Law and Constitutional Studies, BS, BA

Department: Political Science Department
College: College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Overview

About This Degree

The law and constitutional studies is the only major of its kind in the Intermountain West. The program is intended to introduce students to the study of law and politics, with an emphasis on the American Constitution. The program focuses on how constitutional rules affect political and economic processes. Students study the theory, history, economics, and development of constitutional thought. They also learn about natural and civil rights, a market economy, a self-governing citizenry, voluntary associations, and the rule of law.

Through an intensive program of constitutional study, this major equips students with the intellectual tools and understanding of constitutional principles necessary to enter graduate study or law school, as well as a variety of other professions.

USU's political science professors are committed to quality teaching, mentoring, advising, and research, and consistently win department, college, and university awards for their work. The department also hosts prominent experts on law and the Constitution as guest speakers, such as Justice Antonin Scalia of the U.S. Supreme Court. Students also have ample opportunities for internships in federal and state legislatures, regulatory agencies, lobbying firms, think tanks, corporations and international organizations.

Students receive a **BS** by completing all required courses in the major. To receive a **BA**, students must also gain proficiency in one or more foreign languages.

Career Options

Law and constitutional studies majors can work in many areas related to government, and they are also well prepared for graduate studies and law school. Graduates with a bachelor's degree can pursue the following careers:

- Government work
- U.S. Senate and House staff
- Lobbyist
- Foreign service officer
- Intelligence analyst
- Federal reserve system manager
- Campaign consultant
- Legislative analyst
- Consultant

Career Services provides counseling and information on hundreds of job and internship opportunities and even helps students apply and interview.

What it takes

Admissions Requirements

In addition to Utah State University's admissions requirements, the law and constitutional studies program has additional requirements:

- **Freshmen:** New freshmen admitted to USU in good standing qualify for admission to this major.
- **Transfer Students:** Transfer students from other institutions and students transferring for other USU majors need a 3.0 transfer GPA for admission to this major.

International students have additional admissions requirements.

Major Requirements

Click here to see course requirements for the **Bachelor of Science**.

Click here to see course requirements for the **Bachelor of Arts**.

While internships are not required, there are many internship opportunities available, and students can apply credit from internships toward their upper-division political science course requirements.

Contact

Advising

All new USU students participate in a New Student Orientation program, where they receive detailed information about major requirements, registering for classes, and other important advising information.

Daniel Mathews
Advisor
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Phone: (435) 797-3883
Email: daniel.mathews@usu.edu

Get Involved

Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

American Political Science Association: This is the leading professional organization for the study of political science and serves members in more than 80 countries. With a range of programs and services for individuals, departments, and institutions, APSA brings together political scientists from all fields of inquiry, regions, and occupational endeavors within and outside academe in order to expand awareness and understanding of politics.

College Democrats Club: This is a branch of College Democrats of America. The goal of this national organization is to work on college campuses to engage students in local, state, and national issues and elections. Students volunteer on campaigns, hold informational meetings, and club socials on a regular basis where they discuss and share information on policy issues, candidates running for office, and local issues on campus.

College Republicans Club: This is a branch of College Republicans of America. The goal of this national organization is to work on college campuses to engage students in local, state, and national issues and elections. Students volunteer on campaigns, hold informational meetings, and club socials on a regular basis where they discuss and share information on policy issues, candidates running for office, and local issues on campus.

Pi Sigma Alpha: This national political science honor society is the only honor society for college students of political science and government in the United States. There are hundreds of chapters of Pi Sigma Alpha located on college and university campuses in every state of the United States and in Guam. USU's chapter, Alpha Iota, has been recognized several times as one of the nation's best chapters of Pi Sigma Alpha.

Labs, Centers, Research

With the second oldest undergraduate research program in the nation, USU offers students a wide range of opportunities to gain hands-on research experience. The Undergraduate Research and Creative Opportunities program allows students to apply for grants and receive funding. USU's Honors Program prepares students for excellent graduate programs by helping them build relationships with professors, participate in research projects, take smaller, more intensive classes, and develop leadership skills.

Institute of Government and Politics: IOGP aims to enhance understanding of government institutions and the political process by providing opportunities that bridge practical skills and academic training. The nonpartisan IOGP engages students, faculty, political and community leaders, and citizens in the discussion of policy development through its internship program, visiting speakers, seminars, and policy forums.

Project on Liberty and American Constitutionalism: The project's mission is to explore the meaning of liberty in the American constitutional system, with specific emphasis on the founders' commitment to limited and responsible government that promotes individual liberty, free markets, and a strong national defense. The goal of the project is

to produce publications that examine these issues and to enhance the educational opportunities for interested Utah State students.