DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Natalie Ikker, M.S. – Undergraduate Student Affairs Advisor
Ariane Parkes, MPA – Student Affairs Manager
Subfields in the Department

- **American Politics**
  (POLI 10 and POLI 100-109)

- **Comparative Politics**
  (POLI 11 and POLI 120-139)

- **International Relations**
  (POLI 12 and POLI 140-159)

- **Political Theory**
  (POLI 13 and POLI 110-119)

- **Public Law**
  (POLI 104 Series)

- **Public Policy**
  (POLI 160-169)

- **Research Methods/Data Analytics**
  (POLI 170-189)

Our website lists faculty by each subfield
### Subfields in the Department

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subfield</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>American Politics</strong></td>
<td>National, state, and local politics in the United States – Congress, elections, race, and gender.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Comparative Politics</strong></td>
<td>Politics in other countries-democracies and autocracies, elections and revolutions.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Data Analytics</strong></td>
<td>Rigorous training in the study of probability, data collection, hypothesis testing, computation, and visual display of data as it applies to political and social science problems.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>International Relations</strong></td>
<td>The study of the nation-state and its relationships. Conflict and cooperation among countries - war and peace, global economics and climate.</td>
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<td><strong>Political Theory</strong></td>
<td>Foundations of political thought from Plato and Aristotle to contemporary philosophers.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Public Law</strong></td>
<td>Constitutional and statutory laws that define our rights and regulate our lives. <em>We have added several courses that enrich the student’s ability to write and argue legal briefs, and learn the basics of legal research and reasoning.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Public Policy</strong></td>
<td>Analysis of policy in specific areas such as the environment, health, urban renewal.</td>
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**Public Policy vs. Public Law**

Policies are *objectives* that a government sets for itself to achieve in a given period of time, and laws are the *tools* that help a government achieve these objectives.
Eight Majors in the Department of Political Science

- General Political Science (B.A.)
- Political Science/American Politics (B.A.)
- Political Science/Data Analytics (B.S.)
- Political Science/Comparative Politics (B.A.)
- Political Science/International Relations (B.A.)
- Political Science/Political Theory (B.A.)
- Political Science/Public Law (B.A.)
- Political Science/Public Policy (B.A.)

https://polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/major-and-minor-requirements/index.html
Tentative Schedule

• Course Offerings for 2019-2020 can be found on our website

• The schedules posted on our website are **tentative and subject to change**

• To get specific information on faculty and days and times courses will be offered, visit the Schedule of Classes on TritonLink once the schedule for any given quarter goes live.
DEPARTMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Courses and Connections

Exciting and Relevant Courses

- Courses such as “Insurgency and Terrorism”, to “The Voting Rights Act: 50 Years Later,” to “International Politics and Drugs” to “Bending the Curve: Climate Change” to “Democracy and its Critics.”
- Practitioners channel their real-world experiences into courses like “How to Win or Lose and Election” and “Science, Technology, and the Law.”

Professional Development Workshop Series

- Have lunch with your peers and Professor Maureen Feeley, Director of Undergraduate Studies & get immersed in professional development opportunities
- Examples:
  - Workshops on resumes, cover letters, networking, job search strategies, and Political Science career paths
  - Internship Panel
  - Study Abroad opportunities, programs, and scholarships + application to Political Science Major
  - Graduate school opportunities, applications, and deadlines
  - Future program and event planning
Alumni Mentor Program
Launched in the Fall 2017 Quarter

- Two tracks in the program: Career Track and Exploratory Track
  - Career Track: Students are matched with a mentor in one of his/her top three fields
    - Connect with the mentor via: 1) a career conversation; 2) a resume critique; and 3) a possible mock interview
  - Exploratory Track: Students are matched with a mentor outside of his/her top three fields
    - Connect with the mentor via one required “career conversation”
- Successful applicants will have: 1) A minimum 3.5 major GPA; and 2) Earned at least 90 units

The first 30 eligible students are admitted to the program. Others will be placed on a waitlist.

