



HIGHLIGHTS

- Year 1** Take introductory courses and consider a First-Year Intensive
- Year 2** Select a track and declare the major
- Year 3** Take research methods and core courses; apply to write an honors thesis if interested
- Year 4** Take your senior capstone; complete and defend your honors thesis

Introduction to the Major

In political science, you will examine the dynamics of conflict and consensus and explore how societies are affected by political action and inaction.

Understanding the policies and decisions that shape our lives on the local, national, and international level requires keen insight and expert analysis. You will investigate a range of issues that reverberate within and beyond Clark's campus including human rights, elections, and globalization. In line with our focus on action-based learning, you will collaborate with faculty members and peers to drive positive change through your research, internships, and service projects, at home and abroad.

CORE COURSES

All majors take courses in research methods and political theory and learn how to critically evaluate and respond to some of the most important questions for citizens in the U.S. and around the world. You will specialize in one of three tracks: American politics and public policy, comparative politics, or international relations.

- Political theory, economics, and history courses
- Research methods and skills course
- Intro and advanced courses within your track
- History course related to your track
- Intro and advanced courses outside of your track
- Capstone

"Political science majors frequently secure internships in local and state government offices, through the Washington, D.C., semester program, or as part of a study abroad"



Our 2021 Model
UN team ranked

9th

in North America

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Bachelor of Arts



DESIGN
YOUR
JOURNEY



**Explore
and navigate
Clark curriculum**



**Connect
and engage
with communities**



**Discover
and pursue
your passions**



**Develop
professional
skills**



**Reflect,
design
and plan**

YEAR

1

YEAR

2



□ **Explore the Political Science Department**

Talk with department faculty and staff about your interests and plans. Look into First-Year Intensive (FYI) courses.



□ **Learn about campus resources**

Make ClarkYou your default homepage and explore student resources related to academics, campus life, and health and wellness. Visit the Goddard library, the Writing Center, and the Career Lab in ASEC, and log in to Handshake to find career exploration events.



□ **Identify Program of Liberal Studies (PLS) and Problems of Practice (PoP) courses**

Meet with an adviser to start identifying courses that match your interests and goals.



□ **Get connected**

Learn about and get involved with student clubs and activities that resonate with you. Consider applying to the Clark chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society.



□ **Explore off campus and get involved**

Check out activities and opportunities in the community beyond Clark through the Office of Community Engagement and Volunteering.



□ **Reflect on what sparks your interest**

What new interests have you discovered? What do you want to try? Work with your adviser to start mapping out courses and activities for the next three years. Start a career journal to help track your interests and insights.



□ **Dig into the major and define your interests**

Consider taking part in Clark's Mock Trial team to gain insight into the American legal system or join the Model United Nations program — one of the top 15 programs in the country.



□ **Start networking**

Join ClarkCONNECT, Clark's virtual community, to connect with alumni and explore possible internship and experiential learning projects. Visit the Career Connections Center (CCC) to learn more about internship and work opportunities.



□ **Build your resume**

Attend a workshop or schedule an individual session at the CCC for help. Upload your resume to Handshake for review and feedback.



□ **Consider study abroad**

Look into options for a semester, year, or summer abroad or away to broaden and deepen your experience. Visit the Study Abroad Office to explore the possibilities, including a semester in Washington, D.C.



□ **Pre-flight check**

Attend a career fair organized by the CCC. Search for internship and job opportunities on Handshake and meet with your career adviser.



□ **Look back and look ahead**

Reflect on your experiences and the skills you are developing. What do you enjoy, and do well? Which career options are you now considering, and which do you still want to explore? Add your thoughts to your career journal.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

JOBS & EMPLOYERS

Graduates work in politics, business, journalism, and other fields at institutions including Congress, the UN Development Programme, and the Economic Progress Institute.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Alumni pursue advanced study in public policy, international relations, law, and more at top schools including Georgetown University, Johns Hopkins, and Columbia.

YEAR 3



Delve deeper

Take a seminar in a program area you have not tried. Explore if graduate school is right for you with these resources from the Career Connections Center. Will you apply for the accelerated degree program (ADP) to complete a B.A. and master's in five years? Connect with program advisers.



Engage and strengthen your networks

Join the CCC's Alumni Job Shadow Program to connect with alumni and learn about what they do. Experience a day on the job in a field of interest.



Get out of here

Gain travel and workplace experience through study abroad or away, across the globe or in Washington, D.C.



Plan for senior year and beyond

Talk with your advisers about your plans. Identify faculty who know you well and will serve as references or write letters of recommendation. Get your resume reviewed through the Career Lab.



Dive into research

Political science majors are encouraged to conduct research through independent study, an internship, or a study abroad experience. Explore department and university funding opportunities for research and creative projects, including opportunity funding.



No regrets!

What's on your Clark bucket list? Where do you still need to build experience and skills? Take time for things you are passionate about.

YEAR 4



Pull it all together

Complete your capstone through a course project, research experience, or honors thesis. Make sure you are on track to complete all major requirements and wrap up any research projects.



Show your work

Present your work at ClarkFEST in the spring or fall, or at a political science conference. What other experiences can you leverage to pursue your goals?



What's next?

Discuss your post-graduation plans with political science faculty and your advisers. Make an appointment with your career adviser for help with your job search or applying to graduate school.



Get ready to launch

Participate in career-related events on and off campus. Schedule a mock job interview through the Career Connections Center to get feedback. Update your professional profiles and find ways to demonstrate qualities such as leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving.



Share your knowledge and give back

Work as a Peer Learning Assistant (PLA). Lead a discussion section for an introductory course. Take on a leadership role with a community organization or student club to build important skills.



Ask yourself the big questions

What have you learned that you value? What have you excelled at? What action steps do you need to take this year to finish strong?



AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR!

Clark's political science major is designed to help you learn outside the classroom.

Potential research funding sources include the Harrington Public Affairs Fellowship, the Zenovia Sochor Memorial Award, and the June Patron '65 Endowed Internship Award. Apply to join a faculty-led trip to Washington, D.C., to attend oral arguments at the U.S. Supreme Court. Students are encouraged to conduct research of their own or as part of a collaborative team. Many students take advantage of internship opportunities during the academic year or over the summer to connect what they're learning with their professional development.

CONNECT WITH US!

Jefferson Academic Center
Third floor, Room 302
508-793-7155

Advising

We are here to support your academic and personal journey.

In your first year at Clark, you will be assigned an adviser to help you select your courses and programs. Once you declare your major, political science faculty will advise you.

CLARK
UNIVERSITY



Challenge Convention.
Change Our World.

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