The Department of Political Science seeks to provide a unique and meaningful introduction to the discipline. What we offer is an approach to learning instead of just a group of courses. We try to provide the perspective and feel of a small liberal arts college within the framework of a comprehensive university by emphasizing: (1) the “why” as well as the “who” and “how” of politics; (2) that government and politics do not take place in a vacuum and, thus, real human learning is integrated learning; and (3) the responsibility of faculty to be deeply and personally involved in our students’ intellectual and personal growth.

Undergraduate Program:

The political science curriculum at Radford University offers a broad grounding in the discipline. Majors take lower level and upper level courses in the sub-fields of American Government, Political Theory, Comparative Government, and International Relations. There also are concentrations in Public Administration & Public Service and in Law, Justice, and Society for those interested in careers in law or public service. All majors take a senior seminar with a research and writing focus. We strongly encourage majors to take our course in quantitative research methods as well.

The Minor in Political Science consists of 18 hours of coursework with no more than 9 hours at the 100-level.

Students may earn either a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science.

- B.A. (Bachelor of Arts):
  120 hours
  The B.A. program consists of 43 to 45 hours of Core Curriculum coursework, six to eight hours of study in one foreign language, and 33-42 hours in Political Science coursework.

- B.S. (Bachelor of Science):
  120 hours
  The B.S. degree consists of 43 to 45 hours of Core Curriculum coursework, six hours of statistics and economics coursework, and 33-42 hours in Political Science coursework.

Our majors learn to:

- Demonstrate the investigative skills needed to address new problems and find meaningful solutions;
- Demonstrate the analytical and communication skills required to analyze ideas and use them in explanatory and persuasive arguments;
- Demonstrate the ability to think critically about key political concepts.

We also emphasize the role of a citizen in a liberal democracy, the application of theory to practical problems of public policy, and the importance of understanding how diverse political and cultural values affect public policy deliberations.

But Can I Get a Job?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, demand for liberal arts graduates in political science is expected to grow by 21% from 2008-2018. Majors can expect to earn annual starting salaries of about $35,000. Political science majors have jobs as writers, research assistants, policy analysts, grant writers, administrators, government workers, and employees of for-profit and non-profit advocacy organizations. Employability is highest for those with Masters degrees and qualititative and quantitative research skills. Many of our graduates go on for Masters or law degrees.
Study Abroad Opportunities
While the Department of Political Science does not have specific study abroad programs the International Education Center offers many programs on a semester, summer, or academic year basis that can be tailored to fit any student’s need. In consultation with the student’s academic advisor and the director of the International Education students can take advantage of many programs overseas including study abroad, internships, service/volunteer, and work abroad.

Academic internships also are available and encouraged.

Extracurricular Experiences
The National Honor Society in Political Science is open to undergraduate men and women who are making the study of political science one of their major interests, and who meet the minimum qualifications. The RU Political Science Society is non-partisan and open to all students, a political science major or minor is not required. The Political Science Society sponsors candidate forums, issue forums, and speakers for the campus as a whole.

Transfer Opportunities
Students wishing to transfer from the VCCS should complete an Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or Associate of Arts & Science degree and include courses that will transfer to RU, such as POSC 120 & STAT 200, in their studies (check the online transfer guide at http://admissions.asp.radford.edu/forms/transferguide.pdf).

Faculty
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Need More Information?
If you have questions about Political Science, contact
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For information on other undergraduate programs contact the Office of Admissions, Box 6903, Radford, VA 24142 or you may apply online. For specific information on admissions and financial aid, see the RU website at www.radford.edu.