



Political Science and Public Administration



Special Points of Interest

- Internships in Local and National settings.
- Professional development and opportunities to expand.
- Department offers graduate level programs from Master's to Doctoral.

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Interested in Political Science and Public Administration?

Political Science

A major in political science is suitable only for those students interested in how the public life of the world functions, who and what makes it work, and why—in other words, every student who wants to be an engaged, educated person and involved, informed citizen. The practice of politics is as old as civilization, and political theory can be dated to Plato and Aristotle; but the intellectual discipline of modern political science is actually relatively new, formed mainly in the United States in the last fifty years. Inquiry regarding political and organizational behavior can be highly quantitative, like scientific investigation in other social sciences such as sociology and Psychology, in whom the public trust should be invested.

Scholarships

The department has an exceptionally generous scholarship and award program. Last year, over \$10,000 was awarded to undergraduate and graduate students for outstanding academic achievement. The research and writing of students at both undergraduate and graduate levels was rewarded. With the help of our donors, we are able to honor many students each year.

Internships

A "real world" experience can greatly enhance the theoretical lessons of the classroom. The Department of Political Science offers several opportunities for an internship experience including the Ewing Fellowship, Capitol/Community Scholars, and academic credit for an internship you find on your own.

Public Administration

Public administration is the study of public entities and their relationships with each other and with the larger world: how public sector organizations are organized and managed; how public policy structures the design of government programs that we rely upon; how our states, cities, and towns work with the federal government to realize their goals and plan for their futures; how our national government creates and changes public policy programs to respond to the needs and interests of our nation. Public administration students learn analytical skills for advising public servants on the merits of particular public policy issues and evaluates programs as to which would best serve the interests of the constituents in the most cost-effective way and the public manager who implements public policy programs.

Curriculum

The Department of Political Science is the academic home to over 350 undergraduate students on the Norman campus. The department offers two majors: Political Science and Public Affairs & Administration. Students that choose political science can take courses in American politics, public policy, public administration, comparative politics, international relations or political theory. Students that choose public affairs and administration will focus their coursework in public policy and public administration. Our students are actively engaged in university life, and many are campus leaders involved in Student Congress, the PSC Club and other student organizations. Undergraduates go on to excellent law schools and graduate programs; and to work in Washington, DC; state legislatures and agencies; local non-profits; federal law enforcement; and the diplomatic corps.