Available fields:
- Accounting and Tax
- Education
- Entrepreneurship
- Foreign Service
- Government (local, state, or federal)
- Healthcare
- Law
- Non-profit
- Politics
- Private Sector
- Public Policy
- Public Policy
- Urban Planning
Research Opportunities

Research Apprenticeship Program

- Work directly with a departmental mentor for the winter and spring quarters. Each student will collaborate with a doctoral candidate on the mentor’s own research project.
  - Winter & Spring Quarter: Commitment to 12 hours/week as a research assistant; earn major credit (POLI 198RA)
  - Spring Quarter: Additional participation in a weekly research seminar (POLI 199); write a seminar paper of approximately 20 pages under guidance of graduate student mentor

Eligibility:

- Majors in Political Science
- Major GPA of 3.5 or higher

Independent Research (POLI 199)

- Independent research project with faculty
- Elective credit can be earned for the completion of two POLI 199s with 4 units each
Senior Honors Program

Two-quarter senior thesis project designed for the Department’s highest achieving students

- Completion of POLI 191A/B and honor’s thesis may qualify you for honors
- POLI 191A/B are allowable for major credit toward the upper-division elective category
- Eligibility: You must have a minimum 3.6 major GPA in order to be eligible

A great opportunity for students, especially those interested in pursuing graduate studies in political science!

You can view all the honors theses that have earned honors since 2012 on our website at our “Departmental Honors” page
Local Internship Research Program

Receive advanced training in research methodologies and academic credit while working at a local internship!

Internships are relevant to Political Science and have professional quality engagement.

Courses:
- Enrollment in both a Research Seminar course (POLI 194SD) and an Internship Seminar course (197SD) for 4 units each
- The Research Seminar is allowable for the major, but the Internship Seminar is not allowable
- Completion of a 20 page paper for the Research Seminar

Eligible Applicants Have:
- passed at least 90 units;
- 2.5 minimum cumulative GPA overall;
- GPA of 3.0 or higher in political science;
- Completed POLI 30(D); and
- Completed at least two upper-division political science courses
**Local Internship Research Program**

Examples of recent internships include:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein's District Office</th>
<th>California State Senator Joel Anderson's Office</th>
<th>United Nations Association of San Diego</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. House Representative Duncan Hunter's District Office</td>
<td>Sarah Boot for City Council Campaign</td>
<td>United States Attorney's Office-Southern California District</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. House Representative Scott Peters' District Office</td>
<td>Allen Theweny for El Cajon Mayoral Campaign</td>
<td>San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td></td>
<td>San Diego County Taxpayers' Association</td>
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For more information visit our “Internships” page on our website: [https://polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/internships/index.html](https://polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/internships/index.html)
CAMPUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR MAJOR REQUIREMENTS
Live and work in Washington or Sacramento for a quarter!

- Intern for one quarter in Washington, DC or Sacramento and receive UCSD course credit for an internship, major credit for a research seminar, and an optional elective course.
- Gain firsthand exposure to professional environments, and develop the skills you need for your future career.
- Establish and expand your professional network.
- Referrals and recommendations have long been proven to have a major impact in the job search.

Internships are available in all types of settings and industries, and are a great way to polish your resume.
Study Abroad in Political Science & Global Concentration

Travel almost anywhere in the world while taking Political Science courses and receive credit for the major!

- Up to six (6) courses may be transferred to the major from outside UCSD!

Global Concentration

- At least eight units earned during study abroad; at least four units must count toward the major
- Proficiency in a second language through the fourth quarter of university-level instruction
- A minimum of two courses with department or program-identified global content.
  - Political Science courses POLI 11(D), POLI 12(D), and any POLI course numbered 120-159 taken at UCSD satisfies this requirement.
CAREERS AND GRADUATE SCHOOL
What Employers Are Seeking

*Your major is not boxing you into a particular career*

Political Science equips you with transferrable skills that will make you valuable in a variety of settings. Use these skills to market your academic knowledge and professional attributes.

