



## **POLITICAL SCIENCE** | COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

### **B.A. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Are you interested in American politics? International affairs? Critical issues such as health, the environment and civil rights? What about theories concerning the ideal government and how power and resources are allocated in society? If you'd like to explore these subjects and pursue a career based on your interests, consider pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

Political science is the study of governments, public policies and political behavior. Political science uses both humanistic and scientific perspectives and skills to examine the United States and all countries and regions of the world.

As a political science major, you will hone the writing, communications and analytical skills that are critical to a liberal arts education. This kind of education will prepare you to think critically and independently, with tolerance for others and concern for current affairs.

### **DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

Completion of a B.A. in political science requires a minimum of 120 credit hours and a minimum 2.0 grade point average. Political science majors must also meet the general education requirements as established by the College of Arts and Sciences.

### **COURSEWORK**

Courses are offered in the areas of political theory and philosophy; American political institutions and processes; international relations and foreign policy; and comparative politics.

Select Political Science Courses:

- Introduction to American Government
- Analyzing Politics
- Analysis of International Politics
- Classical Political Thought
- Development of American Political Thought
- U.S. Congress
- American Presidency
- United States Foreign Policy
- Western European Politics

A statistics course is also required.

Students should consult with the department for additional information concerning prerequisites, course content and academic counseling.

### **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

The political science program is known for its engaged faculty members who challenge students to think about politics and policies from a different perspective.

Faculty members are committed to student engagement and seek multiple opportunities to interact with students outside the classroom, whether it is an interesting event with one of our student groups or a field trip to Chicago.

Faculty members believe in learning opportunities outside of the classroom and frequently mentor students as they participate in undergraduate research conferences. Students are encouraged to pursue study abroad opportunities. Many opportunities exist to engage in research one-on-one with faculty members. Such experiences outside of the traditional classroom setting are an exciting way to enhance learning and student engagement.

### **WHAT CAN I DO WITH A B.A. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE?**

The B.A. in political science prepares students to assume the duties of citizenship by providing a broad educational base for understanding past and contemporary political events and provides special knowledge and skills useful in public service, law, journalism, and other careers. The degree lays a foundation for the scholarly study of government and politics. Many graduates go on to law school or graduate school to further pursue the disciplines of political science and public affairs.

### **HANDS-ON LEARNING**

Students are encouraged to participate in research with faculty mentors. There are a number of venues both at IU Northwest and across the state of Indiana in which undergraduate students are encouraged to present their unique research papers addressing pertinent contemporary problems and issues.

In addition, students are encouraged to seek internships, as they are an excellent means of gaining real-world experience, developing a professional network, and choosing a career option upon graduation. In addition, the process of securing an internship teaches valuable career-search skills.

### **CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES**

The political science program maintains a chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society, as well as an International Affairs Club and Pre-law Society. All organizations are intended to assist students in their professional development.

### **RELATED DEGREE OPTION**

- Minor in Political Science

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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