

# STUDENT HANDBOOK

## 2017-2018

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
133 DEUPREE HALL  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI  
UNIVERSITY, MS 38677-1848

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[WWW.OLEMISS.EDU/DEPTS/POLITICAL\\_SCIENCE](http://WWW.OLEMISS.EDU/DEPTS/POLITICAL_SCIENCE)

E-MAIL ADDRESS: [polsci@olemiss.edu](mailto:polsci@olemiss.edu)

Majors and Minors in Political Science

Internships

Career Planning

## **WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI**

We are very pleased that you are considering our department for your academic major or minor. This booklet provides a complete description of what we have to offer you and our expectations for you as a student in the Political Science Department. Please read it carefully and keep it as a reference.

Our department has nineteen full-time faculty and instructors working in different aspects of Political Science. We offer an undergraduate degree, Master's degree and Ph.D. in Political Science. The Department is organized around three fields of study: American politics, Comparative politics, and International politics.

The first field is the study of **American politics**. This field offers a variety of courses including ones on constitutional rights and liberties, political behavior, parties and elections, the Congress, and the Presidency. The gateway class for these upper-division classes is **POL 101**, Introduction to American Politics. We strongly urge that you take this course first in the first or second year of your academic program.

The second field within the department is **Comparative politics**. This field includes coursework in the politics of major regions of the world (western and eastern Europe, Latin America, and Asia) as well as theoretical approaches for integrating and contrasting these regional studies. The gateway course for these Comparative politics upper-division courses is **POL 102**. Please take this course first before considering advanced 300-level offerings.

The final field is the study of **International Relations (IR)**. The IR field is the study of politics that transcend the nation-state. These courses include the study of American foreign policy, international political economy, conflict, and international organizations. Please take **POL 103** as an introduction to this field.

While we are diverse in our offerings and organization, the Political Science Department shares a common mission. That mission is to prepare informed, active, and critical citizens. The major should provide you with skills and knowledge for advanced studies and government-related careers. Our students prepare for careers in a wide variety of fields. While many go to law school, many others find careers in business, teaching, the Foreign Service, the armed forces, federal, state, and local government, law enforcement, lobbying, and non-profit organizations. Some of our alumni serve in Congress, at the White House, in state government and in U.S. embassies abroad, while others are attorneys and business professionals. Some of our alumni have successful careers teaching at the higher & secondary education levels. We invite you to discuss with our faculty your career and academic goals.

### **John Bruce, Associate Professor and Chair**

The Department of Political Science is committed to support the learning of all students, irrespective of gender, race, ethnicity, age, religion, handicapping condition, or sexual preferences. Students should be able to expect that their learning environments are free from any form of prejudice. Disparaging comments aimed stereotypically at any group and any questioning of the seriousness of purpose or academic commitment of students based upon group characteristics may undermine our educational mission. If such behaviors occur in any class, University policy directs students to first try talking with the instructor and identifying the specific examples of behavior by the instructor or by other students which the students finds offensive or disparaging. If the student is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaint, the student is encouraged to consult with the Department Chair and to seek the Chair's assistance in improving the classroom environment.

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## AN INTRODUCTION TO THE FACULTY

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## STAFF

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## THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

Department Phone: 915-7401

Office: 133 Deupree Hall

Website: [www.olemiss.edu/depts/POLITICAL\\_SCIENCE](http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/POLITICAL_SCIENCE)

Department Chair: Professor John Bruce, 133 Deupree, 915-7401

The Chair is the chief departmental administrator who is responsible for overseeing the entire operation of the Department including the scheduling of all courses, approval of proposals for independent study, arbitrating student or faculty grievances, and representing the Department to the rest of the University.

Chief Department Advisor: Professor Sue Ann Skipworth, 129 Deupree, 915-5407

The Chief Departmental Adviser provides general advising for minors and majors. The Chief Department Adviser can answer questions related to major requirements, petitions concerning academic requirements, and degree audits before graduation. On some matters, such as signing independent study and change of grade forms please consult with the appropriate faculty or the Chair.

The Social Science Research Laboratory: Director: Professor Jonathan Winburn, 234 Deupree, 915-7232.

The SSRL engages in public policy research, training and education, data base development, and technical assistance in various areas of national, state and local government.

