

**Department of Political Science Learning Outcomes**  
**February 2019**

The following constitutes our statement on program goals and learning outcomes for undergraduate majors:

*The Department of Political Science seeks to make our students more astute, critical, and articulate participants in, and observers of, the multifaceted phenomenon of politics.*

Students majoring in Political Science are expected, at minimum, to gain heightened understanding in 2-3 of the following issue areas:

- the nature of power
- the importance of political parties, interest groups, social movements, the media, and other actors in linking individuals to government
- the consequences of governing institutions in both domestic and international contexts
- the alternative philosophical perspectives on politics and their relation to the western liberal tradition
- the role of individuals and the responsibilities of elites in democracies
- the relationship of law to politics and society.

The graduate program in political science is designed to provide students with the specialty skills, advanced training, and preparatory work needed to pursue a career requiring a more sophisticated understanding of politics and political phenomena.

The following constitute the Department's goals for graduate program learning outcomes:

- in-depth training in two major Political Science subfields, including: international relations, comparative politics, American politics, and political theory
- ability to produce a substantial piece of independent research
- methodological skills and theoretical background to conduct social science research
- heightened understanding of the discipline of Political Science, its importance relative to, and position within, the social sciences and university curriculum