



## Major Declaration—Political Science Major

Hiram Connect is intentionally designed to direct students in making thoughtful decisions about their academic journey.

The major declaration statement is one element of the “Hiram Connect” program and is a requirement for your graduation. Each department has developed its own prompt to assist you in constructing your statement. It is expected that every major declaration will in some way address itself to the five themes (the “five C’s”) of the Hiram Connect program: *curriculum; career; calling; character; and community*.

At the point of declaring a major, we ask you to reflect upon and articulate your developing understanding of your choice of a major, the connections between your learning in the major and other dimensions of your college experience (both inside and outside the classroom), and how you see this decision shaping your personal and professional development.

In the form of a thoughtful, well-organized personal statement of about **900 words**, crafted through a process of attentive revision, please respond to the departmental prompt, bearing in mind the overarching questions of Hiram Connect:

- **Curriculum:** What should I learn? What should I learn to do?
- **Career:** To what work can I devote myself? How can I support myself?
- **Calling:** How will I make my life meaningful?
- **Character:** Who am I and who should I become?
- **Community:** Where do I belong? And how will I serve my “community,” broadly defined?

Please respond to the questions below regarding your decision to major in Political Science. Submit your completed personal statement of about 900 words with the major application **via Student Portal**.

*How will the **curriculum** of your chosen academic major of Political Science help you to pursue both a **career** and a **calling**? How will you make connections between your formal study of Political Science, your other courses at Hiram College, and your experiences beyond the classroom? How will your study of Political Science further the development of your individual **character**? In what ways might your conversance with Political Science equip to contribute to your **community**, broadly defined? You need not reflect on all of the “Five Cs” equally, but the best statements engage each of the five areas to a significant degree.*

Please note that this statement can be decidedly preliminary and provisional. You will not be held to it as you proceed through the major. It is in fact often the case that your views about yourself and political science may change during your career at Hiram. What is important is that you pay some reflective attention to the “Five Cs” and why you are choosing the political science major upon declaration. Your personal statement will be read and approved by the political science faculty. Upon acceptance, your personal statement will be preserved in your electronic advising folder for future reflections.

### Declaring a Major in the Traditional College

Hiram College undergraduate students must complete a major and fulfill the General Education Requirements in order to graduate. Minors are optional.

All traditional students must declare their major by March 1<sup>st</sup> of their Sophomore year, or before earning 56 hours and becoming juniors. Students transferring with Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing must declare their major prior to registration for their third semester at Hiram College. If a student is not declared by registration for the following academic semester, the student will be blocked from registration.

Advising is a key component of major declaration. Therefore, after discussing their interest in a particular major with a faculty member of the department, students must take the following steps to officially declare their major.

1. Download “Connect Major Declaration Prompt” for your specific major from the Connect location.
2. Write your “Personal Statement” responding to the questions provided.
3. Submit the “Personal Statement” with your information to the Connect location.
4. Meet with the advisor (assigned by the Department Chair) to discuss your statement and your plans.
5. Your advisor must approve your personal statement before the major declaration is processed by the Registrar’s Office.