

Department of Political Science and International Relations

Learning Goals

BA Political Science

Undergraduates with a Political Science Major should be able: (1) to distinguish political from non-political questions; (2) to explain the institutions and processes of American and other governments and be able to apply that knowledge to the world; (3) to compare alternative forms of organizing governmental power, including democracy and authoritarianism; (4) formulate hypotheses based on theories in Political Science and test them empirically.

BA International Relations

Undergraduates with an IR major should be able: (1) to distinguish among leading schools of thought in international relations (e.g., realism, liberalism, post-modernism) and to apply and discuss these approaches in understanding and explaining international phenomena; (2) to determine and explain which level of analysis—individual, state, or system—is being employed in a given study; (3) to recognize that in a globalized world, the discipline of international relations has expanded to cover multiple issue areas; (4) formulate hypotheses based on leading schools of thought in IR and test them empirically.

MA International Relations

Graduate Students in International Relations should be able: (1) to distinguish among leading schools of thought in international relations (e.g., realism, liberalism, post-modernism) and to apply and discuss these approaches in understanding and explaining international phenomena; (2) to distinguish among leading schools of thought in comparative politics (e.g., theories of state building, state-society relations, democratization) and to apply and discuss these approaches in understanding and explaining domestic phenomena; (3) to be able to identify and discuss the interaction between domestic- and international-level variables in explaining political phenomena; (4) to be able to develop and execute empirically grounded and theoretically based research projects.