ALVERNIA UNIVERSITY

An Education in the Franciscan Tradition

Political Science | Major

"I never expected to become so passionate about politics. Alvernia offers countless interesting opportunities, including internships and field experiences that I never imagined I'd have the opportunity to do. I'm so glad I came to Alvernia!"—Emily Berret '11, White House Intern-Fall 2010

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS IN BRIEF

Politics pervades every facet of our lives. Students who study political science are involved in an inquiry into the nature, use and distribution of power, the source of political authority, and the on going pursuit of justice in societies. The Political Science curriculum at Alvernia University covers a broad range of issues in practical politics and political theory ultimately centering around the questions of justice, the purpose of government and the responsibilities of citizenship. Students receive basic and advanced instruction in American government and international relations. Students combine a theoretical background in political science with a practical understanding of political institutions and events.

ACADEMIC QUALITY

The Political Science program has five main goals:

- To help students understand the nature of politics
- To improve student knowledge and appreciation of various counties, governments, and political movements
- To enable students to analyze trends and patterns in politics
- To emphasize policy issues so that students become well-informed democratic citizens who are able to evaluate governmental policies and world events
- To produce students who think critically and originally about political problems and the world around them and who are able to communicate their views and opinions effectively

Faculty members serve as mentors to students and assist them in preparing for future careers through an active internship program. Past interns have worked in the White House, the Department of Justice, and the Terrorism Research Center, as well as in a variety of public agencies, private corporations and non-profit groups.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Political Science Club (POSCI) supports the university's mission statement by expanding students' knowledge of and participation in politics at the state, local and national levels. They are committed to raising political awareness and serving the community. The POSCI members meet to discuss political issues and events, to host or see speakers and to become actively involved in debates, including mock trials and model United Nations. Membership is open to anyone at Alvernia University interested in politics or political issues.

CAREER SUCCESS

Students who complete the Political Science program are able to pursue careers in law, government service, public policy or planning, journalism, political activism, non-profit organizations, management, teaching, bureaucracy, diplomatic service or any field that requires excellent communication and analytical skills. Graduates have continued their education in graduate programs at institutions including Lehigh University, University of Pittsburgh, Villanova University, West Chester University of Pennsylvania and Widener University.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Advocate
Analyst
Campaign Manager
Chamber of Commerce Manager
Community Relations Director
Diplomat
Environmental Policy Analyst
Foreign Correspondent
Foreign Service Office
Government Intelligence Analyst
International Business Specialist
International Trade Specialist
Judge
Labor Relations Specialist
Lawyer
Lobbyist
Manager
Political Pollster
Researcher
Writer/Speech Writer

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Bachelor Degree Requirements (30 Credits)

POS	101	Introduction to Political Science
POS	111	American Democratic Government
POS	212	Comparative Politics -OR-
POS	225	Contemporary World Affairs
POS	424	History of Political Thought
POS	425	Research Seminar

5 elective courses in Political Science

Additionally, it is recommended that students complete an internship at the local, state, or national level. Students may earn from 3-12 credits through the internship experience.

Political Science majors are encouraged to take complementary courses in history, philosophy, English and communications.

Minor Degree Requirements (18 Credits)
Adding a Political Science minor to a student's course of study gives that student an understanding of the contemporary world and of important policy issues. The program allows students to achieve a minor through a flexible course of study that requires 18 total hours. A maximum of 6 hours may be attained through an internship experience.

Political Science Electives

POS	221	American Political Parties
POS	317	The Presidency
POS	318	The Legislative Process
POS	331	Constitutional Law
POS	408	American Foreign Policy
POS	430	Internship

In addition, the Political Science courses are supplemented with "special topics" courses. Some examples of courses offered in the past five years are:

American Studies: Culture Wars
Cold War America
History of Patriotism
International Crises
Military History
Peace and Justice
Religion, War and Politics
Reporting in the Middle East

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Kevin Godfrey
Humanities Department Chair, Interim
1-610-796-9233
kevin.godfrey@alvernia.edu

Office of Admissions
1-610-796-8269
admissions@alvernia.edu