

POLITICAL SCIENCE, B.S.

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

PROGRAM CURRENTLY ON HOLD AND NOT ACCEPTING NEW STUDENTS AT WORLD CAMPUS.

Begin Date of Enrollment Hold: May 1, 2025

PROGRAM AVAILABLE AT UNIVERSITY PARK CAMPUS.

Program Description

The Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science emphasizes the technical aspects of political science knowledge development and application. In addition to broad coursework in political science, students will complete courses in statistics and research design, advanced classes in social science methods and upper level political science courses that employ quantitative research skills in exploring substantive themes. Students have the opportunity to complete either a research practicum within the Political Science Department, an internship or a TA-ship. This degree will serve students who are interested in political science from the point of view of the practitioner, as well as those who are interested in acquiring practical skills relevant to a variety of careers in politics, government and business.

What is Political Science?

Political science is one of the social sciences. It is the study of systems of governance and governmental institutions, political activity, political thought, and political behavior. Political science draws from many other academic disciplines, including economics, law, sociology, history, philosophy, geography, psychology, and anthropology. There also are subfields of political science, such as comparative politics, political theory, international relations, international law, public administration, and public policy. Political science students study how American government works (and doesn't work) and what can be done to improve government at the federal, state, and local level. In comparative government and international relations coursework, students study the politics and policies of other countries. Political theory courses examine the ideas of famous political philosophers, while courses on law and the legal process provide knowledge about the criminal justice and civil litigation systems.

You Might Like This Program If...

You are an active learner interested in politics, government, policy or business and you enjoy solving problems and the elegance of the scientific method. You might also choose the Bachelor of Science if you are interested in working as a lobbyist, campaign strategist, or policy analyst. This program will enable you to develop a portfolio of concrete and immediately marketable set of skills that are increasingly necessary for employments in these fields