- The attributes employers most seek on a candidate’s resume:
  - 1. Leadership
  - 2. Ability to work in a team
  - 3. Written communication skills
  - 4. Verbal communication skills
  - 5. Problem solving and critical thinking skills
  - 6. Strong work ethic

- Transferable skills inside the classroom: ability to communicate, methods and research (interpret and analyze data); analytical abilities (analyze and solve problems systemically and strategically); planning and development (conceptualize problems and demonstrate leadership); group skills (ability to work in a team)  

*Source: APSA Careers and the Study of Political Science*
Resources for Political Science Students

- Political Science Alumni Mentor Program

- Board of Pre-law Advisors: Attorneys currently enrolled in the doctoral program in political science at UCSD. They are available for individual appointments to discuss careers in law, selection of appropriate law schools, the application and admissions processes, and other questions.

- APSA Careers in Political Science Handbook

- UCSD Career Services Center: Excellent pre-law, career, and graduate school advising. For pre-law advising visit: prelaw.ucsd.edu

- Facebook page: “UCSD Department of Political Science”

- Department of Political Science Website: See “Career and Graduate School” page under “Our Undergraduate Program” headline

For additional career advising, visit the Career Center, Political Science Department, or send an inquiry via the Virtual Advising Center.
The median annual wages of college-educated workers with political science majors (ages 25-29) is $64,000. This is higher than the median income of all social science majors ($60,000); and higher than BA holders, all majors ($61,000).

The top 25% of political science majors earn nearly $100,000 annually.

55% of all political scientists work for the federal government, most of whom work in the executive branch.

Resources on UCSD’s Career Services Center website includes information on:

- Career Roadmaps, Assessments, and the Triton Career Guide
- Job Opportunities and Exploration
- Interview Tips
- “What Can I Do With My Political Science Major?” Sheet
- Alumni Advisor Network
- Career Readiness
- Career Options for Political Science Majors

Sources: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau; Bureau of Labor Statistics
Careers of UCSD Political Science Alumni

- Senior Policy Adviser to Nancy Pelosi
- U.S. Ambassador to Qatar
- Head of Government Relations for Microsoft
- Congress member and Ambassador to India
- San Jose City Councilmember
- Director of Global Operations for LinkedIn
- Chief Curator of Film at The Museum of Modern Art
- Deputy District Attorney in San Diego
- Senior Communications Specialist at Sony
- Healthcare Policy Lobbyist
- CEO at a consulting group
- Chief of Staff at County of San Diego office
- Corporate Research Analyst
- Development Specialist at a research foundation
- Executive Director at a non-profit industry association
- Immigration Legal Specialist
- Manager, Procurement & Contract Services at an airport authority
- Policy Advisor for local councilmember
- Public Relations & Communications Manager at a General Atomics affiliate
- San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management Program Manager
- Senior Consultant at a strategy and technology consulting firm
- Senior Policy Analyst for Policy Research
- Senior Privacy Analyst
- Senior Sustainability Program Manager at a personal finance company
Krinsk-Houston Law & Politics Initiative

The Initiative creates a premier pre-law experience that matches the ambitions and talents of UC San Diego's students. This experience includes student instruction, a partnership with the University of San Diego School of Law, and rich community engagement.

- Law school faculty, practicing attorneys, and judges teach classes that give students the skills necessary for success in law school and the legal profession.
- Provides students, regardless of their financial need, with support to take part in internships in Washington, D.C., Sacramento, and San Diego.
- Director: Dr. Matthew Bergman
- 10+ Pre-Law, seminar-style classes
- Internship page updated frequently
Department Workshops & Events: 2018 – 2019

- Undergraduate Professional Development Series (2 – 3/quarter)
  - “Resumes, Cover Letters, and Career Paths” – Collaboration with UCSD Career Services Center
  - “Job Search Strategies and Networking” – Collaboration with UCSD Career Services Center
  - Professional Internship Panel
  - Capital Fellows Program
  - Welcome Back & Reflection Lunch
  - Studying Abroad as a Political Science Major (x2) – Collaboration with UCSD Study Abroad Office
- Krinsk-Houston Law and Politics Initiative Events
  - Managing the Transition to Law School
  - Life as a Public Policy Professional
  - Building a Successful Law School Application
- Attorney Networking Night with UCSD Pre-Law Fraternity in February

