

School of Arts and Sciences

**POLITICS AND
PHILOSOPHY**www.honorscollege.pitt.edu/courses/politics-philos.html**OVERVIEW**

The politics and philosophy major is designed to provide students with an interdisciplinary training in the conceptual, empirical, and normative foundations of various fields of public policy. It enhances students' understanding of the moral and political complexities of public life, and it gives both empirical and philosophical preparation to students interested in pursuing careers in social and public affairs.

By combining course work from different disciplines, the program's scope is broad, yet the structure of the curriculum also requires depth. Given the thematic nature of the major, there is flexibility in the courses you may choose to fulfill requirements. In collaboration with the major advisor, you will design a cohesive program of study, tailoring it to meet your individual postgraduate/career interests and needs.

In addition, essential communication skills in writing and presentation are sharpened through two required W courses. Politics and philosophy is a rigorous and challenging but rewarding major. Upon graduation, an academic career is certainly a possible pursuit; the major is also excellent preparation for careers in law, government, community organizations, and social action groups.

The major comprises elements from the political science, philosophy, and economics departments, unified under the auspices of the University Honors College (UHC). The major involves a minimum of 51 units distributed as follows: political science, 21 units; philosophy, 21 units; economics, 9 units; and capstone (which may or may not have credits associated with it).

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR**Political Science Courses (21 units)**

Students must complete seven courses in political science. At least four of the courses must be from the upper level (numbered 1000 or above). One of the courses must be a W-course (the W-course may be either a lower-level or upper-level course).

Philosophy Courses(21 units)

Students must complete seven courses in philosophy. At least four of the courses must be from the upper level (numbered 1000 or above). One of the courses must be a W course (the W course may be either a lower-level or upper-level course).

Economics (21 units)

The following are required economics courses: ECON 0100 Introduction to Microeconomic Theory, ECON 0110 Introduction to Macroeconomic Theory, and one additional economics course (no course in the 0800 series may count toward this requirement).

Capstone (variable credits)

In consultation with the advisor, students may opt for one of the following: completion of the Bachelor of Philosophy thesis through the UHC; participation in a graduate-level seminar (with permission of the instructor); or completion of a directed research project, independent study, or internship.



Related Area

Since the very nature of the major is multidisciplinary, no related area is required. It is, however, not uncommon that politics and philosophy majors will complete a second major, minor, or certificate.

Major W Courses

The required W seminar courses noted above fulfill the W requirement. Politics and philosophy majors will often complete more than the minimum number of W courses.

Grade Requirements

A minimum quality point average of 2.0 is required in those courses that count toward the major.

Foreign Languages

There is no requirement beyond that of the School of Arts and Sciences. However, students are always encouraged to pursue language studies, especially those who are interested in international studies, or a specific area studies program later at the graduate level.

Credit by Examination

Not available.

The Job Market for Graduates with a BA in Politics and Philosophy

Upon graduation, an academic career is certainly a possible pursuit; the major is also excellent preparation for careers in law, government, community organizations, and social action groups.

For further information concerning the politics and philosophy major, contact:

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