Political Science Departmental Learning Goals

Students majoring in Political Science should be able to:

1) demonstrate knowledge of fundamental political processes, institutions, actors, and relationships, and the theoretical concepts and ideas that move them;

2) demonstrate a familiarity with major theorists and theories, methods and concepts in Political Science and several of its major subfields;

3) demonstrate proficiency in thinking systematically and historically about political actors and interactions in national, regional, global and international contexts;

4) demonstrate proficiency in thinking critically and creatively about the ethical dimensions of politics;

5) write effectively in making strong, evidence-backed arguments, engage in intellectually grounded oral debate and discussion, and form and express cogently formulated arguments and interpretations;

6) synthesize, analyze, and critically evaluate major arguments in the discipline as a whole and in major subfields of the discipline;

7) assess original and secondary sources of argument and evidence and apply scholarship to new areas of research;

8) develop abilities to engage with the broader world, applying disciplinary knowledge to understand and possibly shape political processes, institutions, and discourse.