WHY STUDY POLITICAL SCIENCE AT UM AINE? 

The Political Science Department provides students with the intellectual framework to understand the complexities of political affairs, and the analytical and practical skills necessary to succeed in a rapidly changing world. The department fosters an open and stimulating intellectual atmosphere, and recognizes the necessity of free exchange of ideas and the intrinsic worth of the individual student. Political science examines the nature of politics from diverse perspectives. Study in political science teaches students to think critically about the fundamental theories, principles, institutions and practices of politics in their social and historical contexts. Coursework is offered in four main areas — American politics, international relations, comparative politics and political theory — so that students will acquire the knowledge and skills for further study in graduate or law school, or will be prepared for careers in public service and related fields.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A POLITICAL SCIENCE DEGREE?

Many students continue their studies at graduate and law schools, including Harvard University, University of Maine School of Law, Columbia University and Boston College law schools, and the University of Toronto, University of Massachusetts, University of Connecticut and Boston University doctoral programs. Other students directly enter careers in public service or government at the state and federal levels. Still others find the liberal arts education they received prepares them well for a career in business or other pursuits.

OUR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

Students are immersed in the four primary areas of the discipline and interact with an award-winning teaching faculty. The department is also involved with UM aine’s International Affairs Program, the Leadership Studies minor, the Legal Studies minor, the Cohen Institute for Leadership and Public Service, the Honors College, and the School of Policy and International Affairs. Faculty members employ a variety of teaching styles, approaches and tools. There are a few large lecture courses; most lecture courses enroll about 40 students. A range of small-enrollment, participatory seminar courses is also offered. Courses are offered both in the classroom and online.

OUR FACULTY

The department is recognized for its outstanding instruction and scholarship. Political science faculty members have received the University of Maine Distinguished Professor Award, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Outstanding Faculty Award for teaching and advising and the University of Maine Trustee Professorship. Faculty members’ articles are frequently published in the top journals and books in the discipline, and many faculty regularly present their work at regional, national and international forums. Political Science faculty are frequent contributors in local, state, and national media, and faculty research informs a wide range of public issues.

OPPORTUNITIES TO EXCEL

The political science major offers a number of opportunities for students, including internships and field study, integrating theoretical knowledge with practical professional experience. UM aine offers the Madigan Congressional Internship and the Palmer State Legislative Internship and Maine Public Policy Scholars program. Students have opportunities to pursue research in conjunction with the faculty and coauthor published work. In addition, students can pursue their own research under
Majoring in political science at the University of Maine will provide you with the expertise and skills needed to positively impact your community and your world. Whether your passion lies in understanding politics at the global, national, or local level, you will have the opportunity to work closely with dedicated and highly knowledgeable professors who take a personal interest in your educational enrichment and success.”

— Robert W. Glover, Assistant Professor of Honors and Political Science