The Trent Lott Leadership Institute: Dr. Michael Metcalf, Academic Director, 915-3189

The Lott Leadership Institute was established in 1999 to honor U.S. Senator Trent Lott, a distinguished graduate of the University. The Lott Institute sponsors summer leadership programs for high school students and University undergraduates designed to refine the leadership skills inherent in all students. The Institute also supports and organizes a wide range of leadership development programs and events for undergraduates of the University.

### ADVISING

#### ***General Academic Advising***

The first step to successful academic advising is yours: take the initiative and ask questions. Academic advice at The University of Mississippi can come from a variety of places. First, there are a range of materials that can help you understand the University requirements, your major, study abroad opportunities, and the like. *The M Book* and *The Undergraduate Catalog* are two great resources that students should consult and keep handy. Advising for Undeclared Majors is available in The Academic

Support Center, located in Martindale Student Services Building, room 350. Their office is open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You may also reach them by phone at 915-5970, by email at [asc@olemiss.edu](mailto:asc@olemiss.edu) , or via their web page at <http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/asc>.

***University-Wide Advising for the Major—See the Chief Department Advisor***

If you wish to become a Political Science major or are seeking general advice about your overall degree progress, please see the Chief Department Advisor (CDA). The Chief Department Advisor stands ready to assist you in understanding the requirements of the University, the College of Liberal Arts, and the Department of Political Science (POL). The CDA will also assist in auditing your degree progress as you near graduation. *To make an appointment to be advised, please contact Professor Sue Ann Skipworth, 915-5407 or [saskipwo@olemiss.edu](mailto:saskipwo@olemiss.edu).*

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students consult their department advisor prior to registration for the Spring and the Fall semesters. Registration will have an “advisor hold” until the advisor meets with the student and lifts the hold. The registration window may open but unless the “advisor hold” has been lifted the system will not permit registration. It is the student’s responsibility to make an appointment to meet with their advisor. It is also especially important to review your degree status at the end of your Junior year or very early in your senior year. Experience has shown us that these are the times when students are most likely to be making decisions critical to their graduation, and a timely review of these decisions can be quite helpful in avoiding mistakes.

***POL Course and Career Advising for the Major—See your Faculty Mentor***

Once you have declared the Political Science major, you will be assigned a faculty mentor who can assist in matters beyond general advising, such as POL course selection, post-graduate and career planning and internship opportunities. The burden will rest on you to initiate a meeting with this faculty mentor. We encourage you to contact your faculty mentor and set up a meeting to introduce yourself and discuss your academic plans. If you would like to have a different faculty mentor than the one assigned to you, whether because of changing academic or career goals or for any other reason, you should consult the Department’s CDA. You should also feel free to talk about your plans with other faculty members with whom you have worked in your courses if you like. Every faculty member in the department is an academic mentor, and we stand ready to assist you to meet your goals.

The phone numbers and email addresses of POL faculty are listed on page 4. Please also note that all faculty members have regular, posted office hours. Should it be difficult for you to meet with a faculty member during these hours, you can also schedule an appointment at a time of mutual convenience. If you have persisting problems finding a faculty member, please contact the Department Chair, Prof. Bruce, in 133 Deupree Hall or call the Political Science Office, 915-7401.

We emphasize again that the responsibility for taking initiative is yours; your POL mentor/advisor will not seek you out, but he/she stands ready with assistance as requested. If you wish to appeal your major requirements or complete your graduation degree audit, please consult your major's CDA.

#### ***Graduation Degree Audit Process—See the Chief Departmental Advisor***

In your next to last semester before your anticipated graduation, you are required to complete a graduation degree application. The process requires that Political Science majors first visit Ventress Hall, the College of Liberal Arts, where you will be provided with a graduation audit sheet. You are to complete the audit sheet demonstrating your completion of degree requirements. You are also required to obtain an official transcript from the Registrar's Office in Martindale Hall. After completing these tasks, please make an appointment with the Chief Departmental Advisor (CDA) to review your degree audit sheet. The signatures of the Departmental Advisor and the Department Chair are required before submitting the completed forms to Ventress Hall.

## **THE MAJOR AND MINOR CURRICULUM**

#### ***How do I Become a Political Science Major?***

Please go to The College of Liberal Arts in Ventress Hall to declare or change your Political Science major. When your major has been declared please contact Professor Sue Ann Skipworth, [saskipwo@olemiss.edu](mailto:saskipwo@olemiss.edu), to make an appointment to review your degree requirements.

