Admission

Students are admitted to the major when they apply for admission to the University of Arizona.

Continuing students in good academic standing can declare a political science major by attending a major information session.

Sessions are held at the beginning and end of the spring and fall semesters. Session dates are posted at sgpp.arizona.edu.
What is Political Science?

Aristotle called politics the master science. We may be prejudiced, but we think he was right. The study of politics is the study of people and societies struggling with great and enduring issues – war and peace, order and freedom, and justice and equality. Understanding how and why those issues are resolved, or fail to be resolved, is at the heart of what we study.

We believe that there is nothing more fundamentally important to social life than understanding how we as individuals and as a society address these issues through the political process.

Through their examination of theories and practices of governments and politics, students develop humanistic and scientific perspectives to think critically about public policies and their consequences and to make sense of the many complex ways in which domestic and global political forces shape their lives. They develop the analytical abilities to evaluate individual, group, and mass behavior in political settings.

Major Concentrations

Students may choose from a wide variety of concentrations within the political science major. These concentrations are taught by qualified and experienced faculty who are experts in their fields.

- American Politics
- Ideas and Methods
- Comparative Politics
- International Relations
- Foreign Affairs
- Law and Public Policy

For more information about the political science major requirements, please visit sgpp.arizona.edu.

Internship Opportunities

We grant academic credit for internships served in specific governmental agencies and other public institutions. Our students have interned with Tucson Chamber of Commerce; Pima County Attorney’s Office; Public Defender’s Office; International Rescue Committee; United Nations Association of Southern Arizona; MADD court monitoring program; Department of State in Washington, D.C. and abroad; congressional offices; and the White House.

Internships can present an invaluable opportunity to:

- Apply knowledge gained in the classroom in professional situations
- Assess skills and abilities in a professional setting and narrow areas of interest
- Network and secure connections for future employment
- Build experience that can be reflected on a professional résumé

Careers in Political Science

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 those seeking elected or appointed positions.

Study Abroad

Many political science students study abroad. Students may choose from a variety of 60 UA programs and countless UA-affiliated or non-UA-affiliated programs. SGPP has direct UA study abroad programs in the Ukraine and China, and we are a member school for the American University’s Washington Semester Program.

Please consult with your academic advisor for course applicability.

For more information on these programs, please visit studyabroad.arizona.edu american.edu