



Department of Political Science

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Majors offered: ☐ Political Science, B.A. (three concentrations: international relations, legal studies, public policy and public administration)

Links to Web sites: ☐ [Catalogs](#) ☐ [Department of Political Science](#) ☐ (department maintained)

VALPO POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJORS majors have extraordinary opportunities for hands-on learning through the Community Research and Service Center as well as many internship opportunities.

What Is Distinctive About Valpo's Program?

Community Research and Service Center (CRSC): While Valpo stresses normal text book learning, we are committed to the process of community based learning; that is, using the community as a laboratory for learning.

The Political Science Department runs the Community Research and Service Center (CSRC). The goals of CRSC are to do research and provide service for government and not for profits in northwest Indiana and involve undergraduate students in the process. Over the past ten years more than 400 students have helped with over 75 different community projects. These projects have included an analysis of the Portage Duneland Trail for the Portage Parks Department, a survey on affordable housing for the Community Development Corporation, an evaluation of the medical and day care clinics at Hilltop Neighborhood House, assistance with the development of an economic plan for the town of Hebron, and an analysis of the potential ridership of a commuter rail line from Valparaiso to Chicago to name just a few.

To the best of our knowledge, we are the only University in the nation that runs a research center using exclusively undergraduate students. Students work on these projects either as paid part-time assistants during the school year, as part of class

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projects, as volunteers, or as paid full-time interns in the summer. Students can begin to work on these projects as early as their freshman year.

Concentrations: Valpo's political science program combines all the benefits of a small school while, at the same time offering a wide range of opportunities for the student to concentrate in certain areas of the discipline. We offer concentrations in: legal studies, international and comparative politics, and public policy and public administration.

Research Opportunities: As attested to in the above sections, undergraduate students at Valpo are regularly involved in research in an applied setting. More than adequate computer facilities and databases are available for students to be involved in more theoretical types of research. Valpo students present their research findings at undergraduate research conferences.

What Can You Do with a Political Science Major?

Degree, Skills or Experience Needed for Beginning a Job in This Field: Many positions in politics and administration require work beyond the Bachelor's degree. Useful skills to acquire with a degree in political science are: expertise with a computer, proficiency in a foreign language, grasp of statistical analysis. Advanced degrees that would be helpful include the Master of Arts, the Ph.D., or the Juris Doctorate.

Kinds of Work Available to Graduates in this Major: A major in Political Science may lead to many careers including, but certainly not limited to, the following: law, criminal justice, business, education, government service at the state, national, local and international level, politics, policy analysis, campaign management, and work for private interest/public policy groups.

Potential Hiring Institutions: Governments at all levels including state, local, federal and international, "think tanks" and organizations doing policy and planning research, special interest organizations, lobbyists, not-for-profit organizations, campaign organizations, public opinion research organizations, environmental groups, newspapers and other media organizations, as well as many aspects of business.

What Beyond-the-Classroom Opportunities Does Valpo Offer You in Political Science?

Extracurricular Groups: Students can participate in Pi Sigma Alpha – Political Science National Honor Society, as well as groups that may be of particular interest, such as College Democrats, College Republicans, and Student Senate.

Off-Campus Opportunities

Internships / Study Abroad: Students have many off-campus learning options, including programs in Africa and China in addition to Valpo's European and Latin American opportunities. Many of our students also take advantage of our relationships with programs in Washington, D.C. In particular, our affiliation with the Luther Institute has allowed us to offer students exciting and challenging internships in Washington that have ranged from the Justice Department, the

White House, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and many "think tanks." We also have relationships with other Washington and United Nations programs for students who have other interests. A special relationship exists with our local Congressman, whose office is run by Valpo graduates and regularly employ our interns.