#### ***Requirements for the POL Major***

The major in political science requires an introductory course in American politics in order to insure that all graduates have a working knowledge of the U.S. political system, and three courses that introduce various subfields & methods within the discipline. Beyond those minimal requirements, the major in political science allows the student flexibility to structure a program of study in political science to fit student's particular intellectual and career interests.

1. The Political Science major requires at least 33 semester hours of Political Science courses with the following distributional requirements:
  - A. All of these:
    - POL 101 Introduction to American Politics (3)
    - POL 102 Introduction to Comparative Politics (3) *previously POL 221*
    - POL 103 Introduction to International Relations (3) *previously POL 231*
    - POL 251 Introduction to Political Science Methods (3)
  - B. Choose at least 21 additional credit hours from other courses in political science at the



300 level or above.

- C. A final grade of 'C' or better in all Political Science courses is required to count toward the major, beginning in the fall, 2006 semester.
- D. At least 18 hours must be (excluding Z graded courses) at the 300 level or above.

### ***Requirements for the Minor***

The Minor in Political Science offers students the opportunity to use elective hours in such a way as to satisfy intellectual interests, strengthen their degree, or to enhance their preparation for career or further education. Below are the requirements:

1. The Political Science minor requires at least 18 semester hours of Political Science courses with the following distributional requirements:

- A. POL 101 Introduction to American Politics (3)
- B. At least 9 hours must be taken at the 300-level or above.

### ***When should I take certain courses as a Political Science Major?***

If you are majoring in political science you should take POL 101 (American Political System) first, if possible. Then you should move on to take Pol 102 Intro. to Comparative Politics, Pol 103 Intro. to International Relations, and Pol 251 Intro to Political Science Methods. You should try to complete your Intro. level course work by the end of your fourth semester. Particularly we encourage you to take Pol 251 in the first two years of your academic program. All four introductory courses also fulfill the College's social science requirement.

### ***Do any POL courses have prerequisites?***

Please note the several 300-level courses have a prerequisite for the corresponding field introductory course (e.g., POL 103 is a prerequisite for POL 331). We strongly encourage you to take these introductory courses in your first and second year. Please note that the POL major gives students great freedom in course selection after the introductory level; we urge you to talk about what most interests you and what courses will best meet your needs with your faculty adviser.

### ***What do the course numbers mean generally?***

The Political Science Department organizes its course offerings into four fields: American politics, Comparative politics, International relations, research methods (political analysis). With some exceptions, each of these fields has its own number suffix in the course numbering system. You can thus identify the fields by the second digit in the three digit course. The number and field labels are as follows:

#### **Number suffix and field:**

01-19 American Politics

20-29 Comparative Political Systems

30-39 International Relations  
50-59 Research Methods (Political Analysis)

Please note that the third digit in a course number is just to distinguish one course from another – for example, POL 352 can be taken before 351, or you can take 352 and never take 351. The third digit does not indicate a relationship between courses.

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Further information about any of the following groups may be obtained from their faculty advisers.

PI SIGMA ALPHA is the national political science honorary society for student who meets the following criteria to be eligible for membership: completed 10 hours of work in political science including at least one upper-division course (300-400 level), with an average grade of B or higher in those courses, and they must have achieved an overall GPA placing them in the top one-third of their whole class. Contact Professor Sue Ann Skipworth.

PHI ALPHA DELTA is the student organizations open to any interested student interested in law school and a career in law. Phi Alpha Delta may sponsor such activities as Mock Law Classes, LSAT preparation sessions, and Law Career Day (when representatives of leading law schools come to interview prospective applicants).

MOCK TRIAL offers undergraduates an opportunity to develop and improve critical thinking and speaking skills in a courtroom setting. Under the auspices of the American Mock Trial Association, this intercollegiate program allows students to travel to compete in invitational, regional, and national tournaments. Contact Professor John Winkle, [jww@olemiss.edu](mailto:jww@olemiss.edu), phone 916-5420.

The NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS provides a forum where students may learn about the objectives and functions of the United Nations. Through concentrated interactions within the structure of a simulated United Nations, delegates can acquire unique perspective on international relations. Throughout, the NMUN adheres to its purpose of participatory education in a manner which is both intellectually stimulating and enjoyable.

