

DEGREES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

OVERVIEW

The Political Science program at Lewis University offers both a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration.

The mission of the political science major is to offer an education that emphasizes scholarship, the pursuit of knowledge, and the development of a critical understanding of government and politics at all levels: internationally, nationally and locally. The department's goal is to produce graduates who have the intellectual, critical and analytical skills that are necessary to understand how political systems function, how to affect politics through participation, and how to make rational choices when choosing candidates and assessing public policies.

The mission of the public administration major is to prepare students for active service and employment in national, state and local agencies in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government. Through internships, students obtain real-life experiences in government. They are paired with professionals who prosecute cases, defend clients in court, shape environmental regulations, and manage money, people and things. By participating in the drafting of bills or lobbying for the rights of children, students soon become aware that working in politics or public administration is a rewarding career.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Students in the Political Science and Public Administration programs acquire the knowledge and skills needed to analyze political, social, and economic issues at the local, national, and international levels. Political Science and Public Administration majors will be well prepared for a variety of career sectors, including business, domestic and international public affairs, non-governmental organizations, interest groups, teaching, law, journalism and graduate work.

The Political Science Department faculty provides advice and resources for their majors. There are many local, state, and national internship opportunities available for students. Lewis University Political Science majors have received internships in Washington, D.C., working in the White House, State Department, and for various members of Congress. Many majors also take advantage of study abroad opportunities in Europe, the Far East, and Latin America. Finally, faculty also direct students to various resources that are looking specifically for political science majors.

CONTACT

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HIGHLIGHTS

The Political Science major is an excellent choice that prepares students with the skills needed for the 21st century. Students will acquire an education that emphasizes knowledge, scholarship and the development of a critical understanding of government and politics at all levels. Students will take courses in American politics, comparative politics, international relations, political theory, and research methodology. In addition to understanding the methods and concepts within the discipline, students will learn essential oral and written communication skills in smaller classes with faculty who work closely with them. Not only will students learn to conduct research, and use technology to assess political behavior and policies, they will learn about the contemporary political issues that students will face as they encounter the world beyond Lewis University. In addition to understanding and analyzing various issues, students will have opportunities to become informed, involved and responsible citizens. Majoring in Political Science is the type of liberal arts major that prepares students for lifelong learning and a whole range of career options.

Students in the Public Administration major also will learn vital analytical and communication skills. They too will conduct research, use technology, and be prepared for active service and employment in national, state, and local agencies in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. Through internships, students obtain real-life experiences in government. They are paired with professionals who prosecute cases, defend clients in court, shape environmental regulations, and manage money, people and things. By participating in the drafting of bills or lobbying, students soon become aware that working in politics or public administration is an exciting, important, and meaningful career.

ABOUT THE FACULTY

Chair Dr. Joseph Gaziano holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Northern Illinois University. He teaches courses in American politics, political behavior, and public administration. His research interests include teaching with electronic technology, web campaigning, animal rights, and the politics of food production in the United States.

Dr. Alba Hesselroth received her Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Southern California. Her areas of specialization are International Political Economy and Latin America. She also studied law at the Pontificia Universidad Catolica in Peru, and at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, College of Law, where she was granted a Master of Laws. Her teaching interests include international relations, comparative politics, Latin American politics, and international political economy. Dr. Hesselroth is also Lewis University's Director of Latino Studies.

Dr. Laurette Liesen received her Ph.D. in Political Science from Loyola University Chicago. She teaches courses in political theory, public policy issues, and American government. She is the moderator for Lewis University's Alpha Delta Gamma Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society. In addition, she is the Contributing Editor for Submissions and Peer Reviews for the international and interdisciplinary journal *Politics and the Life Sciences*. Her research interests include political philosophy, topics in biopolitical behavior, and feminism.

ACTIVITIES

Political Science and Public Administration students have the opportunity to work in groups and participate in the community, civic life, and public affairs. Each year the Political Science Department faculty and students participate in the Arts & Ideas panels that discuss current political events and topics, ranging from elections to war to public policy issues. These events are organized for the whole Lewis University community.

