

POLITICAL SCIENCE (BA)

Program Description

As a Political Science major at SPU, you will wrestle with some of the most fundamental questions underlying faith and the political order.

- What is the relationship between Christian principles and public policy?
- How can Christians model both the character and truth of Jesus Christ in the public square?
- How should we all live in local, national, and global community?

To assist in the exploration of these questions, you will receive broad training in political philosophy; governance at the local, national, and global levels; law; public policy; international relations; and the political behavior of individuals, groups, and global actors. You are also provided with peer support and co-curricular activities through the SPU Political Union, a nonpartisan student group.

Entering and Completing the Major

In order to earn a degree, you must complete at least one academic major. SPU encourages students to explore various academic paths, so if you change your mind about a major, or want to include an additional program, you are able to do so, as outlined below.

Note that the University encourages you to enter your chosen major(s) as soon as you have determined it and are eligible to join it, especially by the start of your junior year. Students who transfer as juniors and seniors should enter a major within their first two quarters at SPU.

- If this is your first quarter at SPU and you identified a major in this department as your first choice on your application for admission to the University, you have gained entry to the major. To change or add a major, follow these instructions (<https://spu.atlassian.net/l/cp/a3th1keb/>).
- If you are an SPU student with an SPU cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better, follow these instructions (<https://spu.atlassian.net/l/cp/a3th1keb/>) to enter a major in this department.
- The University requires a grade of C- or better in all classes that apply to a major; however, programs may require higher minimum grades in specific courses. You may repeat an SPU course only once for a higher grade.
- To advance in this program, meet with your faculty advisor regularly to discuss your grades, course progression, and other indicators of satisfactory academic progress. If your grades or other factors indicate that you may not be able to successfully complete the major or minor, your faculty advisor can work with you to explore options, which may include choosing a different major.
- You must complete the major requirements that are in effect in the SPU Undergraduate Catalog for the year you enter the major.

Political Science (BA)

55 Credits Minimum, Including 36 Upper Division (UD)

Code	Title	Credits
General Core		
POL 1120	United States Government and Politics	5
POL 2320	Comparative Political Systems	5
POL 2330	International Relations	5

POL 4000	Public Policy and Administration	5
POL 4640	Political Theory: From Antiquity to the 21st Century	5
POL 4643	Methods of Political Analysis	5
POL 4899	Political Science Capstone Seminar	3
Section Credits Required		33
U.S. Systems		
POL/HIS 3670	History of United States Foreign Relations	5
or POL 4450	United States Constitutional Law	
Section Credits Required		5
International Affairs & Global Systems		
POL 3330	Global Women's Issues	5
or POL 3400	International Organizations	
or POL 3440	War, Peace and World Order	
or POL 4336	Cybersecurity	
or POL 4452	International Law	
Section Credits Required		5
International Political Economy		
POL 3320	Political and Economic Development of Nations	5
or POL 4310	International Political Economy	
or ISD 3400	Corruption and Development	
Section Credits Required		5
Experiential Learning		
POL 2000	Careers in Political Science: What to Tell My Parents	1
POL 4940	Political Internships ¹	1
Section Credits Required		2
Political Science or International Sustainable Development Electives		5
Upper Division (UD) Only		
Total Credits		55

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Instead of an internship, students may complete an approved study abroad or an approved experiential learning activity

Suggested Course Sequence

This is a sample schedule of sequencing for the Political Science major. There is a bit of flexibility in class placement in your first 2 years as you navigate through the University's Common and Exploratory Curriculum. Watch years 3 and 4 more closely as you complete your Political Science classes. Many of these classes are offered once a year or alternate years, so plan in advance.

Course	Title	Credits
Freshman		
Autumn		
UCOL 1000	University Colloquium	1
WRI 1000	Academic Inquiry and Writing Seminar	5
POL 1120	United States Government and Politics	5
POL 2000	Careers in Political Science: What to Tell My Parents	1
Exploratory Curriculum (https://catalog.spu.edu/undergraduate/degree-requirements/baccalaureate-degree-requirements/exploratory-curriculum/)		5
Credits		17
Winter		
WRI 1100	Disciplinary Research and Writing Seminar	5
Exploratory Curriculum (https://catalog.spu.edu/undergraduate/degree-requirements/baccalaureate-degree-requirements/exploratory-curriculum/)		10
Credits		15

Spring		
POL 2330	International Relations	5
UFDN 1000	The Christian Faith	5
Exploratory Curriculum (https://catalog.spu.edu/undergraduate/degree-requirements/baccalaureate-degree-requirements/exploratory-curriculum/)		5
Credits		15
Sophomore		
Autumn		
UCOR 2000	The Emergence of the Modern Global System	5
Exploratory Curriculum (https://catalog.spu.edu/undergraduate/degree-requirements/baccalaureate-degree-requirements/exploratory-curriculum/)		10
Credits		15
Winter		
Apply to major!		
POL 2320	Comparative Political Systems	5
UFDN 2000	Christian Scripture	5
Exploratory Curriculum (https://catalog.spu.edu/undergraduate/degree-requirements/baccalaureate-degree-requirements/exploratory-curriculum/)		5
Credits		15
Spring		
Select 15 credits		15
Credits		15
Any Quarter		
POL: US Systems Requirement		5
Credits		5
Junior		
Autumn		
UCOR 3000	Faith, Philosophy, and Science	5
Select 10 credits		10
Credits		15
Winter		
UFDN 3100	Christian Theology	5
POL 4640	Political Theory: From Antiquity to the 21st Century	5
POL 4643	Methods of Political Analysis	5
Credits		15
Spring		
Apply to graduate!		
POL 4000	Public Policy and Administration	5
POL: International Political Economy Requirement		5
Select 5 credits		5
Credits		15
Any Quarter		
POL 4940	Political Internships	1
POL Electives		5
Any remaining Exploratory Curriculum (https://catalog.spu.edu/undergraduate/degree-requirements/baccalaureate-degree-requirements/exploratory-curriculum/)		
Credits		6
Senior		
Autumn		
Select 15 Credits		15
Credits		15
Winter		
POL 4899	Political Science Capstone Seminar	3
Select 10 Credits		10
Credits		13
Spring		
Select 15 Credits		15
Credits		15
Any Quarter		
POL 4940	Political Internships	1
POL: International Affairs and Global Systems Requirement		5
Any remaining Political Science courses		

Upper Division Course(s)	5+
Credits	6-11
Total Credits	197-202

Freshman Notes

- If you have not satisfied the Foreign Language Requirement, complete this year for your Exploratory coursework.

Sophomore Notes

- If you have not yet applied to the major, apply now! Applications are accepted year round and require good academic standing (2.0 or higher SPU cumulative GPA).
- Begin looking for an internship over the summer after your sophomore year. Recruiting often begins 6 to 12 months prior to an internship start date.

Junior Notes

- POL 4940: Political Internships (<https://spu.edu/academics/school-of-business-and-economics/undergraduate-programs/internships/pol-internships/>) must be taken in the same quarter in which you are completing your internship.
 - *Students may complete an approved study abroad or experiential learning activity instead of an internship.*
- Great year to study abroad (<https://studyabroad.spu.edu/>)!

Senior Notes

- Complete any outstanding Political Science courses.