

## Political Science as a Field of Study

If you are curious about government and politics at the local, state, national or international level, Political Science might be the perfect degree for you. Majors in this field seek to analyze political behavior and the effect it has on critical issues such as healthcare, human rights, civil liberties, war and peace, and the environment.

Political Science majors are diverse in the field of studies that cover American politics, international relations, political economy, policy studies, comparative politics, and political theory. If you're interested in studying or pursuing a career in political science you will need at least a Bachelor's degree from an accredited University.

## Which degree from Bellevue College would help me?

An **Associate of Arts and Science – Direct Transfer Agreement (AAS-DTA) (90 credits)** degree from Bellevue College will typically allow you to enter a Political Science program at a Washington State university with Junior status.

At Bellevue College, students may study Political Science as an “Academic Concentration in Political Science” by completing 20 credits of Political Science within the AAS-DTA.

There may be special prerequisites that you need to meet before admission to your Political Science program of choice. Make sure to check with your target transfer university to ensure you are meeting these prerequisites. If you plan to transfer to a program outside of Washington, it is very important to connect with a transfer advisor there to discuss which classes will transfer and what specific courses you may need to take here at BC.

## What are some common prerequisites that I'll need to take here?

It is **highly recommended** that you speak with a representative at the target university in conjunction with an academic advisor here at BC to ensure that you are taking the proper course sequence. Double-checking requirements can be as easy as going to the university department website. Below is a general guide to the types of classes recommended for students interested in a Political Science major (this is not an official list):

Written Communication	Mathematics	Political Science	Earn an Academic Concentration in Political Science	Recommended Courses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English 101†</li> <li>English 201†</li> </ul> <p>† Recommended during the first year of study</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Math 130† OR</li> <li>Math 138†</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>POLS 101†</li> <li>POLS&amp; 202</li> <li>POLS&amp; 203</li> <li>POLS 204</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take POLS 101</li> <li>Take 2 of these: POLS&amp; 201, 202, 203, 204</li> <li>Take 1 additional POLS course</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CMST&amp; 220</li> <li>INTST 201†</li> <li>INTST 202</li> <li>INTST 203</li> </ul>

## Foreign Language Requirement

*Strongly recommended:* three quarters (15 credits) of college level foreign language (in one particular language) or 3 years of high school foreign language. This is not necessarily a requirement at all universities. Please check the admissions/graduation requirements at the specific schools that you are interested in.

## Course Planning Notes

Use the space below to write down a course sequence for this school year. Remember to maintain balance each quarter (i.e. try not to take all sciences or all writing-based classes in a single quarter). Also, keep in mind that 12 credit hours or more is considered full time; make sure to balance class load with your personal and/or work life. This is not an official educational plan— you should see an academic advisor if you have questions about course selection.

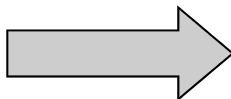
SUMMER		FALL		WINTER		SPRING	
COURSE	CREDITS	COURSE	CREDITS	COURSE	CREDITS	COURSE	CREDITS
TOTAL QTR. CREDITS		TOTAL QTR. CREDITS		TOTAL QTR. CREDITS		TOTAL QTR. CREDITS	

## Beyond BC with a Political Science Degree!

Political Science majors get an outstanding background of transferable skills that prepares them for any career they choose to pursue. Several careers in the field of Political Science require additional education beyond the bachelor's degree, specifically for those students interested in law.

Did you know that Political Science is the most popular of all Social Science majors?

**Some Washington universities with higher degree programs in Political Science.**



Central Washington University  
Eastern Washington University  
Evergreen State College  
Gonzaga University  
Northwest University  
Pacific Lutheran University  
Seattle Pacific University  
Seattle University  
University of Puget Sound  
University of Washington (Bothell, Seattle, Tacoma)  
Saint Martin's University  
Washington State University  
Western Washington University  
Whitman College  
Whitworth University

## Careers In Political Science

There are many diverse job options for those with a degree in Political Science including careers the following areas:

- U.S. Government (local, state, and federal levels)
- International Organizations (United Nations, World Bank, IMF, World Trade Organization)
- Non-Profit Groups (Greenpeace, Human Rights Watch)
- Public Policy and Research (Carnegie Endowment, Gates Foundation, Brookings Institute)
- Journalism
- Law
- Education

### Need more Career Information?

**Internships and volunteer experiences** are highly important; not only do they make you a more competitive applicant, but they allow you to start networking in the field.

Connect with the Career Center to find out more about these opportunities by calling 425-564-2279. Visit: [bellevuecollege.edu/careers/](http://bellevuecollege.edu/careers/)

## Who To Contact for more Information:

Bellevue College has a variety of friendly faces and resources to help you plan and register for classes. At BC, Political Science is part of the Social Sciences Division (located in D110).

**First Time to College Students:** New Student Advising (we call this BARK) at [www.bellevuecollege.edu/advising/meet/first-time/](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/advising/meet/first-time/)

**Returning to College/Transfer-In/Current Students:** Meet with one of our Social Sciences Advisors, Deanne Eschbach or Antaknea Majors. To schedule an appointment, call Advising at **425-564-2212** or stop by the 2nd floor of the B Building at the Advising Front Desk. You can also call 425-564-2331 to reach the Social Sciences Division.

**Email:** [advising@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:advising@bellevuecollege.edu)

Check your degree progress!  
Log into  
degree audit at: [http://  
bellevuecollege.edu/degreeaudit/](http://bellevuecollege.edu/degreeaudit/)

### Political Science Majors...

You may also want to consider attending the **APSA** (American Political Science Association) conference to learn more about the field and to boost your networking skills. Find out more at [apsanet.org](http://apsanet.org).

**This is a unofficial guide only, designed to prepare students for entry into Washington State Political Science programs. It is the student's responsibility to research and communicate with all community college and university programs to which he/she intends to apply to establish prerequisites and admission requirements, as they vary and are subject to change without notice.**

