

# Political Science

*Political science involves not only the scientific study of political and legal institutions but also of human nature, justice and the common good.*

*At St. Ambrose, the Political Science program promotes enlightened and responsible citizenship in students. As a Political Science major, you'll not only gain in-depth knowledge of the historical and continuing controversies which inform our government, you'll also have opportunities to participate in public life through internships, mock trial and field experiences.*

## Contact us

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 Visit the Political Science  
 Department Web site at  
[www.sau.edu/politicalscience](http://www.sau.edu/politicalscience)  
 For general information about  
 St. Ambrose or how to apply:  
 Admissions Office  
 563/333-6300 or 800/383-2627  
 email: [admit@sau.edu](mailto:admit@sau.edu)  
[www.sau.edu](http://www.sau.edu)

## Degrees offered and required credit hours

St. Ambrose offers a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and in Political Science with a teaching major in American government. A minor in Political Science also is offered.

The Political Science major requires 30 credit hours of political science courses. A minor requires 15 credit hours. Requirements for a teaching major in American government (grades 7–12) include 36 credit hours in political science and history courses, plus additional courses through the Education Department.

## Program highlights and courses

The Department of Political Science at St. Ambrose provides comprehensive instruction in the liberal arts tradition. Courses are designed to present different and often conflicting points of view on a variety of important political questions. The study of how people have answered these questions in the past helps cultivate the critical reasoning skills necessary to understand how people make policies and how to improve our government policies at the local, state, national, and international levels.

The major begins with the introductory courses Government of the United States I and II and Applied Statistical Reasoning for the Sciences. From there, the student delves into the 300 level courses that include History of Political Thought, Civil Liberties and the Constitution, Foreign Policy of the U.S., International Politics, Urban Politics, Public Opinion, and Leadership Theory.

See our course catalog at [www.sau.edu/catalog](http://www.sau.edu/catalog) for a full description of required and elective courses.

## Co-curricular activities and opportunities

St. Ambrose has a highly successful Mock Trial Team that is housed in the Department of Political Science. Participation in Mock Trial is open to all students of all majors. In recent years the SAU Mock Trial Team has qualified for and participated in the national mock trial competition, and several students have won national and regional awards. SAU also has hosted the largest national invitational mock trial competition with over 60 teams participating.

Through the Student Government Association (SGA), students can become involved in the process for addressing matters of student interest and concern on campus. Student senators are elected and participate in the governing process as the SGA promotes matters of student interest and provides financial support to student clubs and organizations.

Phi Alpha Delta pre-law fraternity is found in the Department of Political Science. This group is intended not only for those who plan to attend law school but also for those who are interested in learning about legal issues and the political system. The club provides opportunities for students to interact with legal professionals and witness firsthand how law is studied and practiced in our society, and it also organizes the Folwell lecture on political science and law given each Fall by a visiting scholar.

## Financial awards and opportunities

Through a generous endowment, the Political Science program receives additional financial support in carrying out its functions and activities from the Frank and Jane Folwell Chair in Political Science and Pre-Law. The endowed chair allows students to go on law-related trips and participate in mock trial competitions that promote greater learning experiences. Each year, one outstanding political science/pre-law student who is graduating receives the Frank and Jane Folwell Award in Political Science and Pre-Law at the annual Student Awards Ceremony.

## Alumni

St. Ambrose political science graduates are well prepared to go on to graduate study as well as careers in the private and public sector. State, local and federal government, journalism, education, political campaigns, interest groups, and associations are only a few of the areas where a degree in political science can be put to good use.

St. Ambrose political science majors have continued their education at distinguished universities, including such law schools as Drake University, University of Iowa, John Marshall Law School in Chicago, St. Louis University, Creighton Law School, Northwestern University, and the University of Kentucky.

Those with bachelor's degrees have found such positions as:

- City manager for a large metropolitan city. Graduated in 1996.
- Lobbyist for a human rights organization. Graduated in 2000.
- Policy writer for a state public safety agency.  
Graduated in 1994.
- City council alderman. Graduated in 1997.

## About the faculty

**L. Joseph Hebert, Jr. PhD**, Assistant Professor and Director of Pre-Law Studies

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Prof. Hebert's course list includes Law and Society, Constitutional Law, mock trial, and the History of Political Thought. He earned his PhD in political science from the University of Toronto. He is the newest member of the department, joining the faculty in 2005.

**John Norton PhD**, Professor Emeritus

NortonJohnC@sau.edu

Prof. Norton teaches International Politics and U.S. Foreign Policy. He earned his PhD in political science from the University of Illinois. Semi-retired since 1996, Prof. Norton joined the St. Ambrose faculty in 1957.

**William Parsons PhD**, Professor and Department Chair

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Prof. Parsons specializes in organizational leadership, public policy and public opinion and elections. He also oversees the Independent Study and Internships for third and fourth year political science majors. Prof. Parsons earned his PhD from the University of Arizona and has been with St. Ambrose since 1989.