POLITICAL SCIENCE

The goal of the undergraduate curriculum of the Department of Political Science is to expose students to the study of politics and the diversity of approaches and analytical techniques used by political scientists. The faculty of the political science department of Fordham University reflects this diversity, as does the undergraduate political science curriculum. The study of political phenomena and the nature of public life is an integral component of a liberal arts education. Through the curriculum, students also acquire skills in writing, communication, and analytical thought that are critical to a liberal arts education.

Given Fordham's role as an urban, Jesuit liberal arts university, the Department of Political Science endeavors to advance the University's mission by preparing students to:

1. think critically and analytically, with an awareness of alternative viewpoints and understanding of current domestic and international issues;
2. develop written and verbal communication skills;
3. reflect upon the relationship between democratic values and public life;
4. receive education that is marked by *cura personalis*, with the goal of educating people for others.

Although many political science courses have more than one attribute, a single political science course cannot be counted more than once toward the major or minor. In other words, one course cannot simultaneously fulfill more than one major requirement for a student.

A grade of C- or better is required in all courses taken to fulfill the political science major or minor.

The department will accept a maximum of four transfer courses (whether from study abroad, another college/university, or AP/IB/similar exams) toward the completion of the political science major, or two such courses toward the political science minor.

Program Activities

Internships

The political science department does not typically grant academic credit for internships. However, when an internship is integrated with an academic component, such as a tutorial, academic credit is possible. Students should see individual faculty members to discuss internship opportunities and the possibility of receiving academic credit.

The political science department also has formal arrangements for semester-long internship experiences off campus:

Internship in New York City Government

POSC 3120 The Democracy Internship. Contact Thomas DeLuca. Ph.D. (tdeluca1@fordham.edu) for information about POSC 3120 at Lincoln Center, which is offered during summers only.

Internship in New York State Legislature

The department offers an internship and courses through the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate Internship programs. For information on these programs, contact Bruce Berg, Ph.D. (berg@fordham.edu)

Political Science Honor Society

Political science majors in Fordham's undergraduate colleges are eligible to become members of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national honor society in political science. Pi Sigma Alpha was founded in 1920, and Fordham's chapter, the Delta Zeta chapter, was chartered in 1961. Selection is made by department faculty from among seniors who have earned a minimum of 10 credits in political science courses, including at least one advanced-level course, and have achieved a qualifying grade point average both in the major and in their Fordham coursework as a whole. New members are honored at an induction ceremony held in the spring of each academic year.

For more information

Visit the political science department web page.

Contribution to the Core

Political science offers POSC 1100 Introduction to Politics, which fulfills the first social science core requirement. The advanced disciplinary requirement can be fulfilled by taking a second advanced-level course in political science. In addition, the department regularly offers courses that fulfill the American Pluralism, Global Studies, *Eloquentia Perfecta* (EP1 and EP3), Interdisciplinary Capstone (ICC), and Values Seminar (EP4) core requirements.

Programs

- Political Science Major
- Political Science Minor