

Politics and Philosophy Major

www.honorscollege.pitt.edu/politics-philosophy

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The politics and philosophy major provides students with 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 that students may choose to fulfill requirements. In collaboration with the major advisor, students will design a cohesive program of study, tailoring it to meet their individual post-graduate/career interests and needs. Essential communication skills in writing and presentation are sharpened through two required W-courses. The politics and philosophy major is a rigorous and challenging but rewarding program. Upon graduation, an academic career is certainly a possible pursuit; the major also provides excellent preparation for careers in law, government, community organizations, and social action groups.

The major is comprised of 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 credits distributed as follows: political science – 21 credits; philosophy – 21 credits; economics – 9 credits. A capstone course, which may have associated credits, is also required.

Required courses for the Politics and Philosophy major

Political Science courses

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

Philosophy courses

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

Economics courses

ECON 0100 Introduction to Microeconomic Theory
ECON 0110 Introduction to Macroeconomic Theory
ECON XXXX any course (no course in the 0800 series may count toward this requirement)

Capstone requirement

In consultation with the major advisor, students may opt for one of the following.

- completion of the Bachelor of Philosophy thesis through the University Honors College (UHC);
- participation in a graduate-level seminar (with permission from the instructor); or
- completion of a Directed Research Project, an Independent Study, or an Internship.

Grade requirements: A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required in those courses that count toward the major.

Satisfactory/No Credit option: There is no limit on the number of courses in the major that can be taken on an S/NC basis, but it is suggested that these courses be taken for a letter grade.

Writing (W) requirement: The W courses listed under the political science and philosophy requirements satisfy the W requirement for the major.

Related area: A related area is not required due to the interdisciplinary nature of the major.

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Checklist for the Politics and Philosophy major

Political Science courses

- _____ PS _____
- _____ PS _____
- _____ PS _____ (W-course)
- _____ PS _____ (upper-level course)
- _____ PS _____ (upper-level course)
- _____ PS _____ (upper-level course)
- _____ PS _____ (upper-level course)

Philosophy courses

- _____ PHIL _____
- _____ PHIL _____
- _____ PHIL _____ (W-course)
- _____ PHIL _____ (upper-level course)
- _____ PHIL _____ (upper-level course)
- _____ PHIL _____ (upper-level course)
- _____ PHIL _____ (upper-level course)

Economics courses

- _____ ECON 0100
- _____ ECON 0110
- _____ ECON _____ (except 0800 series)

Capstone requirement
