

Program Overview: Bachelor of Arts, Political Science



About This Major . . .

The Political Science program prepares you to compete in the **job market** and the **marketplace of ideas**. For the **job market**, our Program allows you to customize your studies to best meet your career goals. Our majors work closely with their academic advisor to structure a curriculum that best serves their interests and goals. Want to go to law school? Great, we'll discuss which classes will help you get there. International advocacy work? You bet. Graduate school? We can do that too. Looking to move directly into the job market? There are many ways to do that in political science. Remember that the largest employer in the country is your government! Wherever you want to go, we'll plan a course of study to help get you there.

As for the **marketplace of ideas**, we build engaged, global citizens who solve problems instead of complaining about them. Polarization and knee-jerk partisanship plague our nation, but we'll give you the intellectual tools to cut through the spin. Our job is to help you find your own voice and make it stronger, not just louder. We won't teach you *what* to think, we'll teach you *how* to think. We explore all sides of an issue so you can find your *own* position. Don't avoid politics or government—trust us, they won't avoid you! Master them instead by majoring in Political Science.

Whether your future plans include working for government, building a competitive application for law and/or graduate school, military or homeland security service, emergency management, diplomacy, working for a non-profit agency at home or abroad, working for businesses that work directly or indirectly with the government, advocacy, or (literally!) a million other jobs, you'll find the intellectual foundation for these careers in political science. The Political Science program provides you with a working knowledge of the concepts, theories and approaches to the discipline and their practical application to political and governmental systems within the state, national and international arenas.

The question isn't "what can you do with a Political Science degree?" Rather, the question is "what *can't* you do with a Political Science degree?"

All CMU baccalaureate graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking, communication fluency, quantitative fluency, and specialized knowledge/applied learning.

With a political science degree in hand, you'll be able to . . .

1. evaluate the specialized theories and techniques political scientists use to understand the world.
2. consider all sides of a political issue.
3. use the tools of political science to voice and defend your own perspective.
4. identify and help solve social, economic, and political problems by getting involved in your community.



Program Highlights:

Strengthen Your Argument

Our motto is a quote by Desmond Tutu: "Don't raise your voice, improve your argument."

First-Hand Experience

Complete an internship (Washington, DC; Denver; and Grand Junction), compete in a Model United Nations, work with faculty on their research, and get involved in community or campus affairs.

Get Involved

Join the Political Science Club, Pi Sigma Alpha, and engage with CMU's Associated Student Government.

Emergency Management and Disaster Planning Certificate

Get an EMDP certificate and bring disaster management into your area of specialization.

More Than a Minor

Don't forget that we offer a minor in Political Science! It's an excellent option for students in Business, Journalism, Criminal Justice, and Education.

Exceptional Faculty

Your full-time Political Science professors all hold a PhD in their fields. They come to CMU from Arizona State University, Temple University, the University of Toronto, and the University of North Texas. Their areas of expertise include environmental politics and natural resources, political institutions, public policy and elections, public administration and emergency management, international relations, U.S. foreign policy, and peace and conflict studies.

Program Requirements

A student must follow CMU graduation requirements by completing 120 semester credit hours, including 40 credits of coursework at the 300+ level. See the “Undergraduate Graduation Requirements” in the catalog for additional graduation information. Students should work closely with a faculty advisor when selecting and scheduling courses prior to registration. In general, CMU’s programs of study are based on two curriculum groups:

1. Essential Learning

CMU's Essential Learning program provides the foundation of skills and information that cuts across all fields of study and the support for advanced concepts that students will later encounter in their majors. Before moving into work at the 300+ level, students complete the Maverick Milestone and its co-requirement, Essential Speech. This pair of courses is a capstone experience where students integrate what they have learned from their foundation courses by making connections among diverse areas of knowledge. The capstone is also an opportunity for students to work with disparate ideas, a critical skill expected of all CMU graduates that will aid them in solving the complex and unscripted problems they will encounter in their personal, professional, and civic lives.

2. What You Will Study in This Major. . .

Political Science Core Courses

Every student must take these courses. They survey the core concepts in the major subfields of political science (American government, comparative politics, international relations, political theory and public administration). These courses also introduce the methodological tools used in our discipline.

- American Government
- Introduction to Political Ideas
- Introduction to Politics
- State and Local Government
- Comparative Politics
- World Politics
- Political Behavior
- Senior Seminar

Specializations

You'll take one class from each specialization and select four additional courses from one or more of the specializations listed below.

Political Theory

- Political Theory: Modern
- Political Theory: Classical/Medieval
- International Relations Theory

Political Issues

- Religion and Politics
- Politics of Natural and Human Resources
- Political Geography
- Indigenous Politics
- Public Policy: Theory and Practice
- Environmental Politics and Policy

American Politics

- The Legislative Process
- The American Presidency
- The American Court System
- Constitutional Law

Public Administration

- Public Management
- Public Administration
- Ethics in Public Administration
- Public Budgeting
- Public Personnel Management
- Introduction to Emergency Management

Restricted Electives

We want you to examine politics through more than one lens. To do this, you'll take two classes dealing with political issues in a different discipline. These disciplines include history, sociology, criminal justice, and psychology.

Occupational Preparation

To help you move easily from the classroom to your new office, you'll take an occupational preparation course. Options include speech courses, statistics courses, research methods courses, and internships. The choice is yours and depends on your goals.

Global Politics

- European Government and Politics
- Government and Politics of Asia
- Peace and Conflict Studies
- Politics of Global Governance
- International Political Economy
- Global Politics of Women and Gender
- American Foreign and National Security Policy

For more information about this major, go to: <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/sbs/political.html> or contact the Academic Department Head for Social and Behavioral Sciences, 414 Lowell Heiny Hall, 970.248.1932.