

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT POLITICS MAJORS

**1. Can I count an Advanced Placement (“AP”) Class toward the 30 hours of PL coursework required for the major or for related class credit? -**

No.

**2. Can I count a “dual enrollment” course I took while in high school toward major requirements? –**

No.

**3. Can I count a class for which I received UVA Transfer Credit toward the 30 hours of PL coursework required for the major? -**

Yes, you can count up to six hours of PL transfer credit toward the “elective” PL credits, with approval of your major advisor. If you are a transfer student, you can count these hours toward the “distribution” PL credits instead if you prefer. If you spend a full year studying abroad, you can count up to nine hours of PL transfer credit. If you study abroad for any length of time, you may count these transfer credits toward any of the specific major requirements (such as the Foreign Affairs “area” requirement), as long as your major advisor approves. To get SIS to record approval of your transfer classes, please have your major advisor email Prof. Len Schoppa ([schoppa@virginia.edu](mailto:schoppa@virginia.edu)) the name of your prior institution, the number and title of the course you took there, and the course number the advisor considers to be equivalent at UVA (if any).

**4. Can I count a class for which I received UVA Transfer Credit toward the 12 hours of “related” coursework required for the major? -**

Yes, you can count up to six hours of related transfer credit from domestic or foreign institutions, as long as the specific classes have been approved by your major advisor.

**5. Where do I go to see if I can get Major Credit for Politics Courses in a Study Abroad Program? –**

First go to the Study Abroad Office in Minor Hall and visit with a Study Abroad Advisor. Once you have completed the process inside the Study Abroad Office (and well before you actually go abroad), bring the major credit approval form to Prof. Len Schoppa ([schoppa@virginia.edu](mailto:schoppa@virginia.edu)), together with as much information about your courses as you can gather: course description; syllabus; name and qualifications of the faculty member; number of weeks and hours the course meets. He will look over the classes you propose to take and let you know which specific classes will count toward the 30 hours of PL classes required for the major, giving these classes an “TM” designation (as in PLCP 3000-TM). You will then need to bring the form to Ms. Gloria Gates ([gag4j@virginia.edu](mailto:gag4j@virginia.edu)) in Monroe Hall to have her sign off on the form and on “elective” credits in departments other than those for which you need major credit. These “elective” credits will be designated with a “TR” (as in HIEA 3000-TR).

**6. Can I count a UVA Direct Credit Study Abroad class toward the 30 hours of PL and 12 hours of “related” classes required for the major? –**

Yes, UVA Direct Credit Study Abroad classes are treated like UVA classes taught on grounds. Students can therefore count as many courses as they wish toward the 30 hours of PL classes required for the major and the 12 hours of “related” classes, as long as the related classes are approved by your major advisor.

**7. Can I “double-count” a class toward the major and toward another UVA graduation requirement? –**

Yes, you can count classes that are counting toward your UVA distribution requirement (e.g. “social science”, “humanities”) toward the 30 hours of PL credit required for the major and toward the 12 hours of “related” credit.

**8. Can I “double-count” a class toward multiple majors or a major and a minor? –**

College rules prohibit double-counting a single course toward two majors or a major and a minor, but we allow students to double-count up to four RELATED courses (e.g. course in history that counts toward a history major).

**9. Can I double-major or minor in Government and Foreign Affairs? -**

No, you must choose just one of our majors. You can of course take more than the 30 hours required.

**10. Can I receive credit for an Internship? –**

Yes, but you cannot receive PL credit toward the 30 hours required for the major. Four credits of SOC credit are available through the University Internship Program (UIP) for internships that are vetted and approved by Ms. Karen Farber ([kaf5f@virginia.edu](mailto:kaf5f@virginia.edu)), under an arrangement that requires students to attend orientation meetings, a seminar, and write papers. These credits can count toward your RELATED course requirement for the major.

**11. For my Foreign Affairs major’s geographical “area” requirement, am I limited to classes that are listed under each region in the SIS? –**

No. We often offer PLCP and PLIR 4000-level seminars with significant area content that are not on the official SIS list but will count toward an area requirement as long as your major advisor approves.

**12. What do I do when I want to declare a major or minor in Government or Foreign Affairs?**

If you are uncertain as to whether to declare and have questions about our undergraduate programs, see Mr. Schoppa ([schoppa@virginia.edu](mailto:schoppa@virginia.edu)) in New Cabell 148 during his office hours. If you are ready to declare, see Ms. Best (dab8s) in New Cabell 240. She will make sure you have all of the necessary forms (there are usually plenty in the tower just inside her office door. You should then fill out the forms as best you can and meet with your advisor during his or her office hours; he or she will go over the forms with you and sign them if they are satisfactory. You then return the forms to New Cabell 240. Please note: Mr. Schoppa is advisor to all minors, but does not advise any majors.

**13. My advisor is gone for the semester/year. How do I get a new one?**

You have been assigned a new advisor. (If for only one semester, see someone else temporarily).

**14. How can I change advisors?**

Please see Debbie Best in room 240 New Cabell Hall.

**15. What counts as a related course for my major?**

It is up to your advisor to decide, in consultation with you. In general, all courses in History and Economics count. Some courses in Sociology, Psychology, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Anthropology, and other departments may count as well.

**16. May I stop by to see my advisor or Mr. Schoppa at any time during the day Monday through Friday?**

Most faculty members have regular office hours and prefer that you visit them during those hours if possible. The list of all office hours are posted outside of 240 New Cabell Hall. Please note that these are subject to change each semester.