Political Science

Moises E. Arce, Chair
College of Arts and Science
113 Professional Building
(573) 882-2843
arcem@missouri.edu

Political science is concerned with government, politics and public policies. In political science courses, students learn how government operates and how to analyze and evaluate public policies and political ideas. This training can help students be more effective as active citizens, as political leaders and as government administrators.

Many political science graduates attend law school or graduate school in political science, public administration, business administration, the social sciences, and other subjects. Others are employed in governmental or political jobs as legislative assistants, military officers or lobbyists, and more go into business or private employment. Many public officials and government administrators have political science degrees.

Courses in political science help students learn to think critically, analyze complex material and communicate effectively. Political science classes require extensive writing assignments, and majors are given many opportunities to hone their writing skills.

The department offers BA, MA and PhD degrees with majors in Political Science.

Faculty

Assistant Professor A. Benjamin, S. E. Greitens**, J. B. Haselswerdt**, B. W. Reeder**, J. L. Selin, M. B. Wahman**
Adjunct Professor C. N. Conklin*, J. D. Milyo*, M. A. Stegmaier*

* Graduate Faculty Member - membership is required to teach graduate-level courses, chair master's thesis committees, and serve on doctoral examination and dissertation committees.
** Doctoral Faculty Member - membership is required to chair doctoral examination or dissertation committees. Graduate faculty membership is a prerequisite for Doctoral faculty membership.

Undergraduate

- BA in Political Science (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/politicalscience/ba-political-science)
- Minor in Political Science (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/politicalscience/minor-political-science)

Departmental Requirements

Students complete a graduation plan, usually at the end of the sophomore year or beginning of the junior year. They should prepare for political science courses by completing university (http://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegerequirements/universityrequirements) and College of Arts and Science foundation requirements, including university general education (http://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegerequirements/graduationrequirements).

Students must complete the following classes with letter grades in the C range or better to file a graduation plan:

- POL_SC 1100 or an equivalent course
- ENGLISH 1000 or an equivalent course
- MATH 1100 followed by a mathematics or statistics course (STAT 1200 will count)
- An analytical course e.g. SOCIOL 1000, PSYCH 1000, ECONOM 1014, PHIL 1000 or PHIL 1200
- POL_SC 3000

Students are required to complete 30 credits in political science. Fifteen of the 30 must be numbered 4000 or above.

Internships

The Political Science Department offers internship course credit for work in a variety of governmental settings, including work with state legislators, administrative agencies, lobbyists, members of Congress, statewide elected officials, and state political parties. Seniors in good standing with a GPA of 2.67 and juniors in good standing with a GPA of 3.0 who have completed appropriate coursework are eligible to apply. No more than 3 internship credit hours may be included in the 30 hours required for the major.

Departmental Honors

Students who have honors eligibility and a 3.5 GPA may enter the departmental honors program. Students who successfully complete a senior honors paper with a letter grade in the “B” range or better will have the phrase “with Honors in Political Science” added to their diplomas. Each year many political science honors students are selected for Phi Beta Kappa, Mortar Board, Golden Key and other scholastic honoraries.

Students who plan to enter graduate school are encouraged to enter the departmental honors program and to speak with a faculty member early in their academic career. Some areas of graduate study require significant preparation in language, statistics and methodology.

Graduate

- MA in Political Science (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/politicalscience/ma-political-science)
  - with emphasis in Public Policy (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/politicalscience/ma-political-science-emphasis-publ-policy)
- PhD in Political Science (http://catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/politicalscience/phd-political-science)

College of Arts and Science
113 Professional Building
(573) 882-2062
gradpolsci@missouri.edu
http://politicalscience.missouri.edu/

Director of Graduate Studies: Stephen Quackenbush

The department emphasizes both quality teaching and research. Several faculty members have received awards and prizes for teaching excellence and innovative research. The department aims to train people...
as experts in the study of politics and government, while encouraging students to acquire a sufficient background in other disciplines to enable them to correlate their specialized knowledge with all aspects of modern life.

Careers

The MA can serve multiple career goals: community-college teaching, continuation of studies to the PhD, entrance into and advancement in public service, or acquisition of skills for a position in the private sector.

Alumni with PhDs have received teaching appointments at public and private colleges as well as positions of responsibility in state and national government in the United States and in many foreign countries. In recent years, an average of five students a year entered the PhD job market. Approximately eighty percent of the PhD graduates became college teachers. Most of the remainder went into public service and a few into the private sector. Six departmental alumni have become college presidents.

Financial Aid from the Program

Applications for admission and financial aid are considered on the basis of the entire packet submitted. Students may apply for departmental teaching and research assistantships and fellowships, as well as university scholarships and fellowships. Many of our students are supported by departmental assistantships providing a stipend and course tuition waivers. Consult the program website or ask the program contact for details.

Satisfactory Progress

A graduate student must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA after the first semester of graduate study and a 3.4 cumulative GPA in all subsequent semesters. A student should complete and pass required courses, activities, and examinations on schedule. The student’s advisor and the director of graduate studies will monitor and provide an annual assessment of a student’s progress. Failure to maintain satisfactory progress can have serious consequences, including dismissal from the program.