The MODEL ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES and MODEL ARAB LEAGUE are both similar to The Model UN but with a focus on countries in the northern and southern Americas and the Middle East, respectively. Delegates represent individual countries and address current issues pertaining to relations among member states. (offered infrequently)

**FORENSICS** Forensics participates in debate competitions and offers a forum for students to develop their public speaking skills. Contact JoAnn Edwards, [jedwards@olemiss.edu](mailto:jedwards@olemiss.edu), phone 915-3799.

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT** The Associated Student Body is the central governing organization for University of Mississippi students. Contact the Dean of Students Office, 915-7247, to learn more about how you can become active in student affairs.

## **AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS**

### **CROFT INSTITUTE**

The Croft Institute for International Studies offers a B.A. degree program in International Studies. The curriculum consist in part three regional studies concentrations: East Asia, Europe, and Latin America. Political Science majors might consider a second major or minor in international studies. To find out more about the Croft Institute, go to 304 Croft Institute Building. You can contact them at 915-1500 or [croft@olemiss.edu](mailto:croft@olemiss.edu).

### **BARKSDALE HONORS COLLEGE**

Barksdale Honors College is designed for highly motivated students who thrive in small classes emphasizing reading, writing, and discussion. The Political Science Department frequently offers sections of existing and new courses exclusively for honors students. Students may qualify to participate in the Junior-Entry Program of the Honors College. You can reach the college at 915-7494 or [honors@olemiss.edu](mailto:honors@olemiss.edu).

## **SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS**

Scholarships and awards are presented annually to students who have distinguished themselves in various ways as political science majors. The Howard Stone Memorial Award is given to a sophomore major who has excelled academically during the freshman year. The Governors Award goes to the best junior student as selected by the faculty. The Senators Award goes to the best senior student as selected by the faculty. These awards are given in the spring semester annually. The Howerton-Fortenberry Award goes to an outstanding senior student who will be attending graduate school. Finally, the William Jennings Bryan Prize is infrequently granted for the best essay written on the science of government.

**Graduation Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science**  
**Lower Division Requirement for the B.A. Degree**

Required Courses		Rules & Explanations for Required Courses
<b>ENGLISH</b>	(12 hours)	
Composition (6 hours)	_____	Composition: WRIT 100 OR 101, and either or WRIT 102, or LIBA102
Literature (6 hours)	_____	Literature: ENGL 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, OR 226
	_____	
<b>FOREIGN LANGUAGE</b>	(6-12 hours)	Students are required to complete 6 hours at the 200-or above. Available languages are : Arabic, Korean, Chinese, French, German, Ancient Greek, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Portuguese, Russian, or Spanish
	_____	
	_____	
<b>HISTORY</b>	(6 hours)	The History Department recommends HIS 101 and 102, the Western Civilization Courses, although all HIS courses fulfill this requirement. Students must have departmental approval for 400-level courses. Freshman may not register for courses at 300-level.
	_____	
	_____	
<b>HUMANITIES</b>	(3 hours)	Any African American Studies (AAS), any classics (CLC), Gender Studies (GST) 103, 201, 301, 333, 350, any Philosophy (PHIL), any Religion (REL), Southern Studies (S ST) 101, 102, Honors (HON) 101, 102, or Environmental Studies (ENVS) 101
	_____	
<b>FINE ARTS</b>	(3 hours)	Any Art History (AH) MUS 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, THEA 201, OR Dance 200
	_____	
<b>MATH</b>	(3 hours)	Math 115, 121, 123, 125, 261, 262, 267, 268
	_____	
<b>NATURAL SCIENCE</b>	(9-11 hours)	Two natural science courses must be in the same area of science and the third course must be in a different area of science. Two of the science courses must have a lab. The areas of natural science are: Astronomy OR physics OR physical science; biology; chemistry; and geology. A student taking two courses from the Dept. of Physics and Astronomy must take the remaining course in another science department. A student may not receive credit for ASTR 101 or 102 with either ASTR 103 or 104. You cannot mix Astronomy, Physical Science and Physics to meet this requirement
	_____	
	_____	
<b>SOCIAL SCIENCE</b>	(6 hours)	Any Anthropology (ANTH), any Economics (ECON), any Political Science (POL), any Psychology (PSY), or any Sociology (SOC)
	_____	
	_____	

## REQUIREMENT CHECK LIST

### Department of Political Science Requirements: 33 Hours

_____	101 Intro to American Politics	300 Level or above (at least 21 Hours)
_____	102 Intro to Comparative Politics	_____
_____	103 Intro to International Relations	_____
_____	251 Intro to Political Science Methods	

- A grade of 'C' or higher is required in all Political Science courses to count toward fulfillment of the major (beginning in the fall, 2006 semester).
- Only **3 hours of z-graded** Political Science course work may count toward the major.

