



The Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Study issues that matter. Change the world.

Citizens look to government for action in particular areas, so the study of political science drives an understanding of why activity does or does not occur and whether there are systemic failures or failures of leadership. Political science tackles the major issues of our time including individual freedom, equality, democratization, national defense, protection of the vulnerable and protection of the environment. This is an ideal field for those who want to change the world.

The Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

The BA in Political Science provides students with knowledge about politics and policy while developing sought-after and transferable skills, such as information-gathering and processing, analysis, research, decision making, and oral and written communication. Areas of concentration include American politics, international and comparative politics, urban politics, public law, public policy and administration and gender and politics. In addition to formal course work, internships are available providing students with the opportunity to apply classroom learning and gain practical field experience.

Upon completion of the program, graduates will be able to explain the history, characteristics and impact of legal, economic and political institutions and systems; apply various methods, tools and sources to answer important policy and political questions; compare and contrast different ideologies, theories and interpretations of politics; assess political issues, formulate evidence-based recommendations and communicate them with clarity and coherence; and plan, execute and defend a major research project.

2+3 BA/MA Dual Degree Program

The Master of Arts in Political Science is also offered in the 2+3 program format. This unique 2+3 dual degree program provides a pathway for students to earn both a bachelor's and a master's degree in Political Science with fewer total credit hours than would be required to complete each degree independently. Once all requirements have been met, students will be awarded both a BA and an MA and are able to enter the job market with a competitive edge.

Transforming Lives

The Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at UMSL is earned through our College of Arts and Sciences, the academic core of the University of Missouri–St. Louis. Through academic programs offered on- and off- campus, traditional and nontraditional students gain knowledge, skills and intellectual leadership for a variety of career paths, advanced study and research in many academic disciplines.

Graduates are known for their professionalism on the job and their strong sense of civic responsibility. Students in our programs engage in creative and critical thinking, learn to analyze evidence, to appreciate patterns of complexity and to reflect on important issues that impact our daily lives. Students gain skill sets to prepare for a changing workplace that requires flexible, dynamic, and well-educated employees.

Top college for student voting.

Washington Monthly named UMSL one of the top colleges for student voting in the inaugural list in 2018, as well as in 2019 and 2020. Students can enhance their experience by joining the Political Science Academy, one of the most active campus student organizations. The PSA organizes voter registration drives, watch parties, lunch with legislators and panels on voter ID laws.

Serious education. Serious value.

The Bachelor of Arts in Political Science is designed to provide specialized knowledge, skills and training in a flexible format, with classes available in-person, online and in a hybrid format. You'll learn from highly qualified educators and researchers who hold terminal degrees from some of the world's most prestigious academic institutions.

The University of Missouri–St. Louis provides the knowledge, resources, tools, skills and support students need to be successful in our programs. Our comprehensive student support services include workshops, tutoring and career services to help you develop skills and strategies to be successful in the classroom and beyond. UMSL welcomes transfer students and our transfer specialists will assist you with getting the most transfer credits possible. We're also committed to increasing access to higher education, and as such, UMSL is consistently ranked number one in affordability in the St. Louis region.

Learn more at polisci.umsl.edu

The University of Missouri–St. Louis is the largest public research university located in Missouri's most populous and economically important region. UMSL provides high-quality, affordable education to one of the most diverse student bodies in the state. No university is better connected to the surrounding region than UMSL. Seventy-three percent of our graduates stay in St. Louis. The metropolitan region needs a well-equipped workforce and UMSL is prepared to help you meet those needs. Choose the University of Missouri–St. Louis for political science.

Career Opportunities

Campaign Staff
Corporate Governmental
Affairs Director
Environmental or
Social Policy Specialist
Legislative Assistant
Policy Analyst
Political Consultant
Research Analyst
Social Media Manager
Social Studies Teacher

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