

Winthrop University

DEPARTMENT OF

Political Science

The Department of Political Science at Winthrop University is committed to teaching, research, and scholarly excellence as we work with you to critically examine the structures and functions of governments, campaigns, elections, political parties, interest groups, and social movements. Our courses, undergraduate research, civic engagement, and experiential learning opportunities prepare you for active citizenship, professional careers in government, international affairs, business and non-governmental organizations, and graduate studies in law, public administration, political science and more. We make the most of South Carolina's role as the first in the South primary by hosting presidential candidates and bringing the media spotlight to the university through the work of the Social & Behavioral Research Lab and the Winthrop Poll, the most consistent and credible source of public opinion data in South Carolina.

Quick Facts

150
majors
and minors

92%
of seniors surveyed said
"I learned to think and read
critically and to question
arguments in my political
science courses."

92%
of seniors surveyed said
"My political science
professors are good
teachers."



Jennifer Leigh Disney, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Political Science
Director, Women's and Gender Studies Program

The award-winning faculty, recognized as experts in their fields, are a dynamic and talented group of teachers and scholars who enjoy exploring new ideas and sharing their passions with you both inside and outside the classroom. Faculty take an interest in advising you, mentoring you, and sponsoring your student organizations and campus-wide cultural events. The political science major is extremely flexible, affording you the opportunity to double major, double minor, and specialize in the disciplinary subfields that interest you the most: American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Public Policy and Public Administration, and Political Theory.


 Jennifer Leigh Disney, Ph.D.
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Degree Programs

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Concentration in
Political and Civic Engagement in the
Master of Liberal Arts Program

Minor in Political Science

"Several of the professors within the Department of Political Science are among the **best educators I have ever encountered**. I was introduced to topics in college that have **truly helped me** to better understand our world, and thus, better serve it. I was first introduced to the school-to-prison pipeline in one of Dr. Belk's classes. I now **serve on the board** of a high school that seeks to reduce this pipeline. Attending Winthrop and earning a degree in political science was **one of the best decisions I ever made.**"

- Kristina Kent '06, Louisiana Supreme Court and Board Chair of the NET Charter High School, New Orleans

Co-curricular experiences open to all Political Science majors

- Study Abroad
- Internship Opportunities
- Model United Nations Program
- Social & Behavioral Research Lab
- Undergraduate Research

Extra-curricular activities open to all political science majors

- Model United Nations Program
- Social & Behavioral Research Lab
- Winthrop Poll
- John C. West Forum on Politics and Policy

Freshman Class Schedule

ACAD 101	Introduces first-year students to the concepts, resources, and skills necessary for successful higher learning and facilitates the student's adjustment to the learning academy.
WRIT 101	Introduces students to college-level, thesis-driven, research-based writing. Focus on planning, organizing, and developing persuasive essays.
PLSC 201	National governmental institutions and the political processes which shape public policy.
PLSC 202	A comparative study of the structure and functions of state and local government institutions and political processes.
PLSC 205	An introduction to the conceptual framework of contemporary foreign policy and international relations.
PLSC 207	An introduction to the discipline of comparative politics. The course will explore the theoretical components of governments of the world and will prepare students for upper level area studies.

"For the past six years I worked in Washington, D.C. for two members of Congress, including Assistant Democratic Leader, James E.

Clyburn. I rose to become the Deputy Chief of Staff for Congressman William L. Enyart of

Illinois. My experience at Winthrop gave me the foundation I needed to be where I am today.

Without the mentorship and push to do better from my professors, I don't think I would be prepared to work in my field today."

- Willie Lyles III '06

J.D. Candidate, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, School of Law

Scholarship and Other Opportunities

Joe B. Lanford Scholarship – An internship (with stipend) with the City of Rock Hill awarded to a political science major interested in a career in city management.

William J. Blough Essay Contest – Three cash prizes awarded to students submitting the best essays on any political science topic.

The Mary Jeanne Byrd Award in Political and Civic Engagement – Awarded to a student who demonstrates exemplary humanitarian, political, civic, or educational service to the campus or community.

Jurée Capers Political Science Graduate School Award – Awarded to a graduating senior in political science who intends to pursue a graduate degree.

West Forum Internship – An internship in Columbia with the John C. West Forum on Politics and Policy.

For More Information: www.winthrop.edu/cas/politicalscience

Potential Careers

In Political Science

- Arts
- Business
- Campaign Organizer
- Corporate Management
- Government
- Law
- Lobbying/Intergovernmental Relations
- Media
- Military
- Non-Profit Management
- Policy Planning Organization
- Primary and Secondary Education
- Post-Secondary Education
- Survey Research



"Upon graduation, I had the skills I needed to pursue a career in survey research. I use what I learned in Scope and Methods and the Senior Capstone on a daily basis. My degree is closely tied to my work. There are great faculty here who care and take a personal interest in the success of each student. I went to another university prior to WU. WU professors are much more engaged and take an interest in their students."

- Jason Kosakow '10, Manager of Custom Survey Research, Comscore

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