: School of Government and Public Policy website; you should visit this site for all information related to the School and your major

POL Majors listserv: official advising communication tool – if you do not read messages sent to the listserv, you will miss important information

Academic Advising Report: the official planning guide for your degree; can be found on UAccess student in the drop down box; should review periodically and bring any questions to your advisor

Academic Catalog: academic policies, calendars, minor requirements, and general University information
<http://catalog.arizona.edu/allcats.html>

Schedule of Classes: use this to plan your schedule and determine which courses are being offered each semester
<http://www.arizona.edu/information/current-students/academics/registering-classes>

Think Tank: the one-stop-shop for all things tutoring and academic support, located in the Nugent Building
<http://www.studentaffairs.arizona.edu/thinktank/>

email.arizona.edu: your official communication tool with the University; you need to check this regularly as this is the only address the University will send important information to