

Political Science and Public Administration

Political Science is the study of how humans construct institutions and processes that enable them to seek solutions to societal problems. . .

Since government policies affect many parts of our life and since many people will either work in government or with government, an understanding of the structure and functioning of government is valuable for people in many careers. Public Administration is a professional program that combines liberal arts courses with courses that will prepare students to succeed in careers in government at the national, state, or local level, especially in positions in the executive branch, or in not-for-profit organizations.

What you can do with a degree in Political Science and Public Administration. . .

Our majors are employed in various professions in both the public and the private fields. Many go on to law school. Many work for government at various levels. Many also work for private companies. Prominent alums of the department include North Dakota's current U.S. Representative and a former Lt. Governor of the state.

Program Options. . .

- **B.A. with a Major in Political Science:** The Political Science program is a liberal arts major where students learn about the political system of the United States as well as the systems of other countries; they investigate questions such as what should government do, what should be the role of citizens, and how should government function.
- **B.S. with a Major in Public Administration:** Public Administration is a professional program that combines liberal arts courses with courses in the administrative sciences. Classes in Public Administration develop skills in five areas: political and legal institutions and processes, economic and social systems and forces, organizational and managerial skills and practices, concepts and techniques of financial administration, and techniques of analysis including written and oral expression and statistical methods and computer systems.

Unique characteristics of UND's Political Science and Public Administration program. . .

All students are required to do hands on research. Great emphasis is placed on effective oral and written communication. All faculty have extensive publication records and have national and in some cases international recognition for their research.

Getting in. . .

There are no admission requirements for the Political Science major. The undergraduate Public Administration majors must complete Pre-Public Administration core courses which are listed in the UND Catalog.

It's A Fact. . .

- The department awards three scholarships for which junior majors may apply.
- An award is given to the best paper written in a Political Science course each year.
- A member of the department is the institutional representative for the prestigious national Harry S. Truman Scholarship for which juniors are eligible. Several majors have won that scholarship.
- The department encourages students to serve internships. Several students intern with the Congressional delegation each year. Students also intern at times in city government. Please note, however, there are prerequisites which must be fulfilled for students to receive credit for the internships (see the Catalog).
- The introductory courses are large (more than 100 students) but the courses from the 200 level and above are capped, usually at 40 students.
- There are 9 faculty in the department.
- 120 Political Science majors and approximately 15 Public Administration majors.
- The Political Science major emerged from Political Economy, which was one of the original majors at UND. Public Administration emerged from Political Science in the 1970's.
- Pi Sigma Alpha (national honorary for political science) Pi Alpha Alpha (national honorary for public administration) are active on campus.
- The department won UND's McDermott Award for Undergraduate Teaching in 1998 and the UND award for Outstanding Teaching in 2006. Most current members of the department have individually been nominated for UND's Outstanding Teaching Awards and four of the faculty have been recognized in the College of Business and Public Administration for teaching.
- Members of the department are nationally recognized experts in Indian gaming policy, democratization in eastern Europe, public health policy and teaching methods.
- The University of North Dakota is offering more online courses and degree programs than ever before to provide you with additional flexibility. Please visit <http://onlinecourses.und.edu> for more information or call toll free at 800-342-8230 or 701-777-3044.

For more information. . .

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