Students interested in going to law school can participate in Mock Trial and attend local, regional, and national competitions. The Lewis University Mock Trial team has members from 17 different disciplines, and has experienced great success at both the individual and team levels. It has been among the top ten regional teams six times, earning this honor for four consecutive years.

Finally, Political Science and Public Administration students have the opportunity to join the Alpha Delta Gamma Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society. Lewis University's chapter membership is open to juniors and seniors who have completed ten semester hours of work in political science, who have maintained a B average or higher in all political science courses, and who have an overall academic standing in the upper one-third of their class. In addition to honorable recognition, students in Pi Sigma Alpha have leadership opportunities within the organization. Finally, these students have access to resources pertaining to graduate work and employment opportunities, and members may apply for scholarships and paper awards through Pi Sigma Alpha's Washington D.C. office.

POLITICAL SCIENCE / BACHELOR OF ARTS

Total Credit Hours: 128
Major Credit Hours: 36

I. Core Courses (18)

- 18-200 American National Government (3)
OR
- 18-210 State and Local Government (3)
- 18-250 Research Methods (3)
- 18-321 Comparative Government (3)
- 18-331 International Relations (3)
- 18-361 History of Political Thought I (3)
OR
- 18-362 History of Political Thought II (3)
- 18-400 Senior Capstone (3)

II. Select six courses of electives: (18)

(Note: The additional six courses should be distributed among the remaining courses offered in the Political Science curriculum.)

III. The advanced writing requirement is satisfied by successful completion of one of the following courses:

- 18-341 Public Administration (3)
- 18-350 Interest Group Politics (3)
- 18-352 Political Opinion and Behavior (3)
- 18-361 History of Political Thought I (3)
- 18-362 History of Political Thought II (3)
- 18-400 Senior Capstone (3)
- 18-410 International Relations Capstone (3)

POLITICAL SCIENCE / MINOR

Minor Credit Hours: 18

I. Required Courses (9)

- 18-200 American National Government (3)
OR
- 18-210 State and Local Government (3)
- 18-321 Comparative Government (3)
OR
- 18-331 International Relations (3)
- 18-361 History of Political Thought I (3)
OR
- 18-362 History of Political Thought II (3)

II. Three additional courses from the Political Science curriculum (9)

POLITICAL SCIENCE FOR COLLEGE OF BUSINESS MAJORS / MINOR

Minor Credit Hours: 18

I. Required Course (3)

18-200 American National Government (3)

II. Select one of the following: (3)

18-321 Comparative Government (3)

18-331 International Relations (3)

III. Select one of the following: (3)

18-361 History of Political Thought I (3)

18-362 History of Political Thought II (3)

18-364 Political Ideologies (3)

IV. Select three additional courses from the Political Science curriculum. (9)

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION / BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Total Credit Hours: 128

Major Credit Hours: 35

I. Core Courses (17)

18-200 American National Government (3)
OR

18-210 State and Local Government (3)

18-341 Public Administration (3)

18-342 Public Finance (3)

18-349 Public Personnel Administration (3)

18-381 Public Policy Formation (3)

18-398 Internship in Political Science (1-3)

II. Required support courses (9)

04-200 Basic Macroeconomics (3)

26-303 Statistics for the Social Sciences (3)

18-250 Research Methods (3)

III. Select two electives: (6)

04-330 Government and Business (3)

18-344 Budgeting (3)

18-346 Introduction to Planning (3)

61-375 Organizational Behavior (3)

IV. Select one elective: (3)

18-347 Problems in Public Administration (3)

18-350 Interest Group Politics (3)

18-353 Legislative Process (3)

18-382 Issues in Public Policy (3)

26-365 Industrial and Organizational Psychology (3)

V. The advanced writing requirement is satisfied by successful completion of one of the following courses:

18-341 Public Administration (3)

18-350 Interest Group Politics (3)

18-353 Legislative Process (3)

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION / MINOR

Minor Credit Hours: 18

Required Courses (18)

18-200 American National Government (3)
OR

18-210 State and Local Government (3)

18-341 Public Administration (3)

18-342 Public Finance (3)

18-349 Public Personnel Administration (3)

18-381 Public Policy Formation (3)

26-303 Statistics for the Social Sciences (3)
OR

OR

18-250 Research Methods (3)