**Political Science**

**MAJOR MAP**

*How to Use the Map*

This map is designed to give you information about your chosen major that will help keep you on track for graduation within 4 years. The sections on this page will help orient you to the “big picture” ideas such as the topics and areas of interest inside your major, the types of courses you will take, university policies including admissions, and other general topics. The chart on the second page will help you to develop a productive plan to make the most of your 4 years at ECU and prepare yourself for the job market after graduation.

Remember, it is important that you diversify your experiences for success both in your degree program and outside of school. While coursework is important, it should not be your only focus. This Major Map will show you how to incorporate other kinds of experiences that will expand your knowledge of your chosen field and make you a more desirable job candidate. The map is only a guideline. Remember to speak with your advisor often to learn about new opportunities, clarify concerns, and develop a plan that is right for you.

**Where to Turn For Help**

ECU offers an array of support to help you grow and learn from your first day of orientation until your graduation. New Student Orientation, Pirate to Pirate Mentoring, the University Writing Center, and the Career Center are only a few of the services and centers available to assist you throughout your time on campus.

**WORKPLACE SUCCESS**

*What employers want*

As a Political Science major, you will acquire experience and skills that are in demand by many employers. These include:

1. Critical thinking and analytical skills
2. Effective communication of your ideas to diverse audiences
3. The ability to make coherent arguments that are supported by data and scholarly research
4. Practical experience through relevant internships, participation in study abroad, data analysis, and/or foreign language proficiency

Keep in mind that your goal at ECU is preparing yourself to be marketable in your chosen career field. Taking advantage of the opportunities that are available to you outside of the classroom can help you to grow as a student and emerging professional, while also giving you the experience and skills that will be attractive to prospective employers.

**WHAT CAN I LEARN?**

A Political Science degree will help you expand your understanding of governments and societies and how their interactions influence policy-making. You will learn about a variety of political issues, current and historical events, and how governments make policies and deliver them to their citizens. This knowledge will help you to:

- Be a more informed citizen and constructive participant in public affairs;
- Develop the skills necessary to succeed in a professional environment;
- Understand concepts and theories essential to social science research, including the scientific method and the kinds of data and measurements that are used to assess political questions;
- Gain practical knowledge about the modern world and insights into the great issues of our age;
- Learn basic concepts relevant to the structures, powers, procedures, and problems of government and organizations within the U.S. and around the globe;
- Identify and understand the factors that influence the political behavior of individuals;
- Examine political institutions, the social and economic forces that shape them, and the cultural context within which they operate;
- Analyze events in the international system and apply relevant theories and concepts to war and peace, economics, diplomacy, arms control, and threats to security.

**DEGREE OPTIONS**

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

If you choose to pursue your Bachelor of Arts in Political Science you will need to complete the following course work:

- General Education requirements
- Demonstrate foreign language proficiency through level 2004
- 15 credit hours of core political science course work
- 3 credit hours in political theory
- 21 credit hours of political science electives
- A minimum of 120 credit hours of coursework

Bachelor of Science in Political Science

If you choose to pursue your Bachelor of Science in Political Science, you will need to complete the following course work:

- General Education requirements
- 18 credit hours of core political science course work
- 24 semester hours in your selected concentration
- A minimum of 120 credit hours of coursework
- Foreign language hours are not required

Talk to your academic advisor about the other exciting degree opportunities that are available through the department.
**Political Science MAJOR MAP**

**DEGREE INFORMATION**

### FIRST YEAR

- If you have chosen the BA in POLS, you should begin taking required foreign language courses in the first year. BA and BS students should register for General Education courses (ENGL 1100 and MATH 1050 recommended), as well as POLS 1010 National Government and POLS 2010, 2020, and/or 2070 if they fit your schedule.

- Explore your major and career options in consultation with your advisor. By the end of your first year you should have developed plans to complete specific internship opportunities, and special events.

- Emails form the department will let you know about ongoing guest lectures, internship opportunities, and special events. Keep up with the department social calendar to participate in events like debate and election night watch parties.

### SECOND YEAR

- Continue working on General Education requirements and your foreign language (if you're a BA student), in addition to any remaining 2000-level POLS required classes. Take POLS 2090 and ENGL 2201 sometime during the year. Register for POLS electives and make a plan for completing courses required for your minor this year and into years 3 and 4.

- Meet with Career Services to explore in-depth career planning. Investigate job-related skills and identify gaps in your resume so you can address them early. Use the Occupational Outlook Handbook, USA Jobs.gov, and/or other resources available through Career Services, to identify common skills in your career field.

- Join student organizations that suit your interests, which may include College Democrats, College Republicans, Model United Nations, or the Pre-Law Society. Students can also consider the Student Government Association or the Student Activities Board. For a full list of student organizations, visit OrgSync.

### THIRD YEAR

- Make it a goal to complete your General Education requirements during your third year. Schedule POLS 3031 in the fall semester and POLS 3032 in the spring. Register for any remaining POLS core classes and choose courses in your POLS concentration if you are a BS student or POLS electives if you are a BA student.

- Internships, part-time jobs, student leadership positions, and volunteer or community engagement activities can help build your resume and give you valuable experience. Connect directly with faculty members who share your interests and attend career fairs to explore your interests, network, and identify opportunities.

- Connect with the Center for Leadership, Civic Engagement, and Civic Engagement to explore local opportunities. Also consider contacting community partners using the OrgSync directory. To build your professional network, join a professional organization like the American Political Science Association or the International Studies Association.

### FOURTH YEAR

- Complete POLS concentration requirements if you are a BS student or POLS electives if you are a BA student. Ensure that you have enough credit hours to graduate and have fulfilled all requirements for your minor. Apply for graduation and make plans to participate in university and department commencement ceremonies.

- Volunteering for political, governmental, or social organizations is a great way to get experience in your field, build your resume; test your interest in working with diverse populations, and develop your professional network.

### POST-GRAD OPTIONS

You will find there are a lot of career opportunities available to you after completing your degree in Political Science from East Carolina University. These may include:

- Federal, state, or local government;
- Domestic or international nonprofit organizations, think tanks, interest groups, and lobbying firms;
- Political campaign consulting, work for a political party, or for a polling entity;
- Law school;
- Jobs in the legal system that do not require a law degree;
- Graduate study;
- Careers in the private sector;
- Military service or law enforcement.

**VISIT US ONLINE**

For more information and an interactive map PDF, visit: [ECU/Edu/PolsSci](http://ECU/Edu/PolsSci) or [Facebook.com/ECUPolSci](http://Facebook.com/ECUPolSci)

**Graduation Survey**

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