

Political science addresses the important questions facing society at every level, from local to global. How do wars start, why do they keep happening, and how can we end them? How do U.S. laws get negotiated and passed? Where did the red state / blue state divide come from? Is democracy the best form of government? Is an ideal ruler even possible? What is globalization and why do some people support it and others oppose it?

Pick up today's *New York Times*: political scientists know that their work and their skills are in high demand right now! Decisions on issues like border control, public health policies, war and military conflicts, and climate change affect Nebraskans, Americans, and citizens all over the world, and can cost thousands of lives and millions of dollars. Our society needs politicians and advisers who can make these decisions capably and in service to the public.

Political scientists tackle these big, real-world problems and policies that affect how you live your life, how your descendants will live their lives, and what sorts of freedoms and responsibilities they will have. Politics and policy are how we build a better civil society and determine our place in it.

If you are interested in world peace, national government, law and justice, international affairs, elections and political parties, and how society defines the public good, then Political Science is your major!

Optional Concentrations:

- Government Affairs & Civic Engagement
- Foreign & National Security Affairs
- Law & the Courts
- Political Thought
- Race, Ethnicity & Gender Politics
- Leadership & Public Policy

Knowledge and Skills Gained as a Political Science Major:

Knowledge:

- Knowledge of political science, including theory, American politics, comparative politics, and international relations; knowledge of major themes and analytical techniques in the field
- An international perspective on political science research, the nature of change in the global political community, and the complex character of processes such as globalization
- An understanding of human cultural and political variability in the United States and the global community, and an appreciation of others' viewpoints and culture-specific attitudes, ideals, and practices
- The 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 effectively communicate ideas and information verbally, visually and in writing
- International and culturally sensitive perspective that assesses and evaluates information fairly and objectively

Career Opportunities:

Political Science 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:

- Government
- Public Sector Jobs
- National Security
- Journalism and Media
- Law
- Diplomacy & International Affairs
- Business
- Human Rights
- Education
- Military
- Nonprofit & International Organizations

When the Political Science major is matched with complementary minors and thoughtful internships, new possibilities arise:

- **Political Science** + Sociology + Local internship = Community Activism
- **Political Science** + International Studies + Study abroad = Peace Corps or military service
- **Political Science** + Statistics + Internship = Political Data Analysis
- **Political Science** + Study abroad + Law School = International Law
- **Political Science** + Spanish + Federal internship = Immigration Policy
- **Political Science** + Sustainability + Environmental internship = Climate and Energy Politics
- **Political Science** + Islamic Studies + Study abroad = Foreign Service & Diplomacy

Student Opportunities:

- UNO Pre-Law Society
- Darlene & Orville D. Menard Scholarship
- UNO Hagel Leadership Fellows
- Loree Bykerk Scholarship
- Paul Landow Scholarship

Political Science Major at a glance:

Number of majors: 155

Degrees offered: B.A. or B.S.

Concentrations: Yes (optional)

Credit hours needed: 36

Minors offered: Yes (15 credits)

For more information:

For program information, contacts and course requirements visit:

www.unomaha.edu//psci/

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