

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Political Science

Selected Educational Outcomes

1. Political science majors will possess the requisite knowledge of the American political system, including an understanding of the structure and process of the federal, state, and local governments, enabling them to become informed and responsible citizens.
2. Political science majors will demonstrate knowledge of technological advances and scientific inquiry, enabling them to identify and utilize appropriate tools, such as spreadsheets, database systems, or statistical packages, in the pursuit of resolving issues or resolving questions.
3. Political science majors will demonstrate through both oral and written work that they are skilled in inquiry, logical reasoning, and critical analysis, thereby enabling them to make arguments, synthesize facts and information, and present logical arguments leading to creative solutions to problems.
4. Political science majors will recognize, demonstrate knowledge of, and analyze issues in political behavior as it relates to value systems and ethics.

Examples of Outcome Assessments

1. Mastery of the material in all required and elective courses in the political science major. As each level serves as a foundation for higher levels, mastery of the core material is requisite to mastery of the major. Outcome #1 is met by successful completion of these courses.
2. Completion of the capstone experience certifies that a major has met outcomes #2, #3, and #4.
3. Information from published surveys of students' opinions and alumni perceptions of VSU programs and services, as well as information from alumni surveys conducted by the Department of Political Science.

Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Degree with a Major in Political Science

Core Curriculum		60
Core Curriculum Areas A-E (See VSU Core Curriculum)		42
Core Curriculum Area F		
PHIL 2020	Principles of Logic and Argumentation	
POLS 2101 & POLS 2401	Introduction to Political Science and Introduction to Global Issues	
Foreign Language and Culture		
If a student has taken any of the above courses to meet requirements in other areas of the Core Curriculum, credit hours must be taken from the following list of courses: PHIL 2010, all other Area E Courses		
Senior College Curriculum		60
Courses required for the Major ¹		
POLS 3100 & POLS 4100 & ENGL 3030	Scope and Methods of Political Science and Political Science Capstone Course and Writing for the Legal and Social Science Professions	9
Select one of the following;		3
PHIL 3130	Social and Political Philosophy	
PHIL 4120	Ethics and Public Policy	
PHIL 4220	Ethics and Public Administration	
Political Science Courses--Select 27 hours from the following; at least 12 hours must be in one Concentration Area		27
American Government		
POLS 3200	American State and Local Government and Politics	
POLS 3210	The American Legislative Process	
POLS 3220	The American Political Process: Campaigns, Elections, and Voters	
POLS 3230	Political Parties, Interest Groups and the Media	
POLS 3270	Public Opinion and Political Socialization	
POLS 3280	Race, Ethnicity, and Politics	
POLS 3290	The American Presidency	
POLS 4210	Separation of Powers in the American Political System	
POLS 4270	Southern Politics	
POLS 4700	Directed Study in Political Science	
POLS 4820	Special Topics in U.S. Government and Politics	
POLS 4900	Internship in Political Science	

Comparative Politics

POLS 3300	Comparative Politics
POLS 4300	European Politics
POLS 4310	Politics in Russia
POLS 4330	African Politics
POLS 4350	Politics in Developing Nations
POLS 4370	Comparative Constitutional Law and Judicial Politics
POLS 4390	Constitutional Law and Judicial Politics of the European Union
POLS 4450	Comparative Environmental Politics and Policy
POLS 4700	Directed Study in Political Science
POLS 4830	Special Topics in Comparative Politics
POLS 4831	Special Topics in EU Politics

International Relations

POLS 3400	International Politics
POLS 4300	European Politics
POLS 4301	The European Union
POLS 4400	International Organization and Law
POLS 4410	American Foreign Policy
POLS 4420	Global Security Policy
POLS 4430	National Security Administration and Policy
POLS 4440	Model United Nations
POLS 4442	Model United Nations II
POLS 4700	Directed Study in Political Science
POLS 4831	Special Topics in EU Politics
POLS 4840	Special Topics in International Politics

Public Law

POLS 3240	American Judicial Process and Behavior
POLS 4200	American Constitutional Law I
POLS 4202	American Constitutional Law II
POLS 4203	American Constitutional Law III
POLS 4220	Administrative Law and Government
POLS 4240	Politics and the Supreme Court
POLS 4250	Trial Advocacy
POLS 4251	Trail Advocacy II
POLS 4260	Alternative Dispute Resolution
POLS 4700	Directed Study in Political Science

Political Theory

POLS 3520	Modern Political Ideologies
POLS 3530	American Political Thought
POLS 4700	Directed Study in Political Science
POLS 4850	Special Topics in Political Theory

Public Administration

POLS 3600	Introduction to Public Administration
POLS 3610	Public Administration and Public Policy Formation
POLS 4430	National Security Administration and Policy
POLS 4450	Comparative Environmental Politics and Policy
POLS 4600	Government Organization and Administrative Theory
POLS 4610	Public Personnel Administration
POLS 4620	Public Finance Administration
POLS 4640	Urban Politics and Administration
POLS 4650	Intergovernmental Relations
POLS 4670	Quality Management in Public Administration

POLS 4700	Directed Study in Political Science	
POLS 4860	Special Topics in Public Administration	
Minor and/or Elective Courses		21
Must include at least 6 hours of courses numbered 3000 or above in a single discipline outside of political science.		
Total hours required for the degree		120

¹ The grade in each POLS course taken for the major must be a "C" or better.