Based on input from our current majors, we plan to implement more events focused on:

- Preparing for Graduate School and Law School
- Careers and Internships for Political Science Majors
- Research Opportunities
- Student Involvement Opportunities
- Networking with Graduate Students, Faculty, and Alumni
EXCELLENCE IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM
Cutting Edge Research – Faculty

**Tom Wong**

His research focuses on the politics of immigration, citizenship, and migrant "illegality." As these issues have far-reaching implications, his work also explores the links between immigration, race and ethnicity, and the politics of identity. Last year he served as an advisor to the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI)

**Molly Roberts**

Her research interests lie in the intersection of political methodology and the politics of information, with a specific focus on methods of automated content analysis and the politics of censorship in China

**Thad Kousser**

He studies American state and national politics, government reform, direct democracy, and how politicians use social interest group influence, media

**Marisa Abrajano**

Her research is in the field of American politics, particularly in the areas of campaigns, mass electoral behavior, and race/ethnic politics.
Department and UC San Diego Rankings

As of 2018, the Department of Political Science is ranked:

- #9 in the National Research Council
- #9 in US News and World Report Rankings. Specifically, #4 in International Politics, #10 in Comparative Politics, #11 in American Politics, and #12 in Political Methodology
- #11 in Foreign Policy Journal for International Relations

As of 2018, UC San Diego is ranked:

- #2 Nationally as “Best Value College” by Money Magazine. Ranks are calculated by graduation rate, tuition charges, family borrowing, and alumni earnings.
- #7 in Washington Monthly
- #9 as “America’s Best Value Colleges” by Forbes
- #12 for “Best Public University” in US News Rankings
- #20 for “Best College in the World” in The Center for the World University Ranking
STUDENT INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT
Student Organizations

- **Political Science Student Association (PSSA)**
  - Organization for students majoring in any of the Political Science majors

- **Mock Trial**

- **Model UN**

- **Pi Sigma Alpha: National Political Science Honor Society**
  - Eligibility:
    - Completed at least seven (7) political science courses, including at least three (3) upper division courses (transfer students must have completed at least two (2) of the three upper division courses at UC San Diego);
    - Maintained no less than a 3.60 GPA in all political science courses

- **Kappa Alpha Pi**
  - UCSD’s pre-law fraternity

- **Prospect Journal**

- **Journal of International Affairs at UCSD**
Transitioning to UCSD

- **Student Success Coaching Program**
  - Students are connected to a success coach from their undergraduate college who is familiar with the resources and opportunities that exist for your success. Together, you and your coach will focus on the strengths and passions that you bring to UC San Diego to find high-impact practices that directly support your goals — such as research, mentorship, supplemental instruction, and more.

- **Analytical Writing Program**
  - Helps students master critical thinking, reading, and writing skills that enable success at UCSD and in future careers

- **Academic Achievement Hub**
  - Content tutoring, supplemental instruction, and incorporating learning strategies

- **OASIS**
  - Free tutoring, mentoring, transition programs, and general counseling for UCSD undergraduates, particularly underrepresented and underserved students

- **Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD)**
  - Works with undergraduate, graduate, and professional school students with documented disabilities, reviewing documentation and, through an interactive process with the student, determining reasonable accommodations

- **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)**
  - FREE, confidential, psychological counseling and crisis services for registered UCSD students
ADVISING STRUCTURE AT UC SAN DIEGO
Multi-tiered Advisement

Department advisors are your resource for any questions regarding your Political Science major requirements

- You should always contact us for questions concerning your major requirements
- Questions might include: major requirements for any of the seven political science majors, double majors, course planning, enrollment issues in political science courses, honors programs, academic policy, etc.
- You will consult with your College about their specific requirements, overall unit issues, etc.

**Anticipated Summer Advising Availability**

**Monday – Thursday**
Drop-in advising from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. & 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

**Friday**
Virtual Advising Center
THANK YOU & SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!