Frequently Asked Questions  
Department of Political Science  
Clemson University

Q. Who is my undergraduate advisor?

A. The Department of Political Science does not assign faculty advisors to students. Political science majors and minors with questions about the undergraduate program and their degree progress should contact Dr. Adam Warber (awarber@clemson.edu) who is the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the department. Dr. Warber’s office is located in Brackett 231A and his phone number is 656-1828.

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

A. First-year political science majors and new transfer students (those who earned less than 30 credit hours before attending Clemson) are advised in the College of Business and Behavioral Science’s Advising Center in G-02 Sirrine Hall during their first semester of coursework at Clemson. The Department of Political Science offers optional advising sessions around the time of registration for second semester freshmen, along with all sophomore, junior, and senior political science majors. The dates and times of the optional advising sessions will be posted on the departmental website and outside the main political science office within several weeks before registration.

Q. Do I need to bring any materials with me if I decide to attend an optional 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.

Q. Where are my curriculum requirements listed?

A. Your curriculum requirements are listed in the appropriate section of the Undergraduate Announcements catalog which is available online. Go to http://www.registrar.clemson.edu/html/catalog.htm and select the appropriate year for your curriculum. You can also access our departmental advising forms at http://www.clemson.edu/cbbs/departments/political-science/academics/index.html.
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 must also 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. Please contact Dr. Warber to declare a minor.

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. Please contact Dr. Warber to declare a concentration.

Q. Do I need to take POSC 1990 and POSC 4990?

A. All political science majors who began college in the 2006-2007 academic year or later must take POSC 1990 and POSC 4990. These are one-hour online classes designed to supplement the core work of the political science major. POSC 1990 should be taken during the 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 4990 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-count 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

Second, sometimes a course you take for your minor might double-count in a General Education category (for example, COMM 2500 would count toward both the communication studies minor and the General Education “Oral Communication” requirement).

A very important rule of thumb to keep in mind is that no course that you take in the political science department can double-count anywhere under any circumstance.

Q. Can I get political science credit for doing an internship?

A. Sometimes. Contact Dr. Bruce Ransom (bii@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 the BA advising worksheet or the Clemson University Undergraduate Announcements catalog for your curriculum year for a list of approved BA cores.

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 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 “electives” category on your degree progress report.)
Q. How many hours of 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 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. 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.

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

Q. I have not been able to register for some of the classes I need. Can I expect to get into these classes or must I wait until another semester to take them?

A. Maybe. You can put your name on the wait list for the classes. You may not be placed in the section that you want, but you might have a chance of getting into a section that fits your academic schedule.