

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:

Politics of Diversity; Politics of Conflict and Cooperation—the Political Science Division offers two alternative tracks to the basic major, which students can follow to receive an undergraduate degree in political science. The Politics of Diversity and the Politics of Conflict and Cooperation tracks were introduced to allow students to build their own independent and interdisciplinary courses of study. Both options provide students with greater flexibility than the traditional major in choosing courses that meet their particular scholarly interests and career goals. The two alternative majors are especially valuable for students who are strongly motivated by issues surrounding diversity or conflict and cooperation, whether in the U.S. or throughout the world. Information on all three of the options for earning a degree in political science can be found in the PSU Bulletin and from any regular faculty member.

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 David Johns at 503-725-3251. Information on the minor can be found here (http://www.hatfieldschool.pdx.edu/courses/documents/LawMinorbrochure_000.pdf).

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 Melody Valdini at 503-725-3921.

Division of Political Science Honors Program—outstanding students are also eligible to apply for admission to the Political Science Division Honors Program. 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 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 Melody Valdini at 503-725-3921.

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. http://www.hatfieldschool.pdx.edu/PS/documents/Gradbook_Sep05_000.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. For information, see the program's web site at <http://www.newleadershiporegon.org/> or contact Melody Rose at 503-725-2895.

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/>.

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.

For more on the division or these opportunities, call 503-725-3921 or visit our web page at http://www.hatfieldschool.pdx.edu/PS/pol_science.php