

POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Department of Political Science provides you with an excellent foundation for a broad and exciting range of jobs or career paths. The ability to adapt to the conditions of any given job and meet its expectations makes political science majors a valuable asset for employers. This is particularly important in an age when college graduates are projected to experience at least six job changes in their working lifetimes.

The department also houses the Center for Social and Economic Research (CSER). The CSER provides students with job and internship opportunities in the field of public opinion and survey research. Past clients include WHY (PBS Philadelphia), NBC 10 in Philadelphia, and the Chester County Health Foundation.

The department also participates in interdisciplinary programs in peace and conflict studies, the Law and Society Program, Latin American studies, and Peace and Conflict studies.

Career Opportunities

A major or minor in political science grounds students in the kinds of abilities that prospective employers seek in potential employees. These include communication, analytical and reasoning, problem-solving, interpersonal, organizational, and computing skills.

Political science graduates have gone on to careers in government service (federal, state, and local), law, public administration, journalism, research and consulting, lobbying and interest groups, business and banking, and numerous other professional careers.

Graduates have found employment with the following:

Booz, Allen Hamilton (Washington, D.C. law firm/lobbying)

Chester County District Attorney's Office

Department of Treasury

Environmental Protection Agency

National Security Agency

U.S. House of Representatives

Undergraduate Degrees

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science – Government and Politics and **Bachelor of Arts in Political Science – International Relations**. Both of these degrees are frequently chosen by those with an interest in the law, politics, and journalism, among other areas.

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science – Applied Public Policy. This program is for those who are interested in the practical application of political science in a variety of professional settings.

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science – Elective Social Studies Teacher Certification. This program is designed for those with an interest in earning a political science degree and becoming certified to teach at the secondary education level.

Minor

Political science

Internships

An internship worth nine credits is available in executive or legislative offices with the state government in Harrisburg. Also, short-term experiences in political settings and in local, state, and federal government or public service agencies carry from three to 15 credits.

Typical Courses

Constitutional Law

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Contemporary Political Thought

European Politics

International Political Economy

International Relations

Introduction to Urban Studies

Racial and Ethnic Politics

Urban Politics

U.S. Government and Politics

Women in Politics

Related Student Activities

Pi Sigma Alpha (political science honor society)

Political Science Club

Pre-Law Society

Advanced Degree

Master of Public Administration

UNDERGRADUATE FACT SHEET

Faculty

You can obtain a complete listing of faculty members and their academic qualifications for this program from the contact person listed below.

For More Information

Dr. Peter H. Loedel, Chairperson

Department of Political Science

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West Chester University

West Chester, PA 19383

610-436-3435

E-mail: ploedel@wcupa.edu

Web page: http://www.wcupa.edu/_academics/sch_sba/political_science/

Undergraduate Catalog: http://www.wcupa.edu/_information/official.documents/undergrad.catalog/

About West Chester University

A comprehensive, public institution, West Chester University offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degree programs in more than 100 subject areas, as well as certification and certificate programs. As one of the second largest member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West Chester

University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, along with 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor between New York City and Washington, D.C., West Chester is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington.

Information on Admission

Office of Admissions

Emil H. Messikomer Hall, 100 West Rosedale Ave.

West Chester University, West Chester, PA 19383

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E-mail: ugadmiss@wcupa.edu

WCU home page: www.wcupa.edu

Facebook: www.facebook.com/wcupa

