

Special Programs and Opportunities in Political Science

The Division of Political Science offers a variety of opportunities to students who would like to build closer ties with others in political science, or who would like to learn more than what is taught in regular undergraduate courses. Here are a few of the opportunities we offer:

Four Options for Majoring in Political Science—The Political Science Division offers four different options for majoring in Political Science: the standard major, a Public Service track, an International Development track, and the Political Science Honors Program. The **Public Service Major** in Political Science is designed to provide a more directed course of study for students who are interested in a professional career in government and politics, and as a pathway for those who would eventually like to pursue a graduate degree in public service, public policy, or public administration. The major provides students with a strong foundation in American government, while instilling in them an understanding of public service. As part of the major, students are required to serve in an internship in a governmental, political, or other appropriate office. The **International Development Major** is designed to provide a more directed course of study for students who are interested in understanding the politics and governance surrounding international development. International development involves questions of global governance, international and development economics, foreign aid and humanitarian assistance, poverty reduction and human development, sustainable development, and international and intergenerational justice. The **Honors Program** is designed for our top students who seek out additional intellectual challenges, including research and writing an honors thesis during their senior year. It is distinct from the University Honors Program, but Political Science majors may be admitted to both programs. To be a member, a student must be a political science major and have earned a minimum overall grade point average of 3.2 and have a 3.5 GPA in political science course work. Students should apply for admission to the program during the winter or spring quarters of their junior year. For information on eligibility and requirements, contact Professor Melody Valdini at 503-725-3921.

Political Science Internship Program—the Political Science Internship Program allows students to earn up to 12 units of PS 404 credit as interns, be it working in the city or country government, assisting a non-profit organization, or participating actively in an election campaign. One of the most popular programs is the State Legislative Intern Program, which places students in the Oregon House and Senate. For information, contact Richard Clucas, the division's internship coordinator, at 503-725-3258. The division's internship guide is available on line at <http://web.pdx.edu/~hprc/>.

Public Law Program—the Political Science Division currently offers more than a dozen courses in U.S. and international public law, as well as internships in public law. The History Department, the Division of Administrative Justice, and the Division of Public Administration offer additional law-related courses. Taken together or in part, these courses provide an excellent grounding in law for those seeking employment after obtaining their undergraduate degree, and for those pursuing further legal or other academic studies. The Political Science Division also offers a minor in Law and Legal Studies. Interested students should consult with Prof. Chris Shortell at 503-725-5139. Information on the minor can be found here (http://www.pdx.edu/sites/www.pdx.edu.hatfieldschool/files/media_assets/sog_PSLawminor.pdf).

NEW Leadership Oregon—In partnership with Rutgers University, NEW Leadership Oregon is modeled after the award-winning leadership program designed by the renowned Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers. The program is dedicated to inspiring, educating, and supporting the next generation of women political leaders. The main focus of the program is an intensive, six-day, summer residential leadership training program specifically designed to introduce Oregon's college women to opportunities for public leadership. The program is run by the Center for Women's Leadership. For information on NEW Leadership Oregon and the Center for Women's Leadership, visit the Center's web site at <http://www.pdx.edu/womens-leadership/> or contact Sunny Petit at 503-725-2895.

Pi Sigma Alpha—outstanding juniors, seniors, and graduate students who have declared a major in political science are eligible to join Nu Pi, the Portland State University Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society. The members of Nu Pi work closely with the political science student group to host activities of interest to political science students. To be eligible to join, students must meet certain credit and GPA requirements. For information, contact Professor Bruce Gilley at 503-725-3056.

Political Science Student Group—all political science majors and minors are eligible to join the Political Science Student Group. The student group works closely with members of Pi Sigma Alpha to host activities of interest to political science students. For information, contact Professor Bruce Gilley at 503-725-3056.

Political Science Graduate Program -- The Political Science Graduate Program offers graduate work leading to the Master of Arts and Master of Science degrees, as well as Master of Arts in Teaching and Master of Science in Teaching. This program is well-suited for students who are especially interested in the study of politics, are pursuing a career for which extensive training in political science is useful, or simply want to strengthen their educational credentials. For information, contact any faculty member or see the division's Graduate Student Handbook at <http://www.pdx.edu/hatfieldschool/political-science-graduate-degree>.

Model EU—The Political Science Division participates regularly at the West Coast Model EU, offering PSU undergraduates an opportunity to interact with university students from across the west coast in a simulation of a European Council summit. Each university selects teams of outstanding students to play the role of representatives from selected EU member states. The teams then negotiate issues related to the European Union. It is a great opportunity to learn more about international politics and to meet with university students from across the region. To participate, students are required to take PS/INTL 452 European Union. Students who are interested should contact Professor Birol Yesilada (503-725-3257) for information.

Study Abroad—many political science majors build upon their college experience by enrolling in courses at foreign universities. By living and studying abroad, students are given an opportunity to learn more directly about the culture and politics of other nations, be it in Western Europe, Latin America, Asia, or somewhere else. The Political Science Division does not have its own independent study abroad program, but there are a variety of opportunities for political science majors to participate in such programs. For information, contact the Office of International Affairs at 503-725-3455.

Friends of Political Science at Portland State University—The Friends of Political Science at Portland State is an unofficial group that was created to help further the educational and career goals of Political Science students and alumni, and to build ties with students and the broader community. The Friends of Political Science [Facebook page](#) provides up-to-date listings of internship opportunities, job openings, division events, alumni news, and other information. The Friends have also created a [LinkedIn Group](#) to help keep members informed on where friends, students, and alumni are working today. Joined these groups!

For more on the division or these opportunities, call 503-725-3921 or visit our web page at <http://www.pdx.edu/hatfieldschool/political-science>