

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Program Description

The Political Science program provides students with a working knowledge of the concepts, theories, approaches and practical applications of political and governmental systems within the local, state, national and international arenas. Graduates are equipped to compete in the job market and the marketplace of ideas.

Regarding the job market, majors work closely with their academic advisor to customize a curriculum that prepares them for competitive applications to law or graduate school and/or careers in government, non-profit organizations, global advocacy, business, military or homeland security, and emergency management. In addition to holding elective office, graduates have worked as lobbyists, congressional staff members, gubernatorial staff, and state agency officials. Graduates have also been admitted to law school or graduate school at the University of Denver, Cornell University, Colorado State University, George Mason University, the University of Minnesota, the University of New Mexico, UC Denver, and the University of Colorado. Internship opportunities allow students to gain experience and employment while furthering their education. Recent interns have served in the U.S. Congress, the Colorado General Assembly, the Mesa County District Attorney's Office, state-level agencies, the City of Fruita, and congressional campaigns. Many former student interns are now working in jobs they obtained directly as a result of their internship experience.

Regarding the marketplace of ideas, the program builds engaged, global citizens who explore all sides of issues, think critically, communicate clearly, and use their skills responsibly. To that end, students engage in experiential learning opportunities in and/or outside of class. Students also have opportunities to work with faculty on research projects (as volunteers or as paid research assistants) on recreation management, natural resource management, and/or economic development. Faculty in the program sponsor a Political Science Club and a local chapter of the national honor society Pi Sigma Alpha.

A minor in political science is an excellent complement for students majoring in many other fields, particularly mass communications, business, and criminal justice. The minor provides a diverse understanding of politics and government organizations; this is helpful to anyone working in a career that is either regulated by government, has government as a customer, or needs to lobby government to protect its interests.

Desmond Tutu famously said: "Don't raise your voice, improve your argument." Nowhere does this advice seem more pertinent than in today's political environment. Graduates leave the program with strong arguments and marketable skills. The goal of the political science faculty is to help students become well-rounded citizens by preparing them to compete in both the employment market and the marketplace of ideas.

Contact Information

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Programs of Study Bachelors/Minors

- [Political Science \(BA\)](#)
- [Political Science \(Minor\)](#)