

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Bachelor of Arts



Introduction to the Major

In political science, you will examine the dynamics of conflict and consensus and explore how societies are affected by political action and inaction.

Understanding the policies and decisions that shape our lives on the local, national, and international level requires keen insight and expert analysis. You will investigate a range of issues that reverberate within and beyond Clark's campus including human rights, elections, and globalization. In line with our focus on action-based learning, you will collaborate with faculty members and peers to drive positive change through your research, internships, and service projects, at home and abroad.

Highlights

The bachelor of arts degree in political science from Clark University helps you explore this dynamic subject across three crucial areas — American politics and public policy, comparative politics, and international relations — in the context of a foundational liberal arts education.



"Coming to Clark made me discover what I can do to help people feel like they belong, and what can be done to facilitate greater relationships between people of different backgrounds."

- Joseph Jung, '20 BA Clark University, '23 JD Harvard University
Associate at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP



What can I do with my major?

JOBS & EMPLOYERS

Political science majors graduate prepared for careers in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors, including positions in local, state, and national government, in international and community organizations, and in business, journalism, and education. Graduates work at institutions including Congress, the UN Development Programme, and the Economic Progress Institute.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Alumni pursue advanced study in public policy, international relations, law, and more at top schools including Harvard Law School, Georgetown University, Johns Hopkins, and Columbia.

Foundational Courses

The department has three subfields; students must take at least one class in each subfield and declare a specialization in one. These subfields are:

- **American Politics and Public Policy:** the analysis of the U.S. political system in all its complexity.
- **Comparative Politics:** the analysis of the trends in and workings of the political systems of the world's more than 190 countries.
- **International Relations:** the analysis of political, economic, social, and cultural dynamics across the international system.

Find out more at clarku.edu/programs/major/political-science-ba/

YOUR CLARK EXPERIENCE



Discover and Demonstrate your Purpose



Cultivate Your Communities



Engage Locally & Globally



Develop your Professional Identity

Year 1



Explore the Political Science department

Talk with department faculty and staff about your interests and plans. Look into First-Year Intensive (FYI) courses. Meet with an adviser to start identifying courses that match your interests and goals.



Get connected

Learn about and get involved with student clubs and activities that resonate with you. Consider applying to the Clark chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society.

Visit the Goddard library, the Writing Center, and the Career Lab in ASEC, and log in to Handshake to find career exploration events.



Explore off campus

Check out activities and opportunities in the community beyond Clark through community engagement fairs.

Year 2



Dig in and define your interests

Consider taking part in Clark's Mock Trial team to gain insight into the American legal system or join the Model United Nations program — one of the top 15 programs in the country.



Consider study abroad

Look into options for a semester, year, or summer abroad or away to broaden and deepen your experience. Visit the Study Abroad Office to explore the possibilities.



Research internship opportunities

Attend a workshop or schedule an individual session at the Career Connections Center (CCC) for help. Build your resume and upload to Handshake for review and feedback.

Search for internship and job opportunities on Handshake and meet with your career adviser.

Year 3



Delve deeper

Take a seminar in a program area you have not tried. Explore if graduate school is right for you with resources from the Career Connections Center. Consider applying for the 4+1 Accelerated Master's Degree and connect with program advisers.



Plan for senior year and beyond

Talk with your advisers about your plans. Identify faculty who know you well and will serve as references or write letters of recommendation.



Dive into research

Political science majors are encouraged to conduct research through an independent study, internship, or study abroad experience. Explore department and university funding opportunities for research and creative projects, including opportunity funding.

Year 4



Pull it all together

Complete your capstone through a course project, research experience, or honors thesis. Make sure you are on track to complete all major requirements and wrap up any research projects.



Share your knowledge and give back

Work as a Peer Learning Assistant (PLA). Lead a discussion section for an introductory course. Take on a leadership role with a community organization or student club to build important skills.



Get ready to launch

Discuss your post-graduation plans with political science faculty and your advisers.

Participate in career-related events on and off campus. Schedule a mock job interview through the Career Connections Center to get feedback. Update your professional profiles.