Political Science

College of Liberal Arts
Department of Political Science
(907) 474-7609
www.uaf.edu/polisci/

**B.A. Degree**

Minimum Requirements for Degree: 120 credits

The Department of Political Science offers a B.A. degree as well as minors in law and society, environmental politics and political science. We offer graduate-level courses through the northern studies concentration in global environmental policy. Doctoral study in political science is available through the interdisciplinary studies program of the Graduate School.

The study of political science provides education for citizenship in a changing nation and world. Political science provides a sound preparation in the social sciences. As the study of power, political science explains who gets what, when, where and how. It examines the struggles over claims to authority that shape our lives and our world. As the study of values, it examines why citizens obey or rebel, the nature of just societies, and the ways individuals reconcile personal liberty with political authority. As the science of political behavior, it analyzes the actions of interest groups, political parties and public officials. Politics is an omnipresent force, not only in governments but in families, social organizations, schools and decision-making bodies of all types—from student councils to international institutions. A solid understanding of local, national and international politics will benefit any student throughout his or her career.

Courses are offered in the traditional fields of international and comparative politics, American government, political theory, public policy, and public law. The department also offers classes in environmental policy and politics, Native American studies, the politics of science, and women's studies. Political science majors and minors graduate with excellent communications skills. We provide several writing- and oral-intensive courses, as well as two core curriculum requirements. In addition to our course offerings and faculty expertise, our department presents real world opportunities for political science students to apply their learning. Those include numerous internship and scholarship opportunities in Alaska and the rest of the United States. Students can participate in model United Nations simulations, join the political science honor society Pi Sigma Alpha, aid faculty as research assistants, and take part in numerous other department projects such as bringing speakers to campus or hosting roundtables on important issues. Graduate students may also serve as teaching assistants.

The department provides students with a stepping-stone to success in a variety of careers. The political science B.A. has led our students to graduate work in the social sciences; employment in the media and public relations; teaching at high school and university levels; and careers in business corporations and non-profits at the state and national levels. Political science provides a broad understanding of the formation, application and change of the law, as well as research techniques and standards of argumentation essential to legal practice. Our majors have been admitted to the nation's top law schools. The study of political science also prepares students for work in various fields of government. Alaska offers exciting job prospects for our graduates as managers in state and local governments and as legislators and legislative staff members. Our students are also qualified to work outside of Alaska in numerous public and private sector jobs.

**Major—B.A. Degree**

1. Complete the general university requirements. (See page 107. As part of the core curriculum requirements, complete: PS 100X, PS 300X and HIST 100X.)
2. Complete the B.A. degree requirements (page 111).
3. Complete the following major (program) requirements:
   - PS 101—Introduction to American Government and Politics
   - PS 222—Political Science Research Methods
   - PS 492W—Senior Seminar in Political Science
4. Complete 24 credits in political science. Include at least 1 course from 4 of the following sub-disciplinary groups.*
   - a. Group A—American Government and Politics
   - b. Group B—Public Law
   - c. Group C—Comparative Politics
   - d. Group D—International Politics
   - e. Group E—Political Theory
5. Minimum credits required ..................................................... 120

* Student must earn a C grade or better in each course.

**Minor**

1. Complete the following:
   - PS 101—Introduction to American Government and Politics
   - Complete at least four political science courses at the 200-, 300- or 400-level
2. Minimum credits required ..................................................... 15

Note: Page numbers refer to the UAF 2005-2006 academic catalog, which can be viewed online at www.uaf.edu/catalog/.
Baccalaureate Core Requirements
All degrees (e.g. B.A., B.S., etc.) require additional courses. Refer to specific degree and program requirements.

COMMUNICATION (9)
Complete the following:
ENGL 111X .................................................................(3)___

Complete one of the following:
ENGL 211X OR ENGL 213X .........................................(3)___

Complete one of the following:
COMM 131X OR COMM 141X ....................................(3)___

PERSPECTIVES ON THE HUMAN CONDITION (18)
Complete all of the following four courses:
ANTH 100X/100X .....................................................(3)___

ECON 100X OR PS 100X ..............................................(3)___

HIST 100X ..............................................................(3)___

ENGL/FL 200X ..........................................................(3)___

Complete one of the following three courses:
ART/MUS/THR 200X, HUM 201X OR ANS 202X ...........(3)___

Complete one of the following six courses:
BA 323X, COMM 300X, JUST 300X, NRM 303X, PS 300X OR PHIL 322X, .............................................(3)___

OR complete 12 credits from the above courses PLUS
• two semester-length courses in a single Alaska Native language or other non-English language OR
• three semester-length courses (9 credits) in American Sign Language taken at the university level.

MATHEMATICS (3)
Complete one of the following:
MATH 101X, MATH 161X OR MATH 103X ......................(3-4)___

* No credit may be earned for more than one of MATH 107X or 161X.

OR complete one of the following:
MATH 200X, MATH 201X, MATH 202X, MATH 262X OR MATH 272X .........................................................(4)___

*Or any math course having one of these as a prerequisite

NATURAL SCIENCES (8)
Complete any two (4-credit) courses:
ATM 101X .................................................................(4)___
BIOL 100X .................................................................(4)___
BIOL 103X .................................................................(4)___
BIOL 104X .................................................................(4)___
BIOL 105X .................................................................(4)___
BIOL 106X .................................................................(4)___
BIOL 111X .................................................................(4)___
BIOL 112X .................................................................(4)___
CHEM 100X ..............................................................(4)___
CHEM 103X ..............................................................(4)___
CHEM 104X ..............................................................(4)___
CHEM 105X ..............................................................(4)___
CHEM 106X ..............................................................(4)___
CHEM 107X ..............................................................(4)___
GEOS 100X ...............................................................(4)___
GEOS 101X ...............................................................(4)___
GEOS 112X ...............................................................(4)___
GEOS 120X ...............................................................(4)___
GEOS 125X ...............................................................(4)___
MSL 111X .................................................................(4)___
PHYS 102X ...............................................................(4)___
PHYS 103X ...............................................................(4)___
PHYS 104X ...............................................................(4)___
PHYS 115X ...............................................................(4)___
PHYS 116X ...............................................................(4)___
PHYS 173X ...............................................................(4)___
PHYS 211X ...............................................................(4)___
PHYS 212X ...............................................................(4)___
PHYS 213X ...............................................................(4)___

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION RESEARCH (0–1)
Successful completion of library skills competency test OR
LS 100X or 101X prior to junior standing ..................(0–1) ___

UPPER-DIVISION WRITING AND ORAL COMMUNICATION (0)
Complete the following:
Two writing intensive courses designated (W) ..........(0)___
One oral communication intensive course designated (O) .......(0)___
OR two oral communication intensive courses designated (O/2), at the upper-division level (see degree and/or major requirements) ......(0)___

TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED ........................................38–39