Political science students have the opportunity to access a large university’s resources while experiencing a liberal arts education: close engagement with their professors and peers, and a course of study focused on civic involvement and the human condition. Our award-winning faculty brings their rich and diverse scholarship into the classroom, engaging students in questions of ethics, power, identity, representation, policy, law and governance.

CURRICULUM
Our undergraduate program fosters appreciation of engagement in democratic discourse to address problems inherent to our ever-changing political, economic and social landscapes, and provides the knowledge and skills to do so.

Students take a lower division foundation block covering the subfields of Political Science while developing skills in critical thinking, communication and research methods. After completion of the five-class foundation block, students individualize their course of study while fulfilling their upper division coursework requirements and a research design class.

Our faculty offer upper division course work in:
- International Relations: investigating the structures, substance and context of contemporary world politics.
- Policy and Analysis: analyzing the impact of major public policy decisions.
- Political Institutions: exploring the foundations of our government and U.S. political institutions.
- Political Theory: raising questions about factors crucial to our lives as individuals and in community, such as liberty, law, legitimacy and political obligation.

RESOURCES & FACILITIES
We offer a truly unique learning environment. Our students learn to analyze, interpret, and explain political phenomena through the lens of, and with the methods of, a political scientist. Our integrated curriculum challenges students to develop their critical thinking, communication, and research skills, preparing our graduates for citizenship and leadership, post-graduate study, and diverse employment opportunities.

As a political science major, you will construct an individualized program of study drawing on our four curriculum subfields, internship program, complementary minors, and opportunities to study abroad.

Professor Elizabeth Shanahan’s work on narratives and their impact on public policy processes is garnering international recognition.
OPPORTUNITIES

We offer students many ways to learn. In our internship program, students put knowledge into action in a wide array of settings, including government, civil society, law offices, and the private sector. Students in our Model United Nations class, team and club compete in mock UN settings, mastering research and debate skills. Our student club, the Political Theory Consortium, and our Pizza and Politics Speakers Series, engage students in timely issues. Our new social science research lab, the HELPS Lab, offers students training in research methods while gaining work experience. And, last but not least, our British politics course involves extended travel in Great Britain.

With a degree in political science, you can pursue a career in government, politics, business, civil society, law, and other fields. Importantly, you are well equipped for changing jobs, which the average U.S. worker does every five years.

Matthew Arnold: Education is not “a having and a resting but a growing and becoming.” Ninety-three percent of employers state, “A demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems is more important than [a candidate’s] undergraduate major.” One third of Fortune 500 CEOs have liberal arts degrees.

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Political science major Montana Wilson was the first Native American to win a Gates Cambridge Scholarship in the history of the scholarship program.