

# Politics and Economics

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Politics and Economics program utilizes an interdisciplinary approach employing the analytic rigor of the social and behavioral sciences to promote an integrative and critical understanding of the institutions, processes and policies shaping the contemporary and future world. The disciplines of political science and economics provide the intellectual foundation for exploring societal problems, the development of public policy, and critical policy analysis. Politics and Economics prepares students with the knowledge and skills necessary for life-long success in a variety of stimulating and challenging careers, including teaching, legislative advocacy, non-profit agency leadership, federal, state and local governmental service, and others. Politics and Economics focus on civic engagement imbues students with the analytic skills and knowledge of institutional processes that drive public policy questions, permitting our graduates to make a positive contribution to their communities. Politics and Economics provides excellent undergraduate preparation for student success in law school, along with pursuing graduate studies in political science and economics.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- *Content Knowledge:* Assess different theories, concepts, methods, and analytical approaches employed by the disciplines of Political Science and Economics.
- *Inquiry:* Evaluate problems of empirical analysis and normative inquiry, and synthesize the two approaches in the analysis of the ideas, values, and assumptions underlying public policy issues.
- *Applied Learning and Civic Engagement:* Apply contextual knowledge and skills to the public policy process and ‘real-life’ political situations via the opportunity to observe and participate as an informed citizen in a variety of on and off-campus settings.
- *Critical Thinking, Communication, and Integrated Learning:* Produce effective interdisciplinary policy analysis via the ability to recognize arguments, test hypotheses and support one’s position via appropriate oral and written communications targeted for specific audiences.

## MEANS OF ASSESSMENT

Politics and Economics majors are evaluated in a variety of ways. Students complete, with a grade of C- or better, courses that reinforce the fundamental knowledge and skills of the theories, methodologies and analytical techniques required for life long success. Quizzes, exams, papers, group projects, public presentations, and practicum and internships are evaluated via employment of rubrics and other assessment tools to ensure students achieve the program’s learning outcomes. By satisfactorily completing the program’s Capstone course in which majors are required to undertake an original research project, students critically explore the tensions and connections between the two disciplines and how the public policy process requires an interdisciplinary approach to solve pressing societal problems. Required and elective courses throughout the program further enhance students’ skills in research, writing, computer use, statistical methods, and public presentations.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR IN POLITICS AND ECONOMICS

Complete all Institutional Graduation Requirements (including University Writing Requirement, Diversity Requirement, General Education Requirement, etc.).

Program Requirements: PE is a minimum 60 credit hour degree. A grade of “C-“ or better is required for each course counting towards the major, but a cumulative grade of C {2.00} is required for completion of the major.

### Program Requirements:

**ECON 201** Principles of Microeconomics (5)  
**ECON 202** Principles of Macroeconomics (5)  
**POLS 101** American National Government (5)  
**POLS 221** International Relations (5)  
**POLS 340** Politics and Media (5)  
**POLS 350** Public Policy (5)  
**STAT 243** Elementary Statistics (4)  
**STAT 244** Correlation & Regression (1)

### Choose One:

**ECON 407** Capstone OR  
**POLS 407** Capstone OR  
**POLS 450** Applied Policy Analysis (5)

### Upper Division Electives: 20 additional upper division credit hours

(**POLS 409** limited to 5 credit hours) of which a minimum of 10 must be completed in each discipline of Political Science and Economics