



Political Science

Gonzaga's social justice mission is at the heart of the Political Science program. Political Science students are empowered to know, to care, and to act. They learn about a diversity of domestic and global political issues, discover new perspectives on the political world, and learn to search for common ground with others. As engaged citizens, they follow a path to the common good and toward leadership in the service of others. In keeping with the University Mission, students, staff, and faculty foster a mature commitment to dignity of the human person, social justice, diversity, intercultural competence, global engagement, solidarity with the poor and vulnerable, and care

THE PROGRAM

Political Science Department faculty believe that the study of politics requires an understanding of how values develop and manifest themselves in the political world. In order to reach such understanding, the faculty carefully situate events and theories in their social, historical, and cultural contexts.

The Political Science program prepares students to be active and informed citizens, and it also maximizes each student's postgraduate options. The program's emphasis on effective writing, rigorous factual analysis, and the ability to synthesize ideas makes it a strong preparation for any career. The Political Science Department offers both a major and a minor in Political Science.

Many students who study political science at Gonzaga later pursue careers in law, public policy, electoral politics, the Foreign Service, or graduate study in political science. Others become teachers or public servants. About one-third of Political Science majors work in business. Gonzaga's Political Science Department has a distinguished record of helping students achieve these goals.

CURRICULUM

The Political Science Department divides its courses into three general areas:

- American politics
- Comparative politics
- International relations

The Political Science Department contributes many courses to Gonzaga's interdisciplinary programs, such as:

- Environmental Studies
- International Studies
- Native American Studies
- Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies



DISTINCTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

The Department recommends **public affairs internships**. Such internships are an excellent way for students to acquire practical experience and explore future careers while still in school. Students obtain credit for these internships by conducting faculty-supervised analyses of their activities and experiences.

Recent interns have worked for judges, attorneys-general, public defenders, state legislators, governors, U.S. Representatives and Senators, ambassadors, the Office of the Vice President, the U.K. Houses of Parliament, and a host of non-governmental and international organizations. A special relationship with American University's Washington Semester Program allows students to **study and intern in Washington, D.C.**

Finally, the Department encourages **studying abroad**. Students can study abroad through a wide variety of programs facilitated by the Study Abroad Office. For example, students can have **internships in Brussels** in the **Belgium** program at Vesalius College, or participate in service learning at Stellenbosch University in **South Africa** or the **Argentina** program in Cordoba. There are a variety of opportunities for students to immerse themselves in language studies abroad, often in conjunction with political science courses, including programs at the University of Granada in **Spain**, the IAU College in Aix-en-Provence in **France**, or through the **Jordan** program in Amman.

As for extracurricular activities, the Department sponsors an award-winning Model United Nations program (Model UN). Through Model UN, students attend conferences in Portland, OR and New York, NY to simulate UN committees and work collaboratively with students from around the world to solve global issues. A Political Science faculty member helps students with Pre-Law advising. Political Science majors interested in the legal field often participate in programs sponsored by other departments, including the award-winning Debate Team.



GRADUATE SCHOOL

Recent graduates have attended the following graduate schools:

- American University
- Georgetown University
- Harvard University
- University of California - Riverside
- University of Massachusetts
- University of Minnesota
- University of Oregon
- University of Virginia
- University of Washington
- Washington State University
- Yale University

Recent graduates have attended the following law schools:

- Georgetown University
- Gonzaga University
- Harvard University
- New York University
- Seattle University
- University of Chicago
- University of Washington
- Willamette University
- Yale University

FACULTY CONTACT

Dr. Ann Ciasullo
DEPARTMENT CO-CHAIR
CIASULLO@GONZAGA.EDU

Dr. Cindy Stavrianos
DEPARTMENT CO-CHAIR
STAVRIANOS@GONZAGA.EDU

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
gonzaga.edu/pols

GONZAGA
UNIVERSITY

OUTCOMES

A recent national survey of Political Science graduates found that more than 40% were lawyers and 33% were in business. The remainder were distributed among all levels of government and education, as well as all forms of journalism and law enforcement.

Political Science graduates from Gonzaga can be found working at the Pentagon, the State Department, U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell's office, the American Red Cross, Washington State's legislature, in Spokane city agencies, and in non-governmental organizations. Many pursue interim careers in service in the Peace Corps, Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Teach for America, and teaching English in countries outside the U.S.

For students interested in continuing their exploration into political science, Gonzaga offers an online Master of Arts in Communication & Leadership Studies and in Organizational Leadership.

Gonzaga also offers a J.D. through the Gonzaga University School of Law

Contact:
gradadmissions@gonzaga.edu

