

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Critical Thinking Skills

Our program develops strong critical thinking and analytical skills in our students. Truman political science focuses on the cultivation of very strong research and writing as well as oral presentation skills. Moreover, our focus on the underlying theories that drive political behavior gives our students a deep understanding of why things happen in the world of politics.

Placement In Top Graduate Schools & Law Schools

Since 2003, we have placed 63% to 79% of our graduates in graduate programs or law schools. Examples of institutions that our graduates have gone on to attend include Harvard Law School, Duke University, University of Chicago, Syracuse University, Ohio State University, The University of Michigan, American University, George Washington University, Washington University, University of Missouri, and Saint Louis University.

Study Abroad

Many of our political science majors choose to spend a semester or more studying at a university in another country. Our students have studied at universities in Britain, Germany, Spain, Greece, Australia, and China, to name a few. Students work with their academic advisor and Truman's Center for International Education to ensure that all courses taken abroad will meet major and university requirements at Truman.

Internships

Political Science majors benefit from extensive opportunities for internships.

Students may choose to participate in the Missouri Internship Program in which they spend an entire semester in Missouri's State Capitol working with a state representative, state senator or in the governor's office. Students in this program receive a stipend to defray living expenses.

Other students have chosen to intern with U.S. Representatives and Senators in Washington, D.C., in the White House, with cabinet departments, or even with a local mayor or judge. Many students interested in law school arrange internships with local prosecutors or attorneys. Students may earn academic credit that will count toward graduation requirements through these internships.

Focusing on a high quality undergraduate education in a small classroom setting.

Political Groups & Organizations

In addition to a first-rate academic experience in political science courses, students at Truman are given valuable opportunities for hands-on political experience through politically relevant groups and organizations. Truman political science majors work in numerous campaigns — from President of the United States down to county clerk — learning real world skills from staffing phone banks to organizing rallies and debates. Truman political science majors have served as full, voting delegates to both the Democrat and Republican national conventions, in addition to serving in important leadership roles in other political forums both on and off campus. These experiences give our graduates very important contacts and references as they begin the next stages of their educational and professional careers.

Focus On Undergraduate Education In Small Classes

Unlike many universities where students are taught in a large auditorium or by graduate assistants, political science at Truman is taught in small classroom settings by professors with doctorates. Students benefit from and enjoy the academic interactions with faculty and fellow students.

Our faculty have been leaders in creating the national Teaching and Learning Conference, sponsored by the APSA, and play important roles in organizing and presenting papers at the meeting.

Faculty Advising In The Major

After the freshman year, all political science majors will have a political science professor as an academic advisor. Here you will receive expert advice on courses and other academic issues, and have a close working relationship with a professional who can advise you on the next step in your career, whether it be law school, graduate school or a job in government or in the private sector.

Student Research & Presentations

Truman's Political Science program emphasizes building strong research skills in our students. Many students choose to present their research projects, whether completed as part of a class requirement or outside of class, at Truman's Student Research Conference or at the annual meetings of regional and national professional associations. Not only do students benefit from working with faculty on their research, but many times faculty will co-author papers with students and they will present these together at conferences or publish them in professional journals.

CONTACT US:

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Careers

The largest employer in the United States is government. Twenty-two million people work at some level of national, state or local government. Millions more are employed as lawyers, lobbyists, political consultants and in private organizations that are closely related to government and politics.

The Truman State University Political Science program has a stellar record of placing its graduates in law school, graduate school, or in a leadership role in government, politics or the private sector.

Here is a brief sample of the careers that you could have with a Truman Political Science degree:

Archivist, Online Political Data	Immigration Officer
Banking Analyst or Executive	International Agency Officer
Blogger	International Law
Budget Examiner or Analyst	International Research Specialist
Campaign Operative	Judge
Career Counselor	Juvenile Justice Specialist
Children's Advocacy	Labor Relations
CIA Analyst or Agent	Labor Union Official
City Housing Administrator	Legislative Analyst
City Planner	Lobbyist
Civil Rights Attorney	Mediator
Communications Director	National Security Officer/Analyst
Congressional Staffer	Newspaper Reporter
Corporate Advisor for Government Relations	Nonprofit Administrator
Corporate Analyst	Peace Corps
Corporate Economist	Policy Analyst
Corporate Manager	Policy Think Tanks
Corporate Public Affairs Advisor	Political Commentator
Customs Officer	Pollster
Disability Services Administration	Public Prosecutor
Elected Official	Recreational Administration
Environmental Law	Survey Analyst
Environmental Policymaker	State Agency Administrator
FBI Agent	Systems Analyst
Foreign Service Officer	Teacher
Fundraising	Television Reporter
Government Personnel Management	University Professor
Grants Writer	Web Content Editor
Health Care Administration	White House Advisor/Staffer
Housing Administration	Women's Policy Analyst

