

COLLEGE OF NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

POLITICAL SCIENCE



POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political science majors study government, public policies and political behavior affecting human society. Specific topics include concerns for world peace, government policies aimed at achieving economic stability and growth, the gap between socioeconomic classes, the possibility of using law to affect change, and control over political competition.

Completing the coursework, you will develop citizenship skills and other skills you can apply to any occupation. You will gain valuable preparation for participating in community organizations, electoral politics, movements on behalf of specific policies and for seeking elective or administrative positions in government.

Career opportunity settings

- Law firms
- Polling and campaign management
- Non-profit advocacy groups
- Journalism and communications
- Non-government organizations
- Local governments
- Court systems
- Community service
- State or Capitol Hill congressional offices

Reasons to major in political science at UNK

- Exposure to multiple subfields of political science while developing knowledge in areas you find most interesting
- Faculty members have PhDs in their area of expertise
- Experiential opportunities – pursue a research project in partnership with a professor or put knowledge to use in an internship

Alumni profile

“I chose to major in political science because I thought I wanted to go to law school, and after my first few classes, I knew I was in the right place,” said Christina (Bartels) Oldfather, a 2005 political science major and graduate from Wilcox, Nebraska.



**CHRISTINA
OLDFATHER**

“The classes and professors were all engaging and thought-provoking. I wanted to go to class to keep the conversation going. The political science professors make the department the best place to be on campus. Their doors were always open for questions or just to chat.”

At UNK, Oldfather says she developed critical thinking skills to look at problems and projects from different perspectives. “This experience was instrumental to my success in grad school and my career. The ability to think critically and analyze issues, problems and projects in the real world is a must.”

Oldfather earned a Master of Public Administration from UNO and is now employed with Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development. She works to help support the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the city of Lincoln.

At UNK, you can get the most out of your education, form lifelong friendships and uncover your capacity to make a meaningful difference in society.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

FOUR YEAR CLASS SCHEDULE: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

The schedule is a guideline for progress toward a degree. Consult with your academic adviser.

Semester 1 (15 credits) GS Aesthetics course GS Portal 188 course (your choice) GS core ENG 102 Writing and Research GS PSCI 110 Intro to American Politics GS PSCI 140 or PSCI 170	Semester 2 (16 credits) GS Humanities course GS Natural Sciences with lab GS core Oral Communication course PSCI 168 Introduction to Int. Relations PSCI 200 level course
Semester 3 (15 credits) GS Natural Sciences GS Social Sciences course GS elective PSCI subfield course PSCI subfield course	Semester 4 (14 credits) GS Humanities course GS elective (2 credits) PSCI subfield course PSCI subfield course Minor or second major requirement
Semester 5 (15 credits) GS STAT 235 or STAT 241 PSCI 373, 374, 375, 376 or 378 PSCI 381 Intro. to Political Inquiry Minor or second major requirement Unrestricted elective	Semester 6 (15 credits) GS Capstone 388 course (your choice) PSCI elective Minor or second major requirement Minor or second major requirement Unrestricted elective
Semester 7 (15 credits) PSCI 489 Senior Seminar PSCI elective Minor or second major requirement Minor or second major requirement Unrestricted elective	Semester 8 (15 credits) PSCI elective Minor or second major requirement Minor or second major requirement Unrestricted elective Unrestricted elective

Political science organizations

Locke and Key Society

Locke and Key Society is a non-partisan campus club for students from all majors who are interested in politics and public affairs. Organized activities include:

- Public discussions of current events
- Politically-themed films
- Social activities with peers

Model United Nations

Model UN members participate in annual international conferences about politics and processes of the United Nations. Participation advantages include:

- Meeting students from colleges and universities all over the world
- Exploring international problems

Pi Sigma Alpha

Pi Sigma Alpha, a national honor society for political science majors, is for students who have demonstrated outstanding academic excellence.

Political science major, an invitation, not a challenge

- Do you think citizenship matters?
- Do you value lifelong learning?
- Do you appreciate community?
- Do you want to use your mind to earn a living?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then a major or minor in political science makes sense. At UNK, you will learn responsible citizenship, get prepared for a variety of careers, and grow intellectually, socially and civically.

Scholarships available

- Jay Hill Scholarship
- George W. Norris Scholarship
- Dale L. and Ellen J. Schroeder Scholarship

Successful political science majors have a concern for current affairs and high tolerance for others, enjoy conducting research, communicate effectively orally and in written form, demonstrate analytical skills and solve problems.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Diane Duffin, associate professor and chair
 Founders Hall, 2228
 (308) 865-8758
 duffind@unk.edu

STUDENT PROFILE – Will Pettit



"As a political science major, I was sure I made the right choice because each instructor has the ability to make the classroom fun while also discussing important topics," said Will Pettit from Ashland, Nebraska. "I chose UNK for multiple reasons: I could spend time with family I have residing in the area, I felt that coming to UNK would be a strong step forward for my future because of the reputation UNK had academically and, as a university, UNK manages to have the small-town feeling that I get from my hometown. The environment is relaxing yet big enough to include students from all over who have different perspectives."

Pettit says the political science department is welcoming, informative and great for stimulating learning.

"The best part is the sense of community. The professors are willing to take plenty of time out of their day to answer any questions or have a conversation with you."