POLITICAL SCIENCE

The goal of the undergraduate curriculum of the Department of Political Science is to expose students to the study of politics and the diversity of approaches and analytical techniques used by political scientists. The faculty of the political science department of Fordham University reflects this diversity, as does the undergraduate political science curriculum. The study of political phenomena and the nature of public life is an integral component of a liberal arts education. Through the curriculum, students also acquire skills in writing, communication, and analytical thought that are critical to a liberal arts education.

Given Fordham’s role as an urban, Jesuit liberal arts university, the diversity offered by the curriculum of the political science department serves the goals of the University in several key ways:

1. it prepares students to think independently, with a tolerance for alternative viewpoints and a concern for current domestic and international issues;
2. it is committed to the development of written and oral expression among its majors;
3. it forces students to think critically and analytically about the relationship between values and public life; and
4. it is committed to providing students with an education that is marked by a concern for the individual student and with the goal of educating men and women for others.

Accelerated Master’s Program

Elections and Campaign Management

Please read the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Accelerated Master’s Programs section of this bulletin. Outstanding Fordham undergraduate students with a grade point average of 3.2 or better are eligible to apply for early admission to the M.A. program in elections and campaign management. Students submit their application materials in the spring of their junior year and begin the program during the fall of their senior year.

Undergraduate students admitted to the program under the early admissions policy may take up to three graduate courses during their senior year with the approval of the program director. These courses will count toward the B.A. and are accepted for the M.A. in elections and campaign management. Students should also seek the approval of their undergraduate adviser before registering their courses. Students following this option typically complete the degree requirements in their fifth year if they study full time. This policy applies to FCLC, FCRH, Gabelli, and PCS. Courses will be held at both the Lincoln Center and the Rose Hill campuses. Applications are made online through the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences website.

Political Science

Please read the Early Admission to Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Master’s Programs section, which is located under the heading of Special Academic Programs in the chapter on Academic Programs, Policies, and Procedures of this bulletin. Students normally apply at the end of their junior year. Applications do not need to include GRE scores unless the student is planning to apply for financial aid during the completion of their bachelor’s. This policy applies to outstanding students at FCRH, FCLC, and PCS.

In their senior year students take three graduate courses that count toward the B.A. degree and are accepted for the M.A. at Fordham. Graduate courses taken while still at the College must be approved by the director of graduate studies of the department. Students are able to complete an M.A. in political science in two semesters of full-time study, which is normally in their fifth year. Applications are made online through the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences website.

Program Activities

Internships

The political science department does not typically grant academic credit for internships. However, when an internship is integrated with an academic component, such as a tutorial, academic credit is possible. Students should see individual faculty members to discuss internship opportunities and the possibility of receiving academic credit.

The political science department also has formal arrangements for semester-long internship experiences off campus:

Internship in New York City Government

POSC 3120 Seminar: Internship in New York City Government. See Thomas DeLuca. Ph.D., 212-636-6384, for information about POSC 3120 at Lincoln Center, which is offered during summers only.

Internship in New York State Legislature

The department offers an internship and courses through the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate Internship Programs. For information on these programs, contact Bruce Berg, Ph.D., 718-817-3957.

Washington Semester Program

Fordham University is formally affiliated with the Washington Semester Program of American University in Washington, D.C. Students interested in the Washington Semester Program must fill out an application, which can be picked up from Luz Lenis, Ph.D., sophomore dean, Keating 302, 718-817-4740.

Political Science Honor Society

Political science majors in Fordham’s undergraduate colleges are eligible to become members of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national honor society in political science. Pi Sigma Alpha was founded in 1920, and Fordham’s chapter, the Delta Zeta chapter, was chartered in 1961. Selection is made by department faculty from among seniors who have earned a minimum of 10 credits in political science courses, including at least one advanced-level course, and have achieved a qualifying grade point average both in the major and in their Fordham coursework as a whole. New members are honored at an induction ceremony held in the spring of each academic year.

For more information

Visit the political science department web page.