Political Science
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Why Should I Major in Political Science at Seton Hall?

The Department of Political Science is committed to developing students into citizens who are active and informed on a wide range of political systems: local, state, national and global. The Bachelor of Arts in Political Science program is designed to foster an understanding of the responsibilities and rights of active, informed participants within these systems. A course of study in political science will challenge you. It will develop your ability to think, assess and respond. In addition, it will ensure a basic knowledge of the ideas, institutions and processes of politics and government. You will be prepared for a career in law, government, public affairs, nonprofit organizations and the private sector.

A minor in nonprofit studies is designed to prepare undergraduates for entry-level positions in the nonprofit sector. Partner organizations include the Unified Vailsberg Services Organization, the YMCA and the Ivy Hill Neighborhood Association.

The Curriculum:

In addition to completing the core curriculum of the College of Arts and Sciences, students in the Department of Political Science take basic and specialized courses in American government and politics, comparative politics, international relations, political theory and behavior, public administration, public policy and public law.

An accelerated five-year, dual-degree program is available to students interested in pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Master of Public Administration at Seton Hall. Students can also complete a minor in nonprofit studies or the American Humanities certificate. Contact the department for more information.

What Does It Take to Graduate?

Political science students are required to complete 12 courses (36 credits) in the discipline. The six required courses include introductory classes in political science, American government, international relations, western political thought or comparative politics, research methods and senior seminar. The elective courses must include at least four from the POLS 3000 level and two from the POLS 3000 level.

Career Opportunities:

Internship and career opportunities for those with a bachelor’s degree in political science include those with the U.S. Customs Department, congressional offices, private law firms, insurance companies, New Jersey state government and local government offices, as well as community-based organizations, and lobbying and advocacy groups.

The Bachelor of Arts in Political Science is an excellent foundation for law and graduate school. Our students have been accepted into prestigious institutions, including Harvard Law School, University of Chicago Law School, Rutgers University Law (Newark and Camden), Seton Hall School of Law, Pace Law, Rutgers University, New York University, Seton Hall’s Master of Public Administration Program and the Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations.

How Do I Apply for Admission?

Send your application to Seton Hall University and include the $55 non-refundable application fee ($45 if applying online). Freshman applicants must submit official high school transcripts and any college or university transcripts where credit was attempted, plus the results of the SAT I or ACT assessments. Transfer students must submit transcripts from each college or university where credit was attempted. Those with fewer than 24 earned credits must complete the freshman requirements. Applications are available at admissions.shu.edu.

Can I Get Financial Aid?

Almost 90 percent of the students who entered Seton Hall last year received some form of financial aid, and 75 percent of these students received money directly from the University. The four types of financial aid include scholarships, grants and discounts, loans, and part-time jobs on campus. For further information, visit admissions.shu.edu/FinancialAid.htm or call (973) 761-9332.
Political Science Requirements:

Core Curriculum Requirements*

A. English Language (6 credits)
B. Communication (3 credits)
C. Mathematics (3 credits and prerequisites)
D. Natural Sciences (6 credits) and Behavioral Sciences (6 credits)
E. Western Civilization (6 credits), Foreign Language (6 credits) and American/African, Asian and Latino Civilizations/Foreign Literature/Advanced Language (6 credits)
F. Ethical Questions (3 credits)
G. Philosophy and Religious Studies (9 credits)

* Please see Undergraduate Catalogue

Political Science Major (37 credits)

The following courses are required:
POLS 1001 Introduction to Political Science
POLS 1211 Introduction to American Government
POLS 1711 International Relations
POLS 1401 Western Political Thought I
POLS 1611 Comparative Politics
POLS 2910 Research Methods
POLS 5010 Senior Seminar

4 POLS classes at the 1000 or 2000 level
2 POLS classes at the 3000 level

Political Science Minor (18 credits)

The following courses are required:
POLS 1001 Introduction to Political Science
4 POLS classes at the 1000 or 2000 level
1 POLS class at the 3000 level

Minor in Nonprofit Studies (21 credits)

The following courses are required:
POLS 2110 The Nonprofit Sector
POLS 2111 Financial and Fundraising Management in NPOs
4 elective courses
POLS 2516 Nonprofit Practicum I

American Humanics Certificate

In addition to the nonprofit studies minor requirements, students must complete the following:
- An additional 150 hours of internship.
- Attendance at the national conference.
- Participation in the student organization.

Please see the Undergraduate Catalogue for a complete list of Political Science courses.

Degree Requirements: 130 total credit hours

Students can minor or double major in any of the College of Arts and Sciences disciplines.

For more information, call an admissions counselor at 1-800-THE-HALL, send an e-mail to thehall@shu.edu or visit admissions.shu.edu.

To talk to a faculty adviser, contact Roseanne Mirabella, Ph.D. at (973) 761-9583 or mirabero@shu.edu. Web site: artsci.shu.edu/polisci