

Spring 2018

Dear New Major:

Welcome to Political Science! Our major combines (1) a classical liberal arts education with (2) advanced analytical techniques and (3) an understanding of the basic operating systems of human societies. In a world beset by problems that stubbornly ignore the narrow boundaries of academic disciplines, Political Science is the perfect bridge to leadership in a wide variety of fields.

In addition to careers in government and political careers, our graduates work as leaders in non-profits, management consulting, new media, law, Silicon Valley start-ups, and other fields that are central to the world of tomorrow. It's a mistake to think your undergraduate courses "lead" directly to the career you expect to enter. The *whole reason* to study at Duke—and to major in Political Science in particular!—is that a liberal arts background teaches you *how to learn*. In your job, or your graduate training, you'll learn narrow technical skills. The reason to major in Political Science is that you will have context, and a depth of knowledge about the ethical and engineering problems of working in groups.

Let's take a moment and see how it all works....

The Major

The major consists of:

- Two foundational courses:
 - POLSCI 175D: Introduction to Political Philosophy
 - STA 101 (you can substitute another STA course with the permission of the DUS)
- 3 courses in your field of concentration, including a senior capstone experience
- Your choice of 5 electives in political science, at least two of which should be in a "secondary specialization" field.

In their junior and senior years, students pursue independent studies and senior research projects to hone critical skills. Beyond the campus, students can integrate internships and study abroad programs to gain real-world experience. Feel free to contact Suzanne Pierce for some directions about being matched to an internship.

Fields of Concentration

The undergraduate fields of concentration in Political Science are:

- **Behavior and Identities**
- **Political Institutions**
- **Political Economy**
- **Security, Peace, and Conflict**
- **Theory (Political Philosophy)**

You can take courses in several of these fields, but you *must* take at least three courses, including your senior capstone course, in one of these fields, which becomes your “concentration” in Political Science.

Introductory Courses

For an introduction to the major you should have had two or more of the following broad survey courses. You have likely already had at least one of these before declaring the major, but please consider taking another so you have a better idea of what the major offers. The introductory courses give students a grounding in the discipline, before you specialize in a field.

POLSCI 114D From Voting to Protests (Behavior and Identities)
POLSCI 116D American Political System (Political Institutions)
POLSCI 120D Challenges of Living an Ethical Life (Theory)
POLSCI 145 Introduction to Political Economy (Political Economy)
POLSCI 160D Introduction to Security, Peace and Conflict (Security)

You’ll need some help with selecting those courses, which brings us to....

Advising

First and second majors select their faculty advisor after declaration of the political science major. The faculty advisor is your resource for course selection, research opportunities, graduate or professional school information, and such.

Once you have officially declared the political science major with Pre-Major Advising or the Registrar's Office, please fill out the Advisor Selection Form to select your advisor, and email the completed form to Suzanne Pierce, the Undergraduate Program Coordinator (suzanne.pierce@duke.edu). You should receive confirmation of your advisor within 48 hours of your submission. We highly recommend that you select a faculty member within your planned field. If you have any questions about selecting an advisor, contact Suzanne Pierce or talk to any faculty member.

Prior to the course registration period each semester, each faculty advisor will contact his or her advisees to set up an appointment to discuss course selection. Students are required to meet with the Undergraduate Program Coordinator, Suzanne Pierce (suzanne.pierce@duke.edu) each advising period prior to course registration. It is during

these meetings that the major requirements will be reviewed in detail to make sure that students are on the right track for completion of the major. More detailed information is sent to the students prior to the advising period. If you have questions, feel free to contact me, Prof. Michael Munger, the Director of Undergraduate Studies (munger@duke.edu).

Welcome to Political Science!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael C. Munger", followed by the date "9/18". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Michael C. Munger
Directory, Undergraduate Studies