**Minor:** \_\_\_\_\_ (See the Course Catalog for specific requirements for your minor.)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Advanced Hours:** Students must complete 40 hours of advance course work before graduating. These 40 hours **include** work completed within major, minor, and electives.

\_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Requirements

- Total of 120 hours to include 40 advanced hours
- Minimum overall GPA of 2.0
- Minimum of 2.0 in all POL courses toward the major
- Minimum of 2.0 in work applied to the minor
- Minimum of 2.0 for residency GPA
- Major and minor requirements as specified in the Course Catalog
- At least 12 hours of the POL major courses in residence.
- Of your last 21 course hours, only 6 may be transfer hours.

- For purposes of GPA, residence work is considered separately from transfer work.

## **DEPARTMENTAL TAKE 5 PROGRAM**

Students with excellent academic records qualify for admission to a five year BA / MA degree program. This program requires that students apply in the spring of their junior year. Admitted students then take some graduate-level POL courses in their senior year working toward both undergraduate and graduate degrees in an expedited, five year program. Please visit 133 Deupree Hall or speak with your faculty mentor if you are interested.

## **“Z” OR “CREDIT / NO CREDIT” GRADES**

The regulations for using Z (credit/no credit) registration are found in The University of Mississippi Student HANDBOOK. Remember that **ONLY 3 HOURS** “credit/no credit” courses may be used to meet the minimum requirements for majors or minors within the department.

**WARNING:** Nationwide studies have shown that credit/no credit grades on your transcript will be a negative factor in evaluation of your application for admission or employment by most professional schools (law, medicine, etc.), by many graduate schools, and by some employers and undergraduate schools. Do not enroll for courses on a credit/no credit basis until you are sure that such enrollment will not interfere with your career goals.

## **LEARNING BEYOND OLE MISS**

### ***Independent Studies***

You may, at some point in your undergraduate career, wish to pursue a rather narrowly defined subject in more depth than is possible within a single course in the usual curriculum, or an instructor may suggest that you pursue in more depth a topic which you have brought up in class. For those situations, members of the faculty may be willing to supervise you in Independent Readings in Political Science. The POL 399 course number is designated for independent readings and research in political science.

When you want to engage in supervised independent study, you should first prepare a proposed course of study and present it to a faculty member who specializes in the area of your proposed study. The faculty member, if he or she is able to undertake supervision of independent readings that semester, will suggest additions and/or modifications to your proposal and, with you, will establish a schedule of meetings for discussing your ongoing reading project.

Independent Readings in Political Science is subject to the following regulations:

1. You must have a g.p.a. of at least 3.0 in at least 15 semester hours of political science and be a political science major.
2. You must have completed basic work in an area before you propose to do independent readings in some extended facet of an area.

3. The proposed independent study must not cover the same material as an existing course.
4. You must prepare a written proposal for your Independent Readings in Political Science before securing the professor's consent to supervise your project.
5. You will need both the instructor's and the chair's signatures on a university Independent Studies form, and you will be required to file a departmental Independent Studies form with an outline of your proposal before securing the Chair's signature.
6. You must submit a written presentation (paper or examination) in order to receive credit in independent reading.
7. POL 399 is variable credit (1-3 semester hrs).
8. No faculty member may supervise more than 3 students in Independent Readings per semester.

### ***Study Abroad Opportunities***

We encourage students to study abroad during their academic career. Students typically complete their experiences in their junior or senior year. The study abroad office is located at 359 Martindale; the phone number is 915-1509. The Department also offers summer courses in London and New York City taught by UM faculty members.

