WHAT CAN I DO WITH A POLITICAL SCIENCE DEGREE?

Are you interested in analyzing and resolving societal issues such as economic downturns, immigration, education, healthcare, LGBT rights, climate change, drug abuse, inequality and many more? The political science discipline helps you understand government structures, policies, and practices. With the increasing complexity and technicality of government work, higher level education and skills are being sought after and a political science degree can prepare you for a career not only in government but also with nonprofits, think tanks, media and businesses that have to engage routinely with the government for their corporate affairs. Political science majors develop the analytical and practical skills to navigate cultural, legal, institutional and international roadblocks and turn them into successes by preparing them for everything from advocating for social change to working in governmental offices.

POLITICAL SCIENCE AT SRU

Our flexible curriculum allows students to pursue a variety of domestic and international careers. Political science students use a blend of problem-solving skills and a knowledge of government and human behavior to pursue careers in law, urban planning, policy analysis, nonprofit advocacy, international relief and development, government relations, public administration, political communications, international security, lobbying and campaign management.

Our faculty value active learning and work to create valuable opportunities for students to apply their skills and knowledge. Political science students routinely engage in scholarly research with faculty; present at regional and national conferences; meet with foreign political and military leaders while participating in Model NATO; Model United Nations; travel internationally; intern with professionals in their chosen field; and address community problems through a variety of partisan and nonpartisan groups and activities.

WHY CHOOSE POLITICAL SCIENCE AT SRU?

1. Experienced and caring faculty: Students are taught by full-time faculty members, not graduate assistants, who bring the political world to life, integrating scholarly understanding and practical knowledge to enhance the learning experience.

2. Projects and research with faculty: Collaborative research and faculty mentorship is a long-standing tradition in the department and faculty encourage all undergraduates to experience this high impact practice.

3. Support and guidance: Students will be assigned an academic adviser to guide them through their program of study and help to make decisions about educational and career goals. Faculty advisers identify opportunities for internships, scholarships and mentorship specifically tailored to the students’ goals.

4. Theoretical and practical knowledge and experience: Each area of specialization is designed to provide students with the content knowledge they need as well as the skills needed to succeed in their chosen field.

5. Vibrant and active student organizations: Involvement with department student organizations will provide undergraduates with the opportunity to travel, learn and put knowledge and skills into action, whether it is representing a country at Model NATO, participating in college debate tournaments or other activities.
INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
Political science students have completed internships at various locations including:

- The Washington Center
- The Harrisburg Internship Semester
- James G. Fulton Fellow Program and the J. Steele Gow Political Fellows Program of the Pittsburgh Foundation
- The Pennsylvania House of Representatives Legislative Assembly Fellowship
- Congressional Leadership Fund
- Pennsylvania State Representatives
- Stephanian and Menchyk Law Offices
- Washington County Courts of Pleas
- McKeans County, Pennsylvania
- Thomas Merton Center
- Law Offices of Wayne H. Hundertmark
- The Leadership Institute
- U.S. House of Representatives
- Allegheny County Democratic Committee
- American Civil Liberties Union
- Congressman Mike Kelly

CAREER OUTCOMES
Graduates of the department have secured careers in the following areas:

- Policy development manager and legislative liaison, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- Deputy director, Westmoreland County Department of Public Safety
- Business development coordinator at Willis Towers Watson
- Political field representative, Southwestern PA for the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors
- Associate attorney, The Levisoff Law Firm
- Retirement business development officer PNC Institutional Asset Management
- Attorney/advisor for U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board
- Case manager at Shelter House in Fairfax, Virginia
- Law associate at Cozen O'Connor
- Campaign manager, Amy Fazio for Pennsylvania

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS
- Amnesty International
- College Democrats
- College Republicans
- Debate Society
- Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance
- Law Society
- Model United Nations
- Model NATO
- Next Gen
- Pi Sigma Alpha national political science honorary
- Young Progressives

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
Jessica Johnson, ‘16
Project manager, Strategic Public Partners, Columbus, OH

“The Political Science Department not only helped me achieve a job in my profession but also to secure a spot in a top-rated graduate program. The hands-on, personal attention of the professors gave me the confidence and skills to shoot for opportunities I may not have otherwise considered. Every day I am utilizing the critical thinking and strong communication skills I acquired in the classroom. This program provided me with the building blocks for future success and for that I will always be grateful.”

Bobby Maggio, ‘15
Campaign manager, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

“My experience at SRU prepared me to be successful in my career as a political operative. The internship opportunity that I had in my senior year opened my eyes to the world of political campaigns and set me on my career path.”

Lindsey MacNabb, ‘12
Producer II, “The Lead with Jake Tapper,” CNN

“The smaller size of the Political Science Department gave me unparalleled access to my professors and the opportunity to participate in internships like The Harrisburg Internship Semester, which was instrumental in helping me envision how I could apply my degree to a real-world job. Having a foundation in political science has helped me immensely in working for CNN and also when producing our special political programming including debates, townhalls and election night coverage.”

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