Political Science, B.A. *major*

A total of 120 semester credits are needed for the **Poltical Science B.A.** degree and include the following:

- Completion of a minimum of 40 upper division credits (level 3000/4000)
- Completion of all required major credits
- Completion of Core Curriculum credits (Minnesota Transfer Curriculum [MnTC] Goal Areas 1-10 with a minimum of 40 credits) required for all baccalaureate degrees
- Completion of BSU Focus and Nisidotaading Course Requirements

Dual Degrees
Students wishing to complete two degrees concurrently, (example: Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts) must complete a minimum of an additional 30 credits above the required 120 credits.

Multiple Credentials
Any additional major, minor or certificate in a degree must have at least 6 credits of course work not used to meet the requirements of another major, minor or certificate in the degree.

Required Credits: 42
Required GPA: 2.25

I REQUIRED CORE COURSES

Complete the following courses:

- POL 1100 Understanding Politics (3 credits)
- POL 1200 Introduction to American Politics (3 credits)
- POL 1300 Introduction to International Relations (3 credits)
- POL 1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 credits)
- POL 3400 Political Theory (3 credits)
- POL 4500 Thesis and Career Preparation (3 credits)

A. GENERAL

Select 21 semester credits of guided electives from Political Science courses numbered above 3000 with consent of advisor:

Complete one of the following courses:

- COMM 3000 Applied Research Methods (3 credits)
- CRJS 3201 Research Methods and Statistics for Criminal Justice (3 credits)
- PSY 3401 Basic Statistics for Research (4 credits)
- SOC 3001 Quantitative Research Methods in the Social Sciences (3 credits)
- STAT 2610 Applied Statistics (4 credits)

B. PRE-LAW EMPHASIS

Complete the following courses:

- POL 2800 Introduction to Law and Law School (3 credits)
  or POL 4200 Constitutional Law (3 credits)
- POL 3200 Minnesota Politics (3 credits)
  or POL 3230 Environmental Politics (3 credits)

Select 18 semester credits of guided electives from appropriate courses numbered above 3000 with consent of advisor. Up to 6 credits from law school early admission programs and/or from pre-law partners may be applied here subject to program approval.

Program Learning Outcomes| Political Science, B.A.

1. An understanding of American government and policitcs: Students will be able to develop an in depth understanding of American governmental institutions and policy-making processes; with an appreciation of the role of the citizen and the motivations of public officials.
2. Develop thinking, leardership and communication skills: Students will be able to develop student abilities in critical thinking, analytical reasoning, leadership, writing, presentation, and research.
3. Effectively present paper to college commuinity: Students will be able to effectively present their senior paper in a roundtable or panel format to the college community.
4. Evaluate political beliefs and tolerance of diversity: Enable students to evaluate political structures in terms of their beliefs about the proper relationship between the individual and the state. To encourage students to appreciate the diversity of political perspective, and to encourage understanding and tolerance of differing point of view.
5. Evaluating politicis from a comparative perspective: Enable student to evaluate differing governmental systems and policy outputs from a comparative perspective.
6. Foundation for career, learning and participation: Student will be able to provide the foundations for a career in the public or private sector and for a lifetime of learning and participation in politics.
7. Produce a quality senior paper: Students will be able to write a senior paper of approximately 20 pages that is tightly focused, persuasive, well documented and clearly presented. The papers should contain an abstract, literature review, original analysis, and a discussion and conclusion.
8. Students should participate in politics: Student will be able to participate in politicis in some form either on or off campus either for credit or not. (e.g., Model UN, Student overnment, political campaigning, community volunteer work, internship, etc.)
9. Understand and utilize research methodologies: Students will be able to understand and utilize the major research methodologies of the discipline.
10. Understand theories explaining international actors: Students will be able to understand the various theories useful in explaiing the behavior of nation-states and other international actors.

SUGGESTED SEMESTER SCHEDULE FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR B.A.

The following is a list of required Political Science Major, B.A. courses arranged by year. This schedule is intended to help students plan their courses in an orderly fashion; however, these are only suggestions and this schedule is flexible.

Freshman

- POL 1200 Introduction to American Politics (3 credits)
- POL 1300 Introduction to International Relations (3 credits)
- Liberal Education requirements

Sophomore

- POL 1100 Understanding Politics (3 credits)
- POL 1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3 credits)
- Liberal Education requirements
- Electives in Political Science

Junior

- POL 3240 Political Analysis (3 credits)
- POL 3400 Political Theory (3 credits)
- Liberal Education Requirements
- Electives in Political Science
- Courses needed for minor

Senior

- POL 4100 Political Inquiry (3 credits)
- POL 4500 Thesis and Career Preparation (3 credits)
- Electives in Political Science
- Courses needed for minor

.