

Political Science

at Benedictine University

Why study political science at Benedictine?

When you choose to major in political science at Benedictine University, you will:

- Develop the ability to deal with extensive writing and research projects useful in your future career
- Have opportunities for practical work experience through internship programs in business or government agencies
- Choose among program concentrations in pre-law, international relations, and American politics and government
- Join our award-winning National Model United Nations team at the annual conference in New York. Benedictine's Model UN teams have captured the highest honors possible and have taken on the challenging task of representing three countries
- Be able to compete against other colleges in mock trial competitions
- Have small classes taught by professors using a wide range of approaches, including information technology, film and student problem solving
- Have access on campus to a government depository library with a large collection of government documents for research
- Work with a faculty advisor who has an extensive background in the legal profession and/or law school
- Take advantage of internship and other opportunities in the Center for Civic Leadership and Public Service led by Distinguished Fellow Jim Ryan

What does a degree in political science at Benedictine offer?

Our program in political science is designed to help you discover politics as a field of knowledge. The faculty attempt to communicate both theoretical and practical knowledge of political systems and their processes. The program meets your varying needs by:

- Preparing you for a professional career in government or business
- Providing a good background if you plan to go on to law school
- Preparing you for graduate-level studies in political science or related areas
- Developing a strong understanding of the concept of citizenship and commitment to service

What careers are available with a political science degree?

Your career opportunities with a degree in political science include jobs in national, state and local governments (such as urban planning, city management, staffing and budgeting), journalism, teaching and in organizations that monitor the political processes or seek to influence the content of public policy. Also, you may choose to enter an advanced degree program for political science, law, public administration or business management. Benedictine graduates have been accepted into law schools accredited by the American Bar Association.

How does the program work?

As a political science major, you will complete at least 36 credit-hours (12 courses) in political science subjects and nine credit-hours in other social science subjects in addition to the basic college requirements for graduation. In the departmental core, you will develop a knowledge of the principles of politics, law, American national government, the judicial system, state and local government, social science research methods and how to research and write a thesis paper. You will also acquire basic knowledge of related social sciences by completing at least one course each in sociology, psychology and economics. Your courses will vary according to the concentration you choose. Following are sample programs for various concentrations.

Political science students can focus on international relations or American politics and government, or concentrate in pre-law. Taught by dedicated teacher-scholars, the political science program prepares you for graduate school in a number of disciplines, or a career in law, politics or business, among others.

Recommended Program

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (General)

FRESHMAN

Writing Colloquium	3
Mathematics (MATH S105, S108 or S110)	3
American Government (Pre-law students should take PLSC 128-What it is like to be a lawyer)	3
Core elective	3
Natural Science core elective	3
	15

Basic Speech Communication	3
Research Writing	3
Core elective, Model U.N. or Mock Trial	3
Law and Politics or Judicial Process	3
Natural Science core elective	3
	15

JUNIOR

Political Science electives	6
Survey of Psychology	3
Literature core elective	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 240)	3
	15

Political Science elective	3
Internship (PLSC 397)	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 250)	3
Electives	9
	18

SOPHOMORE

International Relations	3
Sociology (SOCL 100)	3
Religious Studies core elective	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 220)	3
Elective	3
	15

State and Local Government	3
Macroeconomics	3
Fine Arts/Music core elective	3
Philosophy core elective	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 230)	3
	15

SENIOR

Political Science electives	3
Electives	9
Research Methods	3
	15

Thesis Research and Writing	3
Political Science electives	6
Electives	6
	15

The Center for Civic Leadership and Public Service

Benedictine University Distinguished Fellow Jim Ryan, former Illinois Attorney General, and the Department of Political Science created the Center for Civic Leadership and Public Service with the goal of preparing students to become active and responsible citizens and leaders in the community.

The Center offers a variety of learning opportunities for undergraduates. Each year, the Center names three Public Service Fellows who receive a \$3,000 scholarship, prestigious internships and a variety of leadership and service opportunities. The Center brings speakers to campus to discuss current issues of domestic and international importance. Past speakers include former Illinois Congressman Barack Obama, former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar, U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald and Pulitzer Prize political columnist David Broder. The annual Civic Leadership Conference brings students, community leaders and public servants together to discuss topics relevant to public service and civic responsibility. The Center also offers special courses and holds other events for students and the community.

Recommended Program

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

POLITICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM AREAS OF FOCUS

AMERICAN POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

A focus on American government will prepare you for graduate study in a number of disciplines, for law or business school, for employment in the civil service at the federal, state or local levels and in business or in journalism, among other careers. If you choose this focus, you will complete at least 20 credit-hours with a grade of “C” or better in courses that may include the following:

American Government	Congress and the Legislative Process	American Political Thought
American Foreign Policy	Campaigns, Elections and Political Behavior	Dynamics of Policy Making
Presidential Politics		Environmental Politics

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

A focused study in the area of international affairs will prepare you for graduate study, employment in foreign service or a career with multinational and international companies and organizations. If you choose this focus, you will complete at least 20 credit-hours with a grade of “C” or better in courses that may include the following:

International Relations	Model United Nations	Revolutions and Political Violence
American Foreign Policy	Democracy and Democratization	Russian and Postcommunist Politics
Comparative Politics	International Political Economy	Nationalism and Terrorism

POLITICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM CONCENTRATION

PRE-LAW

The pre-law concentration is interdisciplinary, encompassing a broad range of courses from numerous departments. You will become aware of government systems and social problems while gaining skills in critical analysis. The concentration is an option for political science majors who plan on attending law school (but is not a requirement for attending law school).

In addition to PLSC 102, 201, 205, 210, 230, 231, 243, 299 and 399 and ECON 101, students will complete 12 hours at the 300-level within the department and 15 hours of electives as approved by the Pre-Law Concentration Advisor, which may include any 200 or 300-level Political Science course or any other course related to the law, which may include the following:

ACCT 111 - Accounting I	MGT 235 - Business Law I	SOCL 205 - Racial & Ethnic Groups
ACCT 112 - Accounting II	MGT 236 - Business Law II	SOCL 240 - Social Problems
COMM 317 - Mass Media Law	PHIL 245 - General Ethics	SOCL 260 - Introduction to Criminal Justice
ENVS 205 - Introduction to Environmental Science	PHIL 246 - Ethics for the Bio-ethically Minded	SOCL 306 - Correctional System
GENS C100 - Introduction to Gender Studies	PHIL 247 - Ethics for the Business Minded	SOCL 321 - Crime & Delinquency
HIST 112 - American History Since 1865	PHIL 260 - Social & Political Philosophy	
HIST 260 - Women in American Society	PSYC 210 - Social Psychology	
HIST 265 - African-American History	PSYC 320 - Organizational Behavior	