

# 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 governments 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.



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THOMAS HARRIOT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

# Political Science



## ABOUT THE MAJOR

If you are interested in domestic or international politics, policy, law, government, or security, a political science degree is right for you. Our Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BS) in Political Science programs examine political institutions, the social and economic forces that shape them, the cultural context within which they operate, and human behavior in political matters. As a political science major, you will develop analytical and problem-solving abilities and improve your communication

skills, which are essential tools for all professions. If you choose the BS in Political Science as your major you can choose from four concentrations: Campaigns, Elections, and American Politics; International Relations and Comparative Politics; Pre-Law; and Public Administration and Policy/State and Local Government. These concentrations allow you to tailor your studies to suit your interests and career goals while also developing specialized knowledge about a particular field within political science.

## 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 course work

Foreign language hours are not required

Talk to your academic advisor about the other exciting degree opportunities that are available through the department



## ADMISSIONS INFO

You can apply to the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences through the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website at [www.ecu.edu/admissions](http://www.ecu.edu/admissions). To be considered for admission, freshmen applicants will submit their high school transcript and standardized test scores. Transfer applicants will submit official transcripts from all previously attended institutions. Application deadlines and specific admissions requirements for freshmen and transfer applicants are listed on the website.

## COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

Regardless of which degree option you choose, you will take 36 semester hours of core coursework, distributed throughout government, international relations, and political theory. Building on the foundation provided by your core classes, you can choose from elective courses that will help you develop your area of specialized interest such as POLS 3037 Campaigns and Elections, POLS 3039 Black Politics in America, POLS 3204 The American Judiciary, POLS 4382 Politics of Terrorism, and many more.

## INTERNSHIPS

As a Political Science major, you should consider completing at least one internship during your time at ECU. Internships offer you the opportunity to gain practical experience in your field of study while also exploring potential career options for after you graduate. Speak with your advisor early to determine the best way to find the internship that is right for you. Pay attention to department emails that may be announcing internship opportunities for ECU Political Science majors.





## FIRST YEAR >>>

## SECOND YEAR >>>

## THIRD YEAR >>>

## FOURTH YEAR >>>

## POST-GRAD OPTIONS

### THE COURSES YOU NEED

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

### GAIN RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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 internships, develop the experience necessary for the kind of employment you want, or begin to identify potential graduate schools.

Meet with [Career Services](#) often to work on your post-graduation plans. Investigate job-related skills and identify gaps in your résumé so you can address them early. [Use the Occupational Outlook Handbook](#), [USAJobs.gov](#), and/or other resources available through [Career Services](#) to identify common skills in your career field.

Internships, part-time jobs, student leadership positions, and volunteer or community engagement activities can help build your résumé 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.

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

CONSIDER AN INTERNSHIP OR STUDY ABROAD

### COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Emails from the department will let you know about upcoming 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.

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](#).

Connect with the [Center for Leadership 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](#).

Submit a proposal to present a polished research paper from one of your POLS classes at the [North Carolina Political Science Association](#) or another state or regional conference. Also Consider undergraduate research journals such as the [Pi Sigma Alpha Journal of Undergraduate Research](#).

APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS EACH YEAR

### THINK GLOBALLY

Being internationally aware and culturally competent is increasingly important. Think about ways you could build these skills, which may include foreign language or Global Understanding courses, study abroad, or internationally-focused courses or student organizations.

Integrate internationally-oriented classes into your electives and consider a minor or second major in an international field or foreign language. Consider a summer or semester-long study abroad program. Apply for study abroad scholarships in the early fall.

Make the most of your return from your study abroad or internship program by becoming more active in your student organizations. Work with the [Office of Global Affairs](#) and the [Career Center](#) to learn how to leverage your study abroad experience to improve your job placement possibilities.

Take on a leadership position in one of your globally-oriented student organizations. Complete your program by incorporating more internationally-focused courses.

## VISIT US ONLINE

For more information and an interactive map PDF, visit:

[ECU.EDU/POLSCI](http://ECU.EDU/POLSCI)

or

[FACEBOOK.COM/ECUPOLSCI](https://FACEBOOK.COM/ECUPOLSCI)

[ECUPOLSCI](https://FACEBOOK.COM/ECUPOLSCI)

### CAREER PREPAREDNESS

Visit [Career Services](#) to learn about their resources. Check out the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) and [Virtual Job Shadow](#) to explore potential careers. Log in to [ECU CareerNET](#) to set up your profile, check out career events, and begin to explore potential employers and job opportunities.

Meet with your Career Counselor to explore your goals and develop your résumé. Attend career fairs and other employer-related activities. Speak to your instructors and advisors about career options often.

Develop your [LinkedIn](#) profile. Meet with your Career Counselor to discuss postgraduation plans. If needed, research graduate schools and program requirements. Continue to attend career fairs and other employer-related career events.

Meet with your Career Counselor to put your post-graduation plans into action. Refine your résumé, [LinkedIn](#) profile, and interview skills. Complete the Pirate Employment Survey.

