

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 Dual Enrollment Credit toward the 30 hours of PL coursework required for the major or for related class credit? - 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, with the approval of your major advisor, you can count up to six hours of PL transfer credit (other than the two categories listed above) toward the “elective” PL credits. 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. Transfer classes that have been approved to count toward the major will be designated with the suffix “M” as in PLAP 100M.

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, with the exception of the two types of transfer credit listed under 1 and 2 above, you can count up to six hours of related transfer credit, as long as the specific classes have been approved by your major advisor. Students who study abroad for a full academic year can count up to nine hours.

5. Where do I go to see if I can get UVA Transfer Credit for a Study Abroad Program? –

First go to the Study Abroad Office in Minor Hall and visit with a Study Abroad Advisor.

To get a preliminary idea of whether you can get UVA credit for your program and classes, you can consult the [UVA Study Abroad database](#) and find your program. Once you have completed the process inside the Study Abroad Office (and well before you actually go abroad), bring the “green form” to Prof. Len Schoppa (schoppa@virginia.edu). 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 “M” designation (as in PLCP 300M). You will then need to bring the form to Ms. Gloria Gates (gag4j@virginia.edu) in Garrett 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 “T” (as in HIEA 300T).

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 Study Abroad classes, indicated on the VISTAA form by the letter “Z” (as in PLCP 200Z or HILA 300Z) 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? –

Yes, you can double-count credits which are counting toward another major (e.g. History or East Asian Studies). Our department does not place an upper limit on how many credits are double-counted, so, for example, you could satisfy our “related” requirement with 12 credits that are also counting toward your History major, as long as your major advisor approves the specific classes.

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. Contact Ms. Nancy Gansneder (njg5w@virginia.edu) at the UVa Internships Office. She can tell you about departments (e.g., Sociology) that do sometimes grant credit for internships. If another UVA department grants credit, then so long as your advisor agrees you can count that credit toward your related-course requirement within the Government or Foreign Affairs major.

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

No. For the Africa area CP course, for example, you are not limited to the class PLCP 581 Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa. If you prefer, you can instead take PLCP 212 Politics of Developing Areas because it has significant Africa content. This same class will also count toward the CP “area” requirement for Latin America, South Asia, East Asia, and the Middle East. In addition, PLCP and PLIR 400 or 500-level seminars with significant area content will count toward an area requirement as long as your major advisor approves.

12. Where do I get a Course Action Form? What do I do after completing one?

There should be some in the metal tower on the left as you enter the Politics Dept office in Cabell 240. Once you have completed the form, if you are an undergraduate student give any of them pertaining to PL courses to Debbie Best in this office.

13 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) in New Cabell 148 during his office hours. If you are ready to declare, see Ms. Best (dab8s) in New Cabell 240. You can get the forms from the tower in the 240 New Cabell Hall office and have an advisor assigned to you. 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.

14. 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).

15. How can I change advisors?

You should complete a “change of advisor” form (found in the metal tower in Cabell 240).

16. 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.

17. 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. Ms. Best has a list of all office hours. Please note that these are subject to change each semester.