

AMERICAN POLITICS BACHELOR OF ARTS

Program Overview

The Department of Political Science administers a major in American Politics. The undergraduate major, totaling 42 credits, serves our undergraduate students who choose Drake for the distinct experiential environment available in Des Moines and on campus, allowing consistent and meaningful participation in local, state, and national politics. The American Politics major offers students a unique learning environment that synthesizes rigorous academic study alongside practical experience and skills, exemplifying the Drake mission statement's focus on "collaborative learning among students, faculty, and staff" and "the integration of the liberal arts and sciences with professional preparation."

B.A. Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
POLS 001	THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM	3
POLS 065	COMPARATIVE POLITICS	3
POLS 110	METHODS IN POLITICS	3
Select one of the following Theoretical Foundations Courses:		3
POLS 182	THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	
POLS 185	AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT	
Select two of the following Political Institutions Courses:		6
POLS 101	CONGRESS AND THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS	
POLS 102	THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY	
POLS 103	JUDICIAL POLITICS	
POLS 106	STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
POLS 115	PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION PROCESS	
POLS 119	TOPICS IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS	
POLS XXX		
POLS 135	SUPREME COURTS & ELECTIONS	
POLS 137	POLITICS & PARLIAMENTS	
Select two of the following Public Policy Debate Courses:		6
LPS 133	DRUGS, LAW, AND SOCIETY	
LPS 137	AMERICAN INDIAN LAW AND POLITICS	
LPS 138	REPRODUCTIVE LAW AND POLICY IN THE UNITED STATES	
POLS 112	WOMEN IN POLITICS	
POLS 117	RACE AND AMERICAN POLITICS	
POLS 152	TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE	
POLS 154	HUMAN TRAFFICKING	
POLS 156	GLOBAL HEALTH	
POLS 162	GENDER AND WAR	
POLS 177	POLITICAL ECONOMY OF GLOBALIZA	
POLS 178	INTERNATIONAL LAW	
SOC 105	RACE, GENDER & POVERTY	
SOC 140	YOUTH AND CRIME	
SOC 145	FOOD & SOCIETY	
SOC 154	POVERTY & SOCIETY	
Select one of the following Political Behavior Courses:		3

POLS 113	AMERICAN ELECTORAL PROCEDURES	
POLS 114	PUBLIC OPINION	
POLS 116	THE MEDIA IN MODERN POLITICS	
POLS 134	COMPARATIVE POLITICAL PARTIES AND INTEREST GROUPS	
Select 9 credits in related professional skills with no more than 6 credits awarded through internships: ¹		9
POLS 193	INTERNSHIP IN POLITICS	
POLS 194	INTERNSHIP IN POLITICS	
Total Hours		36

¹ Students may complete this requirement with a double major in Strategic Political Communication or Data Analytics.

In addition to programmatic requirements, students are responsible for satisfying all requirements of the Drake Curriculum (<https://catalog.drake.edu/archive/2024-2025/undergraduate/academic-information/drake-curriculum/>), including Areas of Inquiry (AOI)

Student must also satisfy university graduation requirements (<https://catalog.drake.edu/archive/2024-2025/undergraduate/academic-information/graduation-requirements/>) for all undergraduate students..