Political Science addresses some of the fundamental problems facing human society. Questions concerning world peace, government policies aimed at achieving economic stability and growth, the management of environmental quality, control over political competition, the possibility of using law to affect social and political change, and the gap between the rich and poor in the U.S. and abroad are all on the research agenda of contemporary political scientists.

The general purpose of the major is to address these and other issues systematically, and, simultaneously, to raise the broad theoretical questions which can help students relate today’s political debates to those debates about politics which have kept a theoretical tradition alive for over 2,000 years.

In addition the knowledge students gain from the major, the Political Science department at UNO also prepares students for a rich and rewarding career. Political Science graduates are well equipped for professions both at home and abroad in the fields of law, business, criminal justice, education, journalism, and government service at the local, state, and federal levels. In fact, many political science graduates have reached the pinnacle of their respective professions.

**Knowledge and Skills Gained as a Political Science Major:**

**Knowledge:**
- Knowledge of political science, its various sub-disciplines, major themes, and analytical techniques
- International perspective on political science research, the nature of change in the global political community, and the complex character of processes such as globalization
- Understanding of human cultural and political variability in the U.S. and the global community, and an appreciation of others’ viewpoints and culture-specific attitudes, ideals and practices
- Intellectual framework for vigorous participation in civil society and public debate over the nature of the “good society”

**Skills:**
- Ability to examine written material and oral presentations critically
- Ability and desire to engage with social and political problems, to acquire relevant data, and use insight, knowledge, reasoning, and technical skills to analyze that data and develop logical solutions
- Ability to gather information, assess its importance, and organize it for use.
- Ability to effectively communicate ideas and information verbally, visually and in writing

**Optional Concentrations:**
- Government Affairs & Civic Engagement
- Foreign & National Security Affairs
- Law & the Courts
- Political Theory
- Race, Ethnicity & Gender Politics

**Political Science Major at a glance:**

- **Number of majors:** 200
- **Degrees offered:** B.A., B.S.
- **Concentrations:** Yes (optional)
- **Credit hours needed:** 36
- **Minors offered:** Yes (15 credits)
Career Opportunities

By nature, Liberal Arts majors make great employees in any field because of their ability to communicate effectively, think critically and solve complex problems. These timeless skills make them attractive to employers in all walks of society. Specifically though, Political Science majors often pursue careers in:

- Business
- Government
- Non-Profits
- Law Enforcement
- Politics

When the Political Science major is matched with complementary minors and thoughtful internships, new possibilities arise. A few examples are:

- Political Science + Sociology + internship = Community Activist
- Political Science + statistics + internship = Research Analyst
- Political Science + Spanish + internship = Consultant for state government
- Political Science + study abroad + Law School = International Law
- Political Science + International studies + internship = Intercultural/International Relations Expert

Student Opportunities

- Pi Gamma Mu - International Political Science Honor Society
- Phi Alpha Delta - Pre-Law Fraternity
- Darlene & Orville D. Menard Scholarship
- Student Internships
- Trips to the Harry S. Truman Museum and Library to participate in the White House Decision Center

Did You Know?

Political Science is the most popular undergraduate major among those students that choose to take the Law School Admission Test.

For more information:

For program information, contacts and course requirements visit: www.unomaha.edu/psci

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