### ***Internships***

Internships can provide an added dimension to the educational experience of undergraduates and provide training in job-related skills. Internships may be with governmental or legal agencies, political parties, public office holders, political campaign staffs, civic organizations, interest groups, voluntary agencies, or other non-profit agencies. Some internship possibilities have been identified by the department and are available to qualified students. More often, students identify their internship possibilities on their own that must then be formally developed between the host agency staff and the faculty members who direct internships.

POL 389 is the course number designated for political science internships. For further information about internships you should contact Professor Sue Ann Skipworth, Undergraduate Advisor.

All internships are subject to the following regulations:

1. The nature of the internship, the amount of credit to be awarded, and the academic expectations for internship credit must be determined *in advance of the internship* by consultation among the student, the instructor, and the host agency. Please see the Undergraduate Advisor or the Department Chair.
  - A. Internship credit may not be obtained for the University service or activities.
  - B. From 3 to 6 semester hours may be granted for POL 389 in any one semester.
  - C. Internship credit does not count toward the 200-level requirements for any major. That is, **INTERNSHIP CREDIT DOES NOT COUNT TOWARD ANY OF THE REQUIRED COURSES FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJORS; HOWEVER, NO MORE THAN 3 HOURS OF POL 389 MAY COUNT TOWARD THE 33 MAJOR REQUIREMENT.**
  - D. Once a "contractual arrangement" with the instructor has been made, internships receive course credit whether or not they carry financial remuneration.
2. POL 389 is available only on a "Z-grade" or credit/no credit basis.

## **CAREER PLANNING**

### ***Planning For Law School***

Law schools demand three things from applicants:

1. A diploma from an accredited institution of higher education.
2. Demonstrated academic proficiency in earning that diploma (i.e., a good grade point average).
3. Relatively high score on the Law School Admission Test, usually taken in the fall of the applicant's senior year.

In addition, some law schools require and all law schools recommend some accounting courses. Beyond that, there probably is no single course which must be taken, but any course which will help develop a student's logical skills or expressive skills (both written and oral) will be helpful. But the question of precisely how these things can be accomplished must be answered individually, for there is no general prescription. Since a practicing attorney must draw upon a wide variety of knowledge, a good general background in the liberal arts, including a wide sampling of the social sciences, is likely to be as useful as any; but a student who happens to have a strong interest in some other curriculum should not feel barred from a pursuit of that interest.

The department tries to maintain a supply of application forms for the LSAT, or you can obtain an application form by writing to the Law School Admission Services, Box 2000, Newtown, PA 18940. The best available source of admission data on law schools is the OFFICIAL GUIDE TO U.S. LAW SCHOOLS which is prepared by the Association of American Law Schools and the Law School Admission Council. This annual volume is published in late summer and can be purchased at area bookstores or directly from the Law School Admission Council at the address noted above.

When you have your LSAT scores and some idea of what your cumulative g.p.a. is likely to be, the Department's faculty may be able to assist you in deciding to which schools to make application.

### ***Planning for Graduate School***

If you're thinking of graduate school in political science, it's a good idea to talk to a political science faculty member who specializes in the particular subfields of the discipline which you are interested in pursuing. They will be able to advise you about the specific nature and quality of the programs in your area of interest. Also check the faculty list (page 4 of this booklet) to see whether any have attended schools in which you are particularly interested.

Good general advice, as you prepare for graduate school, would include the suggestion that you will need a relatively high g.p.a. in order to demonstrate your competence at academic work. Many graduate schools will also want to see your scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) which you should plan to take in the fall of your senior year. You can pick up a booklet which describes the examination and contains applications for it at the Student Counseling Service. Check the catalogs or the web-sites of the graduate programs to which you plan to apply to see which parts of the GRE you should take.



While you are an undergraduate, you should try to get some seminar experience so you have more training in writing papers, making oral presentations, and "thinking critically on your feet." Many graduate programs are, in whole or in part, based on such seminar experiences. An added benefit of seminars is that they are small enough that the instructors can know your work in enough depth to write the detailed letters of recommendation which are critical in graduate school admissions.

General advice about courses is difficult to provide. While it probably does not matter much whether your political science courses cover all the fields, or a related field of the discipline, or are concentrated in the one or two subfields you are interested in, you should demonstrate your intellectual rigor by taking plenty of your work at the 300 and 400 levels. Think seriously about honors work as well.

