



Political Science

Gonzaga's social justice mission is at the heart of the program. Political Science students are empowered to know, to care, and to act. These students are educated in political issues, discover many viewpoints, and learn to search for common ground with others with whom they initially disagree. Citizens must follow a path to the common good and students are expected to discover service and become leaders. In keeping with the University Mission, our students, staff, and faculty foster a mature commitment to dignity of the human person, social justice, diversity, intercultural competence, global engagement, solidarity with the poor and vulnerable, and care for the planet.

THE PROGRAM

Gonzaga's Political Science program not only prepares students to be active and informed citizens, but it is also designed to maximize each student's postgraduate options. The program's emphasis on effective writing, rigorous factual analysis, and the ability to synthesize ideas makes it a strong preparation for any and all careers. Gonzaga's Political Science Department offers both a major and a minor in Political Science.

Many who study political science at Gonzaga later pursue careers in law, public policy, electoral politics, the Foreign Service, or graduate study in political science. Others become teachers, some public servants, and about one-third of Political Science majors work in business. Gonzaga's Political Science Department has a distinguished record of helping students achieve these goals.

The faculty believe that the study of politics requires an understanding of how values develop and manifest themselves in people's actions and laws. In order to reach such understanding, the faculty carefully situate events and theories in their social, historical, and cultural contexts.

CURRICULUM

The Political Science Department divides its courses into three general areas:

- American politics
- Comparative politics/
International relations
- Political theory

The Political Science Department contributes many courses to Gonzaga's interdisciplinary programs such as:

- Environmental Studies
- International Studies
- Native American Studies
- Women's and Gender Studies



DISTINCTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

The Department strongly recommends **public affairs internships**. Internships are an excellent way for students to acquire practical experience and explore future careers while still in school. Students obtain credit for their internships by conducting faculty-supervised analyses of their activities and experiences.

Recent interns have worked for judges, attorneys-general, public defenders, state legislators, governors, U.S. Representatives and Senators, ambassadors, the Office of the Vice President, the U.K. Houses of Parliament, and a host of non-governmental and international organizations. A special relationship with American University's Washington Semester Program allows students to **study and intern in Washington, D.C.**

Finally, the Department strongly recommends **studying abroad**. Students can study abroad through a wide variety of programs facilitated by the Study Abroad office. For example, students can do **internships in Brussels** through the ISEP in the **Belgium** program at Vesalius College, do service learning at Stellenbosch University in **South Africa**, or do service learning through the CASA **Argentina** program in Cordoba. There are a variety of opportunities for students to immerse themselves in language studies abroad, often in conjunction with political science courses, including programs at the University of Granada in **Spain**, IAU College in Aix-en-Provence in **France**, or through the CET **Jordan** program in Amman.

As for **extracurricular activities**, the Department sponsors an award-winning Model United Nations program (Model UN). Through Model UN, students attend conferences in Portland, OR and New York, NY to simulate UN committees and work collaboratively with students from around the world to solve global issues. A political science faculty member serves as the university's Pre-Law Advisor and Political Science majors interested in the legal field often participate in programs sponsored by other departments, including the award-winning Debate team.



GRADUATE SCHOOL

Recent graduates have attended the following graduate schools:

- American University
- Georgetown University
- Harvard University
- University of California - Riverside
- University of Massachusetts
- University of Minnesota
- University of Oregon
- University of Virginia
- University of Washington
- Washington State University
- Yale University

Recent graduates have attended the following law schools:

- Georgetown University
- Gonzaga University
- Harvard University
- New York University
- Seattle University
- University of Chicago
- University of Washington
- Willamette University
- Yale University

OUTCOMES

A recent national survey of Political Science graduates found that more than **40% were lawyers and 33% were in business**. The remainder were distributed among all levels of government and education, as well as all forms of journalism and law enforcement.

Political Science graduates from Gonzaga can be found working at the Pentagon, the State Department, U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell's office, the American Red Cross, Washington State's legislature, in Spokane city agencies, and in non-governmental organizations. Many pursue interim careers in service in the Peace Corps, Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Teach for America, and teaching English in foreign countries.



For students interested in continuing their exploration into political science, Gonzaga offers an online Master of Arts in Communication & Leadership studies and in Organizational Leadership.

We also offer a J.D. through the Gonzaga University School of Law

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