

# Political Science

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## Department Information

- **Department Web Site:**  
[www.ndsu.edu/politicalscience/](http://www.ndsu.edu/politicalscience/) (<http://www.ndsu.edu/politicalscience/>)
- **Credential Offered:**  
B.S.; B.A.; Minor
- **Official Program Curriculum:**  
[catalog.ndsu.edu/undergraduate/program-curriculum/political-science/](http://catalog.ndsu.edu/undergraduate/program-curriculum/political-science/) (<http://catalog.ndsu.edu/undergraduate/program-curriculum/political-science/>)

Political Science is the study of politics, policy, and social forces from domestic, international, and comparative perspectives. It is the ongoing examination of social behavior, public and private institutions, international relations, domestic and international law, public policy, and the many varieties of political ideologies. Political Science coursework provides students with an understanding of how government affects their everyday lives while simultaneously developing their communication, critical thinking, and analytic skills.

## THE PROGRAM

Political Science prepares you for careers in public service, the legal professions, non-profit organizations, and the private sector. We offer:

- Flexible course loads: Students in our major can focus on those aspects of politics and policy that interests them most
- In-demand skills: Our programs build such skills as written and spoken communications, data analysis, policy evaluation, and legal reasoning.
- Hands-on learning: Our internship program ([https://www.ndsu.edu/politicalscience/careers/political\\_science\\_internships/](https://www.ndsu.edu/politicalscience/careers/political_science_internships/)), undergraduate research opportunities, and study abroad programs provide students with multiple ways of acquiring skills and knowledge outside the classroom.
- Community: Student organizations such as the Pre-Law Club ([https://www.ndsu.edu/politicalscience/student\\_experience/pre\\_law\\_club/](https://www.ndsu.edu/politicalscience/student_experience/pre_law_club/)) and Pi Sigma Alpha ([https://www.ndsu.edu/politicalscience/student\\_experience/pi\\_sigma\\_alpha/](https://www.ndsu.edu/politicalscience/student_experience/pi_sigma_alpha/)) help students to connect with peers, build professional networks, and prepare for post-college life.

## Experience

Political science offers annual study abroad experiences with recent visits to the British Parliament, the Hague, Italy, and the European Commission. Political science internships provide real-world experiences in government, political parties and campaigns, legal affairs, and public policy. The Upper Midwest Center on Public Policy (<https://www.ndsu.edu/centers/publicpolicy/>) offers students opportunities to conduct research on politics and public policy.

## Career Opportunities

Careers for political science graduates can be found in such areas as law, policy analysis, civil service, interest groups and associations, program administration, local and state government, non-profit organizations, diplomatic service, communications, business, and other critical fields.

Many political science students go on to attend law school and pursue a legal profession. NDSU students have graduated from such law schools as the University of North Dakota, the University of Minnesota, the University of Michigan, the University of Washington, Northwestern University, Duke, and George Washington University. Other students have pursued graduate studies in public administration and public policy and gone on to careers in public administration, regional planning, non-profit management, consulting, and academia.

## Scholarships

There are a number of scholarships available to students within the Political Science program. Visit the department website (<https://www.ndsu.edu/politicalscience/>) for information.

## Extra-Curricular Activities

The Department of Political Science & Public Policy works closely with the Pre-Law Club, a student organization for students interested in attending law school. The Club holds regular events, invites lawyers and law school administrators to discuss careers, and provides information about law schools, entrance examinations, and career opportunities.

## Accelerated mpp

The Department of Political Science & Public Policy is proud to offer an accelerated Master of Public Policy ([https://www.ndsu.edu/politicalscience/academics/graduate\\_program/#:~:text=Master%20of%20Public%20Policy&text=NDSUs%20Master%20of%20Public%20Policy,policy%20design%20and%20program%20evaluation](https://www.ndsu.edu/politicalscience/academics/graduate_program/#:~:text=Master%20of%20Public%20Policy&text=NDSUs%20Master%20of%20Public%20Policy,policy%20design%20and%20program%20evaluation)) (MPP) option that allows students to complete a BA/BS in Political Science and an MPP in as little as 5 years.

## The Faculty

Faculty in the Department of Political Science and Public Policy have expertise in such areas as state and local governance, law and judicial politics, crime-related policy, international law, the modern digital society, research methodology, and policy analysis. They provide a practice-informed education for NDSU students. We encourage students who want to learn more about the Pre-Law Minor to reach out via email or schedule an appointment using Bison Advise (<https://career-advising.ndsu.edu/about-bison-advise/>).

Faculty members include:

Dr. Thomas Ambrosio, Professor, Ph.D., 2000, University of Virginia.

Dr. Nicholas Bauroth, Professor, Ph.D., 2003, Loyola University Chicago

Dr. Sarah Boonstoppel, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., 2014, University of Maryland

Dr. Steven Briggs, Associate Professor, Ph.D., 2007, University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Dr. Elizabeth Carlson, Associate Professor, Ph.D., 2011, University of California Los Angeles

Dr. Kjersten Nelson, Professor, Ph.D., 2009, University of Minnesota.

Dr. Daniel Pemstein, Professor, Ph.D., 2010, University of Illinois.