

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political Science is the study of politics, power and governance—in theory and in practice—in the United States and abroad. It equips students with an understanding of **political systems**, **ideologies**, **policies**, **processes and behaviors**, and prepares them for careers in business, government and law.

DEPARTMENT STRENGTHS

- **Flexible Options.** In addition to the conventional academic paths, students can get a headstart on their Master's with the Accelerated BA/MA program or attend law school with the dual JD/MA program.
- **Award-Winning Faculty.** The department's faculty has been recognized for outstanding contributions in research, teaching and service.
- **Practical Learning.** Students have several options for hands-on learning, including legislative internships in local, state and federal government.

SAMPLE CURRICULUM

Core Courses

- POLS 1120 Politics and Law: An Introduction
- POLS 4101 Political Statistics

Electives*

- POLS 1102 Modern Political Thought: An Introduction
- POLS 1501 International Relations
- POLS 3217 The Political Media
- POLS 3222 Politics, Race and Cinema
- POLS 3311 Global Politics and Sports
- POLS 3415 Feminist Political Theory
- POLS 3506 American Foreign Policy
- POLS 4315 Revolution and Political Violence

DEGREE OPTIONS

- BA in Political Science**
  - Pre-Law Concentration
- Minor in Political Science
- Accelerated BA/MA in Political Science
- Dual BA/JD in Political Science
- MA in Political Science
- Dual MA/JD in Political Science

MAJOR SUBFIELDS

- American Government and Politics
- Comparative Politics
- International Relations
- Political Theory

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Honors Program
- Internships
  - Urban Fellows Program | Memphis
  - Legislative Internship | Nashville
  - TWC Internship | Washington, D.C.
- Mock Trial
- Model UN
- Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society
- Study Abroad

THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
College of Arts and Sciences

POLITICAL SCIENCE
MAJOR FACT SHEET

BY THE NUMBERS (Spring 2026)

Student Enrollment

168 Total

156 Undergraduate

12 Graduate

Number of Minors

24 Total

Student Demographics

65% Female

79% Under 25

52% Pell Grant

50% First Gen

Degrees Awarded

26 Total

22 Bachelor's

4 Master's

Career Outcomes‡

$82K Avg Expected Salary First Destination

$59K Avg Annual Salary 1-3 Years Post-Grad

67% Employed in TN

56% Employed in Memphis

Faculty Employed

13:1 Student-Faculty Ratio†

13 Full-Time

5 Part-Time

8 Grad Asst

26 Total

TN Employment Outlook

16.3% 10-Year Job Growth

1,570 Avg Annual Job Openings

CAREER OPTIONS

Job Titles

- Attorney
- Campaign Manager
- City Manager
- Foreign Service Officer
- Journalist
- Lobbyist
- Policy Analyst
- Political Consultant
- Public Relations Manager
- Urban & Regional Planner

Industries

- Consulting
- Government
- Journalism
- Law + Advocacy
- Nonprofit

WHO YOU ARE

Personality

- Conscientious
- Curious
- Idealistic
- Investigative
- Organized
- Open-Minded

Interests & Hobbies

- Debate
- History
- News and Current Events
- Politics
- Public Policy
- Social Issues

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

Core Skills

- Analytical Techniques
- Data and Systems Analysis
- Policy Evaluation
- Project Management
- Research Design
- Strategy Development

Transferable Skills

- Active Listening
- Critical Thinking
- Decision Making
- Effective Communication
- Leadership
- Public Speaking

* *The specified courses are for example purposes only. It is not a complete list of program courses.*
** *Online degree options are available for the specified programs through UofM Global.*

† *Calculated based on the number of student majors and the number of full-time faculty.*
‡ *Based on self-reported post-graduation outcomes of UofM students who have earned a Bachelor's degree in the last ten years.*