

College of Arts and Sciences Foundation Profile

Department of Political Science

I. General Description

The Department of Political Science is home to the undergraduate majors in Political Science and Legal Studies as well as the Master's in Public Administration (MPA) program. It also houses undergraduate minors in Political Science, Legal Studies, Civic Leadership, and Public Administration, and graduate certificate programs in Public Administration and Public Personnel Administration.

Mission Statement:

The Department of Political Science is committed to providing a high-quality academic experience both in and out of the classroom for its undergraduate and graduate students. Our curriculum integrates exposure to theory, method and practice – particularly through experiential learning – with critical thinking, effective communication, and a global perspective. In this way, we prepare our students for productive careers in public service or in the private sector, and for lives of active citizenship.

II. Points of Pride

- *Emphasizing experiential learning and community engagement:* Many courses throughout the undergraduate curriculum include opportunities for experiential learning and/or community engagement. Extra-curricular events also provide such opportunities, including the annual Indiana Court of Appeals visit to ISU, the annual Washington, DC trip to the U.S. Supreme Court, and the biennial study trip to China.
- *Developing civic leadership and engagement for all ISU students:* Since its start in 2008-2009, the interdisciplinary Civic Leadership minor program has grown to over 50 students. In fall 2012, the Political Science department assumed coordination of ISU's participation in the American Democracy Project.
- *Preparing graduates for public service:* Over the past decade, our graduates have served on the staff of members of Congress, in the governors' offices of Indiana and Illinois, as legislative assistants in the Indiana state legislature, as a clerk to the Chief Justice of the Indiana State Supreme Court, and in various state agencies in Indiana. Others have served in nonprofit agencies serving local needs across the state. In addition, two students held elected positions in local governments while attending ISU.
- *Pioneering education in public administration:* Our MPA program was one of the first in Indiana and the U.S. to offer the whole program online, including through hybrid online/on-campus courses. As a result, our program attracts mid-career professionals from all across the U.S.

III. Vision

The Department of Political Science is committed to student success through our curriculum and our extra-curricular activities, and through an emphasis on experiential learning and community engagement. With the implementation of our new strategic plan, we will strive to achieve this commitment to our students, further enhancing opportunities for experiential learning and civic engagement and strengthening our programs to better prepare our students for their careers and their lives.

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IV. Opportunities for Philanthropic Support

- *Endowed Professorship in Public Policy (\$500,000-\$1,000,000)*
This position will contribute to the strengthening of our ability to provide both teaching and scholarship on public policy issues
- *Fund to Support Experiential Learning Opportunities for Students (\$50,000-\$100,000)*
- This fund will be used to support experiential learning opportunities for our students, including the trips to Washington, DC and China as well as new opportunities we are developing. The fund would also be used to offer 10-15 stipends (\$500 each) per year to students participating in unpaid internships.
- *Endowed Student Scholarships (\$20,000 minimum to name a scholarship)*
- The department would welcome support for existing named scholarships or for the creation of new scholarships at the undergraduate level. We would also welcome the creation of scholarships to support graduate study in our MPA program.
- *Speaker Series on "Politics in the Heartland" (\$50,000 minimum to name the series)*
- This speaker series would address politics and major political issues in the Midwest, bringing to academics, politicians, journalists, and others who can comment and enlighten the ISU campus on such issues.