

# POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR WITH LEGAL STUDIES OPTION

## Program Curriculum

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Degree Core Requirements</b>		
<i>Required Political Science Courses</i>		
PSCI/IS 1034	Introduction to International Studies and Political Science	3
PSCI 2014	Introduction to Political Theory	3
PSCI/PPE 2024	Research Methods in Political Science	3
Select One of the Following		3
PSCI/IS/GEOG 2054	Introduction to World Politics	
PSCI/IS/GEOG 2064	The Global Economy and World Politics	
<i>Required Political Science Core Elective Courses <sup>1</sup></i>		
Select nine hours of courses in Political Science, six of which must be at the 3000 or 4000 level		9
Subtotal		21
<b>Major Requirements</b>		
<i>Political Science Major Courses</i>		
PSCI 1014	Introduction to United States Government and Politics	3
or PSCI 1014H	Honors Introduction to United States Government and Politics	
PSCI/IS 1024	Comp Gov & Politics	3
or PSCI 1024H	Honors Introduction to Comparative Government and Politics	
<i>Advanced Theory and Practice in Political Science</i>		
Select one of the following:		3
PSCI/PHIL 3015	Political Theory	
PSCI/PHIL/PPE 3016	Political Theory	
PSCI/IS 4024	Seminar in Diplomacy and Security	
PSCI/IS 4054	Seminar in Global Political Economy	
PSCI/IS 4064	Seminar in Global Development	
PSCI/IS 4074	The Politics of Cybersecurity	
PSCI/BIT/CS 4164	Future of Security: Integrative Solutions for Complex Security Systems	
PSCI/FREC/IS 4174	Climate Change and the International Policy Framework	
PSCI 4214	Senior Seminar in Political Behavior	
PSCI 4314	Senior Seminar in Political Institutions	
PSCI 4324	Senior Seminar in Constitutional Law	
PSCI 4414	Senior Seminar in Public Administration	
PSCI 4514	Senior Seminar in Comparative Politics	
PSCI/IS 4614	Senior Seminar in International Relations	
PSCI/IS 4714	Senior Seminar in Policy Analysis	
PSCI 4724	Senior Seminar in Political Theory	
PSCI 4754	Internship Program	

PSCI 4974	Independent Study	
or PSCI 4974H	Independent Study	
PSCI 4994	Undergraduate Research	
or PSCI 4994H	Undergraduate Research	
Subtotal		9
<b>Requirements for the Political Science Major (Legal Studies Option)</b>		
<i>Legal Studies Philosophy Courses</i>		
PHIL 1204	Knowledge and Reality	3
PHIL 1304	Morality and Justice	3
<i>Legal Studies Political Science Courses</i>		
Select two of the following:		6
PSCI 3334	Judicial Process	
PSCI 3354	Constitutional Law: Structures and Relationships	
PSCI 3364	Constitutional Law: Civil and Political Rights	
PSCI/UAP 3444	Administrative Law and Policy	
PSCI 4324	Senior Seminar in Constitutional Law	
<i>Political Science Electives</i>		
Select a minimum of six additional hours of courses in Political Science, 3 of which must be at the 3000 or 4000 level. <sup>2</sup>		6
<i>Required Hours in Legal Studies Related Courses</i>		
Select four of the following:		12
AAEC 3314	Environmental Law	
AAEC 3604	Agricultural Law	
COMM 4024	Communication Law	
CRIM 3414	Criminology	
CRIM 3434	Systems of Justice	
CRIM 3474	Women and Crime	
CRIM 4224	Victimology	
CRIM 4484	Hate Crimes	
CRIM 4504	Family and Crime	
CRIM 4424	Juvenile Delinquency	
CRIM 4454	Topics in Criminology	
CRIM 4474	Cyber Criminology	
ECON 4894		
ENGL 3684	Literature and the Law	
FIN 3054	Legal and Ethical Environment of Business	
FIN 4004	Wills, Trusts, and Estates	
FIN 4014	Cyberlaw and Policy	
HD 4354		
HTM 4474	Hospitality & Tourism Law	
JMC 4344	Free Speech in Cyberspace	
PHIL 4334	Jurisprudence	
REAL 4754	Real Estate Law	
SOC 4404	Sociology of Law	
STL 4304	Intellectual Property Law	
STL 4314	Current Topics in Science, Technology and Law	
STL 4324	Global Aspects of Intellectual Property Law	
STL 4334	Patent Preparation and Prosecution	
UAP 4344	Law of Critical Environmental Areas	
UAP 4754	Legal Foundations of Planning	
Subtotal		30

**Free Electives**

Select remaining courses to complete 120 credit hour graduation requirement	30
Subtotal	30

**Pathways to General Education**<sup>3</sup>*Pathways Concept 1 - Discourse*

Select one of the following:	6
ENGL 1105 First-Year Writing & ENGL 1106 and First-Year Writing	
COMM 1015 Communication Skills & COMM 1016 and Communication Skills	

Select three credits in Pathway 1a ( <a href="https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G01A">https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G01A</a> )	3
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*Pathways Concept 2 - Critical Thinking in the Humanities (Met By Major Requirements)*

PHIL 1204 Knowledge and Reality (Required for Legal Studies Option)	
PHIL 1304 Morality and Justice (Required for Legal Studies Option)	

*Pathways Concept 3 - Reasoning in the Social Sciences (Met by Major Requirements)*

PSCI 1014 Introduction to United States Government and Politics	
or PSCI 1014H Honors Introduction to United States Government and Politics	
PSCI/IS 1024 Comp Gov & Politics	
or PSCI 1024H Honors Introduction to Comparative Government and Politics	

