

Political Science

Bachelor of Arts Degree

Contact

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Admission Requirements

(In years as established by the college)

A high school diploma with the following specific courses:

- 4 English
- 2 Algebra I & II
- 1 Geometry
- 2 Lab Science (including biology)
- 2 History/Social Studies
- 2 Foreign Language (same language or two years of American Sign Language)
- Academic electives (to equal at least 17 credits)

To ensure current mathematical skills, students should take a mathematics course during their senior year of high school.

Did You Know?

The Political Science Department combines the best of a research faculty dedicated to scholarly publication with a devoted teaching faculty. We stress the close and complementary relationship between teaching and research, believing that students benefit from intensive training by a professionally engaged faculty. We strive for an open and stimulating intellectual atmosphere that recognizes the necessity of free exchange of ideas and the intrinsic worth of the individual student.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Program Description

In addition to a stellar and award-winning teaching faculty, the Political Science (POS) Program features close interaction between our majors and faculty, multiple seminar courses, and several internship opportunities. The crown jewel of all programs of its type is the Congressional Internship Program, which sends four students to Washington, D.C., for a semester-long paid internship.

Specialized Information

The Congressional Internship Program, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, annually sends four students to the Maine congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. Students are selected annually to participate in the Kenneth T. Palmer Maine State Legislative Internship Program. The Maine Public Policy Scholars Program is available to all students who will be University of Maine juniors or seniors in the next academic year. The Maine Community Foundation funds the competitive program and students from across the University of Maine System investigate a state public policy issue. The policy scholar selected at U Maine undertakes a major research project involving some aspect of Maine public policy during the academic year. Other internship possibilities students have participated in include the International Institute for Strategic Studies-U.S., in Washington D.C., and the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, D.C. Many POS majors write and defend undergraduate honors theses, supervised by POS faculty. The department is a regular contributor to the for-credit interdisciplinary course accompanying the annual Camden Conference.

Associated Honor Societies and Student Organizations

The department offers a number of merit-based scholarships, including the Judith Dawn Grant Memorial Scholarship, Eugene Mawhinney Scholarship, Schoenberger Scholarship, Bebek Memorial Scholarship and Helmke Memorial Scholarship. POS majors who have not yet graduated and who represent the best among their peers are our initiates into Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society. These students have maintained a high level of scholarship. POS majors intending to attend law school subsequent to graduation meet in the Pre-Law Society. For the last several years, POS has sent a student representative to the Student Conference on U.S. Affairs (SCUSA), held at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. SCUSA is an international student conference featuring roundtable discussions and student-written policy position papers. Each year one student is selected for the Edward Collins Award for Outstanding Graduating Senior in International Affairs-Political Science and the Eugene Mawhinney Award for Outstanding Graduating Senior in Political Science. Each year, the department sponsors the Graton Constitutional Essay contest.

Representative Courses

POS 203	American State and Local Government	POS 372	Canadian Foreign Policy
POS 241	Introduction to Comparative Politics	POS 374	American Foreign Policy
POS 243	Canadian Government and Politics	POS 375	United States and the Middle East
POS 273	International Relations	POS 380	Interest Groups and American Politics
POS 282	Introduction to American Law	POS 381	Political Parties and Elections
POS 301	Classical Political Thought	POS 383	American Constitutional Law
POS 302	Medieval Political Thought	POS 384	American Civil Liberties
POS 303	Early Modern Political Thought	POS 385	Women and Politics
POS 304	American Political Thought	POS 386	Religion and Politics in the United States
POS 305	Late Modern Political Thought	POS 401	Seminar in Political Theory
POS 335	Major Governments of Western Europe	POS 467	African Politics
POS 336	Government and Politics in Russia	POS 469	Politics of the Middle East
POS 337	Government and Politics in Eurasia	POS 474	Instruments of American Foreign Policy Making
POS 344	Public Policy in Canada	POS 475	International Security
POS 350	Mass Media in U.S. Politics	POS 476	Seminar in World Politics
POS 352	American Public Opinion	POS 484	The American Constitution and Criminal Due Process
POS 353	The U.S. Congress	POS 493	American Politics Internship
POS 354	The U.S. Presidency	POS 495	Congressional Internship
POS 355	Music and Politics in the American Context	POS 496	International Affairs Internship
POS 359	Topics in American Government	POS 498	Independent Study in Political Science
POS 363	Urban Government and Politics	POS 499	Senior Seminar in Political Science
POS 368	China	POS 531	Topics in Comparative Politics
POS 370	International Terrorism: The Challenges for America	POS 549	Seminar in American Politics

Ongoing Research and Awards

POS is proud to feature a highly productive research faculty. Its members have published hundreds of scholarly, peer-reviewed journal articles and books. Among its current faculty, Professor James Warhola is recipient of the Distinguished Maine Professor Award and Professor Howard Cody has been a recipient of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences of the Student Government Outstanding Advisor Award. Professor Michael Palmer has been recognized as a CLAS Outstanding Faculty Member in the area of Teaching and Advising.

Career and Graduate Opportunities

There is no graduate program in political science in the state of Maine. Many of our best POS graduates pursue law and graduate degrees after receiving their B.A. Like many liberal arts graduates, students with political science degrees are attractive to many employers, large and small, public, nonprofit and private, who prize strong problem-solving and communication skills.

About UMaine

The University of Maine, founded in Orono in 1865, is the state's premier public university. It is among the most comprehensive higher education institutions in the Northeast and attracts students from across the U.S. and more than 60 countries. It currently enrolls 12,000 total undergraduate and graduate students who can directly participate in groundbreaking research working with world-class scholars. Students are offered 88 bachelor's degree programs, 64 master's degree programs, 25 doctoral programs and one of the oldest and most prestigious honors programs in the U.S. The university promotes environmental stewardship on its campus, with substantial efforts aimed at conserving energy, recycling and adhering to green building standards in new construction. For more information about UMaine, go online (umaine.edu). Equal opportunity information also is available online (umaine.edu/eo).

How do I apply?

Visit go.umaine.edu for an application, as well as information about academics and life at UMaine.



Academic Programs 2011–12

The latest versions of the UMaine fact sheets are online (factsheets.umaine.edu). This fact sheet is intended for informational purposes only and is subject to change.

