



*The victorious MSU team at the 2009 Model Arab League competition. Photo courtesy of Thomas Goltz.*

### Political Science Undergraduate Programs of Study:

The department offers an undergraduate Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with the following options:

- International Relations
- Policy and Analysis
- Political Institutions
- Political Theory

### Political Science Graduate Programs of Study:

The department offers a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree.

### Faculty:

For a list of current faculty please see: [www.montana.edu/wwwpo/faculty.html](http://www.montana.edu/wwwpo/faculty.html)

For additional information, contact:

### Department of Political Science

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[www.montana.edu/wwwpo/](http://www.montana.edu/wwwpo/)

The study of political science gives the student an understanding of politics, government, as well as national and international affairs. The political science faculty at MSU teach courses on a variety of topics in American political institutions, political theory, comparative politics, international relations, public administration and public policy. Faculty members write and conduct research on a vast array of issues and problems that are important to the state of Montana and beyond.

In addition to university requirements, the degree requires completion of five foundation courses, the completion of one upper division course from each of the four sub-field areas (political institutions, international relations, policy and analysis, political theory) and completion of one skills course. In addition, students take courses in one of the following four options:

### International Relations Option

This option is for students with an interest in international relations who wish to acquire a sound background in the fundamentals of international relations theory, international institutions, international policy and international political economy.

### Policy and Analysis Option

This option emphasizes public policy analysis and is the choice of students interested in working for non profits, as staff for elected officials or as researchers.

### Political Institutions Option

This option is for students with an interest in political institutions, such as legislatures, executives, or the courts, who wish to acquire a sound background in the fundamentals of how political systems operate. This option includes courses on the American political system, as well as the governing institutions of other nation-states.

### Political Theory Option

This option is for students who wish to pursue upper level coursework addressing key questions of political theory, including questions about rights, identity, power, virtue, gender, knowledge and justice, among others.

To learn more about the specific requirements for each option please visit: [www.montana.edu/wwwcat/programs/psci.html](http://www.montana.edu/wwwcat/programs/psci.html).



*Ashley Boland was a legislative intern in 2007. Photo by Jay Thane, MSU News.*



# Political Science

## What can I do with a degree in Political Science?

- Activist, advocate or organizer
- Archivist
- Budget examiner or analyst
- Attorney
- Campaign operative
- CIA analyst or agent
- City planner
- City housing administrator
- Congressional staffer
- Communications director
- Corporate analyst
- Corporate public affairs advisor
- Corporate economist
- Corporate manager
- Corporate information analyst
- Corporate adviser for governmental relations
- Corporate executive
- Corporate legislative issues manager
- Customs officer
- Editor, political journal
- Federal government analyst
- Financial consultant
- Foreign service officer
- High school government teacher
- Immigration officer
- Intelligence officer
- International agency officer
- International research specialist
- Issues analyst
- Journalist
- Juvenile justice specialist
- Labor relations specialist
- Legislative analyst/coordinator
- Lobbyist
- Management analyst
- Mediator
- Policy analyst
- Political commentator
- Pollster
- Public administration
- Public affairs research analyst
- Public opinion analyst
- Research analyst
- State legislator
- Survey analyst
- Systems analyst
- Teacher
- University administrator
- University professor
- Urban policy planner

## College of Letters and Science

Political science graduates develop a coherent and reasoned knowledge respecting government, law, governance, political behavior and public administration. In addition, they are prepared to be part of an informed national and global citizenry. Political science provides an excellent academic background for students preparing for careers in law, public service, journalism, teaching, as well as many private sector jobs. The list in the sidebar includes examples of career options for students with a political science degree.

Many people with a B.A. in political science go on to graduate school in political science and a variety of related fields. A Ph.D. in political science is typically required to teach the discipline at the college or university level. Professional schools, such as law and business, consider a B.A. in political science to be excellent preparation. The department has a pre-law advisor and a collection of current law school catalogues, and offers the opportunity of pre-law internships to qualified students. Please refer to the following web site: [www.montana.edu/wwwprov/lawfaq.html](http://www.montana.edu/wwwprov/lawfaq.html).

The political science program encourages students to gain practical experience through its legislative and public affairs intern program. The intern program gives students the opportunity to earn university credit for on-the-job experience with state and local government agencies, law firms, the Congress, state legislatures and with public policy groups.



*Jerci Powell, a political science major and member of the Blackfeet Tribe, spent a semester studying in Washington, D.C. Photo by Kelly Gorham, MSU News.*



*Assistant professor David Parker joined the MSU faculty in 2008. He is a political scientist who has studied the history of political campaigns. He is the author of the book "The Power of Money in Congressional Campaigns, 1880-2006." Photo by Kelly Gorham, MSU News.*



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