*Pathways Concept 4 - Reasoning in the Natural Sciences*

Select six credits in Pathway 4 ( <a href="https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G04">https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G04</a> )	6
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*Pathways Concept 5 - Quantitative and Computational Thinking*

Select six credits in Pathway 5f ( <a href="https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G05F">https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G05F</a> )	6
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Select three credits in Pathway 5a ( <a href="https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G05A">https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G05A</a> )	3
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*Pathways Concept 6 - Critique and Practice in Design and the Arts*

Select six credits: 3 design + 3 arts, or 6 integrated design & arts	6
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*Pathways Concept 7 - Critical Analysis of Identity and Equity in the United States (Met by Major Requirements)*

PSCI 1014 Introduction to United States Government and Politics	
or PSCI 1014H Honors Introduction to United States Government and Politics	

Subtotal	30
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<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>120</b>
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<sup>1</sup> Courses that are cross listed with PSCI may count as PSCI electives<sup>2</sup> Limit on Repeatable Courses: No more than six credit hours in any one of the following courses may contribute toward the hours required by the major: internship (PSCI 4754 Internship Program), independent study (PSCI 4974 Independent Study or PSCI 4974H Independent Study), or undergraduate research (PSCI 4994 Undergraduate Research or PSCI 4994H Undergraduate Research).<sup>3</sup> PSCI majors (all options) must complete the requirements for the Pathways to General Education. More details and course listings can be found at the following link: <https://www.pathways.prov.vt.edu>.

## Satisfactory Progress

To proceed satisfactorily toward a degree, a student must complete PSCI 1014 Introduction to United States Government and Politics, PSCI 1024 Comp Gov & Politics, and PSCI 2024 Research Methods in Political Science by the end of the semester in which 60 hours have been attempted; must maintain an overall GPA of at least 2.0 and must maintain an in-major GPA of 2.0.

## Graduation Requirements

### Hours Requirement

A total of 120 hours is required to graduate with a Political Science degree.

### In Major GPA

All of the courses used in the degree core, major, and option requirements are included in the in-major GPA. The overall and in-major GPAs required for graduation are 2.0.

### Free Electives

Hours not required by Pathways General Education or the major are “free electives” and may be taken anywhere in the university.

### Prerequisites

Some courses required for this major have pre-/co-requisite and/or enrollment requirements. Please refer to Undergraduate Course Catalog or consult your advisor for information about pre-/co-requisite and enrollment requirements.

### Regarding Double Majors and Minors

[The Department of Political Science offers majors in Political Science, International Studies, International Relations, National Security and Foreign Affairs, and Environment, Development, and Global Economy as well as minors in Political Science, International Studies, International Relations, National Security and Foreign Affairs, and Global Development and Political Economy.](#) Courses for the majors and minors overlap significantly. Therefore, Political Science majors may not pursue multiple majors and/or minors within the department.

## Foreign Language

- Students who completed three years of a single foreign, classical, or sign language in high school have completed the requirement.
- Students who did not complete three years of a single foreign, classical, or sign language in high school may complete the requirement as follows:
  - Complete two years of a single foreign, classical, or sign language in high school plus an 1106 foreign language or the equivalent in college (these three hours do count toward the 120 required for graduation and calculate into the GPA) **or**
  - Complete an 1105-1106 foreign language (e.g., FR, GR, SPAN) grouping or the equivalent in college (these six hours do **not** count toward the 120 required for graduation)

**First Year****Fall Semester**

		<b>Credits</b>
PSCI 1034	Introduction to International Studies and Political Science	3
PSCI 1014	Introduction to United States Government and Politics	3
ENGL 1105	First-Year Writing	3
Pathway 5f ( <a href="https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G05F">https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G05F</a> )		3
Pathway 4 ( <a href="https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G04">https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G04</a> )		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

**Spring Semester**

PSCI 1024	Comp Gov & Politics	3
ENGL 1106	First-Year Writing	3
Pathway 5f ( <a href="https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G05F">https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G05F</a> )		3
Pathway 4 ( <a href="https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G04">https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G04</a> )		3
Free Electives		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

**Second Year****Fall Semester**

PSCI 2014	Introduction to Political Theory	3
PSCI 2024	Research Methods in Political Science	3
PHIL 1204	Knowledge and Reality	3
Pathway 1a ( <a href="https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G01A">https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G01A</a> )		3
Free Electives		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

**Spring Semester**

PSCI 2054 or PSCI 2064	Introduction to World Politics or The Global Economy and World Politics	3
PSCI 1XXX/2XXX/3XXX		3
PHIL 1304	Morality and Justice	3
Free Electives		3
Free Electives		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

**Third Year****Fall Semester**

PSCI Legal Studies Course		3
Legal Studies Related Field Course		3
Pathway 6a ( <a href="https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G06A">https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G06A</a> )		3
Free Electives		3
Free Electives		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

**Spring Semester**

PSCI Legal Studies Course		3
Legal Studies Related Field Course		3
PSCI 1XXX/2XXX/3XXX		3
Pathway 5a ( <a href="https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G05A">https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G05A</a> )		3
Free Electives		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

**Fourth Year****Fall Semester**

PSCI 3XXX/4XXX		3
PSCI 3XXX/4XXX		3
Legal Studies Related Field Course		3
Pathway 6d ( <a href="https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G06D">https://catalog.vt.edu/course-search/?attrs_pathways=attrs_pathways_G06D</a> )		3
Free Electives		3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

**Spring Semester**

PSCI 3XXX/4XXX	3
PSCI Advanced Theory and Practice	3
Legal Studies Related Field Course	3
Free Electives	3
Free Electives	3
<b>Credits</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>120</b>