Political scientists study topics such as the exercise of power and influence; sources and resolution of conflicts; the relation of politics to the economy, culture, and other aspects of society; the adoption and implementation of public policies; and the development of political systems. These topics are studied at all levels, from local communities to the global community.

The scope of the discipline is reflected in the main areas of specialization that make up the undergraduate curriculum: political theory, comparative government and politics, international relations, and American governmental systems and processes.

In addition, undergraduates may choose from several optional concentrations: business and politics; campaigns and elections; citizenship and civic action; global politics; law and politics; democratization and development; political psychology, beliefs, and behavior; and public affairs.

**Preparatory Coursework**

All students must complete one 1xxx course in political science with a grade of C- or better before admittance to the major.

**Degree Requirements**

Students must complete at least 120 credits to graduate, including at least 32 credits in the major.

The 32 credits must include at least 24 upper division credits. The required 3xx or 4xx courses must include at least one course in each of three of the following four subfields: political theory, comparative government, American government, and international relations. Up to 6 credits of internship and fieldwork courses can be counted toward the 24 credit upper division requirement.

In order to receive credit toward the major, all coursework must be taken A-F and grades of C- or better must be achieved.

New advanced standing (NAS) students and transfer students from outside the University's Twin Cities campus must complete at least 12 3xx or 4xx in political science courses on the Twin Cities campus before graduation.

University students who enroll in a study abroad program through the Global Campus, the National Student Exchange Program, or elsewhere and who plan to take political science courses at other universities may transfer no more than twelve (12) upper division political science credits into their major program here.

**Optional Concentrations**

Students may earn an optional concentration designation by completing at least four courses from one of the concentrations listed below:

- **Business and politics**: Pol 3085, 3110, 3352, 4308, 4315, 4327, 4331, 4481, 4483, 4523, 4833, 4889
- **Campaigns and elections**: Pol 3085, 3110, 3225, 3352, 3766, 4306, 4308, 4331, 4461, 4483, 4737, 4767
- **Citizenship and civic action**: Pol 3110, 3210, 3215, 3225, 3235, 3251, 3252, 3253, 3323, 3739, 3873, 4210, 4275, 4303, 4322, 4502, 4766, 4483, 4485, 4487, 4885
- **Global politics**: Pol 3110, 3235, 3441, 3451, 3477, 3835, 3872, 3873, 4461, 4467, 4471, 4473, 4477, 4478, 4479, 4485, 4832, 4833, 4836, 4881, 4883, 4885, 4887, 4889
- **Law and politics**: Pol 3110, 3225, 3252, 3253,
You have not declared a major until you have:
- completed a Major Program Form with your major adviser
- filed a copy with the major department
- filed a copy with your CLA student community
- be sure to keep a copy for yourself.

Final Project
Students must enroll in Pol 4900 and submit a senior project or paper to the faculty supervisor. The paper or project should be completed in conjunction with an upper division political science elective.

Minor Requirements
Students must complete at least four courses, totaling at least 16 credits. Students must take at least one course in two of the following four subfields: (A) political theory, (B) comparative government, (C) American government, and (D) international relations. International relations majors must take at least two upper-division courses in political theory and/or American government. Only one course may be transferred into the minor.

A maximum of 8 credits at the 1xxx level may be applied toward the minor. The following courses cannot count toward fulfillment of the advanced coursework requirement: Pol 3070—Faculty-Supervised Individual Field Work, Pol 3080—Faculty-Supervised Individual Internships, and Pol 4970—Individual Reading and Research.

How do I declare a political science major?
You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits.

1. Talk with someone from the department: an adviser or a professor, to learn more about the major and its requirements.

2. When you decide upon political science as a major, meet with the undergraduate adviser in the department to complete a Major Program form.

3. Bring a copy of the form to your CLA student community.

4. If you decide to change your major, inform the department of political science of your decision. Contact your CLA student community to learn about your new major’s declaration process.

What can I do with a major in political science?

Skills
Political science majors develop skills that are applicable to a wide variety of careers. These skills include:

- Verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to formulate clear and persuasive messages
- Listening, clarifying, questioning and responding skills
- Ability to work well with diverse groups

Employment
Common areas of employment for this major include but are not limited to:

- Government—public information, campaigns, research
- Media—writing, editing, public relations, management
- Business—marketing, human resources, sales, international business, consulting
- Public Relations and Advertising—corporate public affairs, lobbying
- Education—teaching, research, admissions, advising, student affairs
- Nonprofit—fundraising, programming, management

In addition, like many CLA majors, a degree in political science can provide a good foundation for students who wish to pursue graduate studies in many different fields.

The Career & Community Learning Center provides students with the tools to identify and pursue potential careers. An extensive resource room, the CLA Link website, career courses and workshops, and a helpful staff are just some of the ways we can help.

Career & Community Learning Center
135 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-7577
http://www.cclc.umn.edu

Remember!
You have not declared a major until you have:

- completed a Major Program Form with your major adviser
- filed a copy with the major department
- filed a copy with your CLA student community
- be sure to keep a copy for yourself
About the political science major:
Undergraduate Advising
1482 Social Science
(612) 624-8517
http://www.polisci.umn.edu/

About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:
CLA Social Sciences Student Community
575 Heller Hall
(612) 626-7714
http://socialsci.cla.umn.edu
socsci@class.cla.umn.edu

or
CLA Martin Luther King, Jr. Program
19 Johnston Hall
(612) 625-2300
http://www.mlk.umn.edu/
mlk@class.cla.umn.edu

About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:
Career and Community Learning Center
135 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-7577
www.cclc.umn.edu
cclc@class.cla.umn.edu

About graduation with honors:
Students interested in graduating with honors should contact:
CLA Honors Division
115 Johnston Hall
(612) 624-5522
www.cla.umn.edu/honors/
honors@class.cla.umn.edu