Many, if not most, graduate programs require quantitative skills. It's a good idea to prepare yourself for those requirements by including statistics and calculus in your undergraduate curriculum. Also make sure you are acquainted with computers.

A good reference book for you to consult is the *GUIDE TO GRADUATE STUDY IN POLITICAL SCIENCE*, published by the American Political Science Association and available in Williams Library.

### ***Planning For Careers***

With several hundred majors the Department of Political Science ranks among the most popular undergraduate fields of study at the University today. And if the experience of these students matches that of preceding graduates, they look forward to excellent career prospects. For those concerned about the usefulness of political science as a career preparation, we think there is considerable reassurance to be found in the record of our graduates.

What is that record? Or, to put the question in its more usual form: "What do you do with a political science major?" That has understandably become the recurrent query of a number of prospective students who want to know more about where a major in political science can lead. From our surveys of recent graduates, we can provide some concrete answers.

The more familiar view of political science is the one which associates it with three career choices: teaching, government services, and law. But political science can lead in very different career directions. Our graduates report such varied activities as graduate study in M.B.A. programs, military services, communications, sales and hospital administration. Employment in the private sector ranks as the choice of many graduates – a popular career option.

Clearly political science has a wide range of applications and provides a useful preparation for a variety of career options. While it is an appropriate base for advanced professional study and for government service, it also often serves as a springboard into business, industry, and such related careers as journalism, communications, research, publishing, and interest group work.

The political science major provides an excellent grounding in the social sciences, coupled with a solid liberal education. There is substantial evidence that such learnings are valued in a wide variety of career areas. Increasingly, we see a pattern of hiring and recruitment which is not narrowly defined in terms of a required major in some select area. The organizations interested in our graduates are primarily interested in the quality of the student.

This is not to say that all graduates are indistinguishable. It is only to suggest that the potential of a specific major may be more in its ability to indicate that a student can think critically, write well, and be adaptable under a variety of circumstances than in its links to specific careers. We strongly encourage students, therefore, to broaden their perspectives as to the range of possible options available to them, and to acquire appropriate areas of skills and specialties.

The limitations of space preclude a listing here of all the possibilities to which a political science major might lead and the details of avenues to pursue them. A good way to explore those alternatives is to acquaint yourself with the extensive resources of the Career Center (303 Martindale, 915-7174). They are helpful and informed about career opportunities, and an early visit to their office is strongly encouraged.

Besides investigating careers outside of a narrow range of choices, there are a number of other suggestions we might offer as helpful to those who are beginning to think about life after college.

Following are some ideas which we think are particularly worth emphasizing:

1. Give thought as early as possible to the question of your career. Obviously the sooner one knows a career direction, the easier it will be to make the necessary preparation and plan accordingly. While one can drift in to some career choices at the eleventh hour, others require very careful attention along the way.
2. Find out whom to talk to about the particular career possibilities you have in mind. You may also wish to talk to some practitioners in the field.
3. Give thought, in your course selections, to more than just the requirements and the obvious importance of a good grade point average. Consider also, the benefits of acquiring some special skill or talent which other applicants for your career will not have. Your application may be strengthened by strong writing skills, foreign language proficiency, computer programming and analysis, quantitative techniques, research methods, accounting, or perhaps a set of courses in a related area.
4. Other ways of enhancing your record include a unique internship experience, summer job experience, or workshop. In some fields, graduate training or advanced study is a must.
5. Find out what examinations may be necessary for the career you are considering: GRE, LSAT, GMAT. And also talk to someone knowledgeable about the timetable which you must follow if you are to be a successful applicant.
6. Where recommendations will be needed, you will have to be recognizable to some member of the faculty. Those who remain invisible throughout their college careers usually come to regret it.
7. It is also well worthwhile to do your "homework" in familiarizing yourself with any organization to which you are applying. You will learn a lot about where you are headed, you will ask more useful questions, and you are sure to impress your interviewer with your seriousness and intelligence.
8. Flexibility is a great asset when it comes to careers. We hope you will think about different alternatives and different directions, and also do a bit of contingency planning. The most common mistake often is associated with putting all one's hopes on a single application.

Finally, we hope you will remember that the Department of Political Science stands ready to help in whatever way we can. We would like to think that the resource of advice and experience to be found within the Department has helped to achieve the strong record of career placements noted earlier.