Frequently Asked Questions on Academic Advising
Department of Political Science
Clemson University

Q. Who is my undergraduate advisor?

A. Political science majors and minors with questions about the undergraduate program and their degree progress should contact one of the following advisers:

**Freshmen and Sophomore Political Science Majors:**

Mr. Jason Chavis  
327 Brackett Hall  
Email: jcchavi@clemson.edu  
Phone: 656-3385

**Junior and Senior Political Science Majors:**

Dr. Adam Warber  
231-A Brackett Hall  
Email: awarber@clemson.edu  
Phone: 656-1828

Q. Is there a formal advising process that the department offers each semester to assist students with the registration of classes?

A. Pre-registration advising is required for freshmen and sophomore political science majors. Mr. Chavis will send an email containing a link for sign-up times as well as drop-in hours approximately two weeks prior to the beginning of pre-registration advising.

Pre-registration advising is optional for junior and senior political science majors. The dates and times of the optional advising sessions will be posted on the departmental bulletin board outside the main political science office (Brackett 232) and on Dr. Warber’s office door within several weeks before registration.
Q. Do I need to bring any materials with me to my advising session in the fall or spring before I register for classes?

A. You should come prepared with a list of courses that you plan to register for in the upcoming semester. In addition, you should have reviewed your current online degree progress report in Degree Works.

Q. Where are my curriculum requirements listed?

A. Your curriculum requirements are listed in the appropriate section of the Undergraduate Announcements academic catalog which is available online. Go to http://www.registrar.clemson.edu/html/catalog.htm and select the appropriate year for your curriculum. You also can access your online degree progress report in Degree Works which contains the specific requirements that students must complete for the major, general education, and minor. Students can check their degree progress report in the iROAR system by clicking on the following tabs:

Students  ›  Student Records  ›  Degree Works

Q. How will I know my curriculum year? Can I change my curriculum year?

A. Your curriculum year is shown in the top section of your degree progress report (DPR) in Degree Works which is located in iROAR. You may choose any curriculum year you like as long as you were enrolled at Clemson (or another university, assuming you did not take time off from your college education) in that curriculum year.

Q. Do I need to declare a minor?

A. You must declare a minor if you are pursuing a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in political science. You also must declare a minor if you are pursuing a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree with either an American Politics or a Global Politics concentration. The only students who do not need to declare a minor are those pursuing a BS degree with the Political Economy, Public Administration, or Public Policy concentration.
Q. Do I need to declare a concentration?

A. There are no concentrations to declare in the BA degree for political science, but you must declare a concentration if you are pursuing a BS. The five choices are: American Politics, Global Politics, Political Economy, Public Administration, and Public Policy.

Q. Do I need to take POSC 190 and POSC 490?

A. All political science majors who began college in the 2006-2007 academic year or later must take POSC 190 and POSC 490. These are one-hour online classes designed to supplement the core work of the political science major. POSC 190 should be taken during the first or second semester of the freshman year for those entering Clemson as political science majors, or during the first semester as a political science major for those students changing majors to political science after entering Clemson. POSC 490 should be taken during one of the semesters in the last year of coursework before graduation.

Q. If I am in ROTC, do I need to take additional coursework to fulfill my General Education “Oral Communication” requirement?

A. In short, no. Your ROTC coursework takes care of this requirement.

Q. Can the same class ever fulfill more than one graduation requirement?

A. In certain circumstances, yes, but these circumstances are rare.

First, you “might” be able to double-dip the course that you take for the General Education “Science and Technology in Society” (STS) requirement in both the STS category and either General Education “Additional Math or Science” or General Education “Humanities (Non-Literature).” See this website for details: [http://www.clemson.edu/sts](http://www.clemson.edu/sts)

Second, sometimes a course you take for your minor “might” double-dip in a General Education category.

A very important rule of thumb to keep in mind is that no course that you take in the political science department can double-dip anywhere under any circumstance.
Q. Can I get political science credit for doing an internship?

A. Sometimes. Contact Dr. Bruce Ransom (bll@clemson.edu) for details as well as for advice about internships in general.

Q. May I substitute a class into one of the five BA core areas for the political science major requirement?

A. No. See your online degree progress report in Degree Works for a list of approved courses that satisfy the BA core requirements.

Q. How many hours of “special” political science elective courses may I use toward my major? How about toward my overall degree?

A. You may include no more than a combination of three hours from POSC 3050, 3100, 3110, 3120, 3130, 3820, 3830, 4090, and 4100 toward your major. You may include up to six hours from all of these course numbers toward your degree. (The extra three hours would go into the “general electives” category on your degree progress report.)

Q. How many hours of General Electives do I need to graduate?

A. It depends. To graduate, you must accomplish five tasks related to your coursework:

- Complete all General Education and Selected Departmental requirements.
- Complete all requirements for the political science major.
- Complete a minor (if applicable).
- Earn the total required number of credits required by the University.
- Maintain your GPA at or above 2.0.

If you have accomplished all five of these requirements, you will automatically have taken enough hours of General Electives.
Q. Can I take courses at another university and transfer the credit into Clemson?

A. Yes, but only under certain circumstances:

- You must complete a transient form before you take classes elsewhere.
- You must earn a grade of C or better in the course.
- You may not transfer more than six hours of credit into Clemson from other institutions once you are within 43 hours of graduation (this is referred to as Clemson’s 37/43 credit hour rule). A rough translation of this policy is that you cannot transfer in more than six hours of credit once you are into your final three semesters of coursework. A student who is considering enrolling in classes at another university/college to transfer back to Clemson should contact the Undergraduate Studies office in Martin Hall to verify the number of credit hours that he or she can transfer back to Clemson in order to comply with the 37/43 credit hour rule.

For a list of courses that are pre-approved for transfer from other universities into Clemson, see: https://www.clemson.edu/admissions/tcel/