Political scientists ask questions like:

- How are public policies determined?
- What factors shape international relationships?
- Does media influence Presidential decision making?
- What are the best ways to prevent terrorism?

their findings impact our daily lives through policy changes, national security initiatives, and international laws.

Department faculty specialize in American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and political theory while offering graduate concentrations in democratic studies, political economy/public choice, political psychology, public law, and race and ethnic politics.

Research explores changing notions of citizenship, strategies aimed at halting nuclear proliferation, impacts of redistricting and voter mobilization on elections and public policy, and contested notions of democracy.

More than 800 students annually pursue a major in political science while 60 graduate students are studying alongside the department’s 26 faculty experts. Reflecting a departmental culture that values outstanding research and extraordinary teaching, the faculty includes numerous award-winning teachers and mentors as well as a large number of dynamic, nationally and internationally recognized scholars of politics.

Political science internship and outreach programs create hands-on opportunities for students in government, NGOs, law, the private sector and the press at the local, state, national and global levels.

Faculty and graduate students consistently publish research findings in top journals and present research at conferences, universities and before governmental entities across the nation and globe. Their expert advice is sought by journalists in the national media, lawyers and policy makers. Several faculty have also received national and international awards and testified before Congress to impact policy.
alumni:
Undergraduate and graduate alumni have gone on to pursue careers in academic and professional environments including:

- Arizona State University
- California Polytechnic University
- Georgetown University
- Simon Fraser University
- State University of New York, Stony Brook
- Tufts University
- UCLA
- University of Washington
- U.S. House of Representatives
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute
- Wellesley College

faculty
Matthew Beckmann (Ph.D., University of Michigan)
american politics, presidency, congress, interest groups, mass media
Graeme T. Boushey (Ph.D., University of Washington)
statewide elections, American politics, policy-making, ballot measures
Daniel R. Brunstetter (Ph.D., UC Davis)
political theory, just war, early modern thought, otherness/identity, montaigne, rousseau
Russell J. Dalton (Ph.D., University of Michigan)
western european politics, mass political behavior, environmental movements
Louis DeSipio (Ph.D., University of Texas)
ethnic politics, latino politics, immigration, naturalization, u.s.
electoral politics
Howard Gillman (Ph.D., UCLA)
American constitutionalism and judicial politics
Sarah Goodman (Ph.D., Georgetown University)
comparative politics, immigration, integration, citizenship
Bernard Grofman (Ph.D., University of Chicago)
models of collective decision making, empirical democratic theory, race and politics, public choice
Marek Kaminski (Ph.D., University of Maryland)
voting models, democratization, electoral laws
Claire Kim (Ph.D., Yale University)
race and ethnicity, social movements, immigration
Cecelia Lynch (Ph.D., Columbia University)
international organization and law, international ethics and political philosophy, social movements and religion, peace and security
Anthony McGann (Ph.D., Duke University)
game theory, public choice, european politics
Kristen Monroe (Ph.D., University of Chicago)
 altruism and moral choice, political psychology, gender equality
Patrick Morgan (Ph.D., Yale University)
international and national security, american foreign policy, international relations theory
Kevin Olson (Ph.D., Northwestern University)
political theory, legal theory, history of political thought
Mark Peterson (Ph.D., University of Chicago)
american political institutions, state and local politics, interest organizations, constitutional reform, public policy, law
Shawn Rosenberg (M.Litt., University of Oxford)
political psychology, deliberative democracy, ideology, social theory, social and development psychology
Kamal Sadiq (Ph.D., University of Chicago)
international relations theory, migration, citizenship
Caesar Serezzere (Ph.D., UC Riverside)
 u.s. foreign policy, u.s.–latino american relations, mexican–american politics
Charles (Tony) Smith (Ph.D., UC San Diego)
law and legal institutions, comparative and international law
Etel Solingen (Ph.D., UCLA)
international relations theory, international political economy, international cooperation, regional conflict and cooperation
Dorothy Solinger (Ph.D., Stanford University)
chinese domestic politics and political economy, comparative politics, east asian politics
Keith Topper (Ph.D., UCLA)
modern and contemporary political theory, philosophy of science and social science, democratic and liberal theory
Carole Uhlman (Ph.D., Harvard University)
comparative political behavior, formal theory/social choice
Robert Urri (Ph.D., Columbia University)
international relations, international political economy, international politics of east asia, u.s. foreign policy
Martin Wattenberg (Ph.D., University of Michigan)
american and comparative political behavior