

POLITICAL SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS



WHAT CAN I DO WITH A POLITICAL SCIENCE DEGREE?

Political science is the study of government and public policies in the United States and around the world that shape the lives of citizens and the behavior of nations. Are you interested in resolving domestic and global challenges such as inequality, polarization, terrorism, healthcare, LGBT rights, climate change, or civil war? Political science equips you with the practical knowledge and marketable skills to address these and other issues.

You will develop the writing, communication, analytical, and data skills necessary for careers in law, urban planning, policy analysis, nonprofit advocacy, international relief and development, intelligence and homeland security, public administration, political communications, diplomacy, lobbying, campaign management, and much more. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of political scientists is projected to grow 6% from 2019 to 2029, faster than the average for all occupations.

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; network with alumni; meet with political officials; compete in Model United Nations conferences; 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 the program and identify opportunities for internships, scholarships, and jobs tailored to the students' goals.
- 4. Theoretical and practical knowledge and experience:** Each of our concentrations is designed to provide students with the content knowledge as well as the skills needed to succeed in their chosen profession.
- 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 United Nations, participating in college debate tournaments or other activities.

MAJOR

- Political Science (BA) with concentrations in:
 - Professional Politics
 - Public Policy
 - International Politics
 - Law and Politics
 - General Political Science

MINORS

- American Politics
- Comparative Politics and International Relations
- International Affairs
- General Political Science

SlipperyRock
University

A member of Pennsylvania's State System
of Higher Education

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

www.sru.edu

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Political science students have completed internships at various locations including the following:

- American Civil Liberties Union
- Pennsylvania House of Representatives
- Congressional Leadership Fund
- Washington County Courts of Pleas
- U.S. House of Representatives
- Allegheny County Democratic Committee

CAREER OUTCOMES

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

- Assistant Deputy Public Defender, New Jersey Office of the Public Defender.
- Policy Development Manager and Legislative Liaison, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Massachusetts
- Deputy Director, Westmoreland County Department of Public Safety
- Producer, "The Lead with Jake Tapper," CNN
- Political Field Representative, Southwestern PA for the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors

LAW & GRADUATE SCHOOL

Recent graduates have been accepted to prestigious postgraduate programs including the following:

Law Schools

- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Virginia
- University of Pittsburgh
- Duquesne University
- Howard University

Graduate Schools

- University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
- Ohio State University Knowlton School of City and Regional Planning
- University of Arizona Graduate School of Public Policy
- Colorado State University School of Education
- Georgia State University Andrew Young School of Policy Studies

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- College Democrats
- Young Progressives
- College Republicans
- Debate Society
- Law Society
- Model United Nations
- Pi Sigma Alpha, national political science honorary society

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Krista Zottola, '21

Villanova University, Graduate Student

"My experience in the Political Science Department helped me to decide on my future, apply to graduate programs in political science, and ultimately accept admission into a great program that fits me best. The coursework developed my skills in public speaking, data analysis, researching, and writing. The professors inspired my career path and each of them help students succeed and understand political science."

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."

DEPARTMENT CONTACT:

Spotts World Culture Building
Heather Rice, chairperson
heather.rice@sru.edu
724-738-4216

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.sru.edu/majors

ADMISSIONS OFFICE:

North Hall Welcome Center
asktherock@sru.edu
724.738.2015