Rhodes College
—1848—

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Offering one of the most popular majors at Rhodes, the Department of Political Science prepares students to address fundamental questions of equality, liberty, and justice; the history of political philosophy; the constitutional structure of government in the United States and the major institutions of national politics; urban politics; and public policy. After examining the theory and practice of politics and government, students are prepared for a variety of careers in fields such as government service, law, education, criminal justice, business and journalism.

Curriculum

Major:

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science

Interdisciplinary Majors:

International Studies/Political Science

Urban Studies

Interdisciplinary Minors:

Urban Studies

Political Science students may take courses in the fields of American Government and Politics (The Presidency, Campaigns and Elections, Urban Politics, Congress), Political Philosophy (Modern Ideologies, American Political Thought and Statesmanship, Classical and Modern Political Philosophy), Public Policy, Constitutional Law and Criminal Law.

Pre-Law Advising

Any student interested in applying to law school will have access to a pre-law adviser who provides counsel on law school preparation and the application process. Because of Rhodes' challenging curriculum and variety of internships, Rhodes has averaged a 97% acceptance rate to law schools over the past three years.

Faculty

Department faculty mentor and teach 30-40 majors per graduating class. It has a variety of experiences and represents many areas of specialization in American politics, law and political philosophy. Five faculty members also teach in the college's Search program.

Christopher Baldwin, Assistant Professor of Political Science; Ph.D., University of Toronto. Specialties: *classical and modern political philosophy, American political thought.*

Margaret A. Carne, Assistant Professor of Political Science; Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley. Specialties: *American politics, campaigns and elections, parties and interest groups.*

Daniel E. Cullen, Associate Professor of Political Science; Ph.D., Boston College. Specialties: *history of political philosophy, philosophy of law, contemporary political theory.*

Richard Dagger, Professor of Political Science; Ph.D., University of Minnesota. Specialties: *modern ideologies, political thought, legal philosophy.*
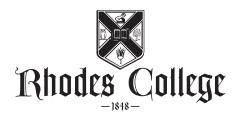
Arielle Goldberg, Assistant Professor of Political Science; Ph.D., City University of New York. Specialties: *American politics, urban politics, urban policy.*

Michael Kirby, Associate Professor of Political Science; Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Specialties: *criminal justice, urban policy.*

Michael Nelson, Professor of Political Science; Ph.D., The Johns Hopkins University. Specialties: *the American presidency, elections, American politics.*

Marcus D. Pohlmann, Professor of Political Science; Ph.D., Columbia University. Specialties: *constitutional law, trial procedures, black politics.*

Stephen H. Wirls (Chairman), Associate Professor of Political Science; Ph.D., Cornell University. Specialties: *American politics, Congress, modern political philosophy, American political thought.*

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Internships

The Department of Political Science allows students to gain academic credit by participating in off-campus internships with organizations involved in public affairs (political, governmental, non-profit and legal). Recently, students have participated in internships with the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center, the U.S. Departments of Commerce and State, local news stations, law firms, federal and state courts, Memphis City Council and various local, state and national government offices.

Study in Washington, DC

Programs of particular interest to Political Science majors are the Washington Semester and the Capital Semester, semester-long programs in Washington, DC, which consist of seminars, internships and research projects.

Mock Trial

Rhodes' Mock Trial team is sponsored by the Political Science Department. Students compete as lawyers and witnesses in cases designed around assigned sets of facts. The Rhodes Mock Trial team has won the National Intercollegiate Mock Trial Tournament four times in the past 13 years.

For more information

Please contact the Department of Political Science at (901) 843-3818 or Admissions at 1-800-844-5969. Information is available via the Internet at rhodes.edu or at rhodes.edu/politicalscience.

Graduates

38% take full-time jobs

Recent Political Science majors have taken jobs with the Federal Reserve Bank, the American Way, the Republican National Committee, the Democratic Leadership Conference, the State Department, the Harvard University Development Office, Harvard Law School, Teach For America, secondary schools, banks, various government agencies, a wide variety of law firms across the country, congressional committees, public interest groups, academic departments of colleges and universities and private lobbying firms. Graduates are regularly hired to work in the offices of state and national senators and representatives.

48% pursue graduate degrees

For those majors choosing to pursue advanced degrees, law is the most commonly selected field of study. Law schools attended by Rhodes graduates recently include Emory, Georgetown, Harvard, Stanford and Tulane universities, University of Alabama, University of Chicago, University of Georgia, University of Tennessee, University of Texas, University of Virginia, Vanderbilt and Washington and Lee Universities and Washington University. Recent Rhodes graduates have pursued advanced degrees in Political Science at Boston College, University of Texas, University of Wisconsin, University of Virginia and Brandeis University. In addition, Political Science students have pursued graduate degrees in public administration, business, journalism, education and history.

14% take positions outside their field of study

Recent graduates have begun careers in various areas such as marketing, publishing, personnel, sales and real estate.