

Department of Politics

The Department of Politics offers you two majors and two minors:

Majors:

Politics (B.A.)
Environmental Studies (B.S.)
(Jointly administered with the
Department of Biological Sciences)

Minors:

Politics
Pre-Law

Messiah College—Carnegie Mellon University
collaborative Master of Public Policy

Our Faculty

Dr. Dean Curry (Ph.D., Claremont Graduate University). Teaching and research specializations: international politics; U.S. foreign policy; religion and society.

Dr. Kenneth Eshleman (Ph.D., University of Virginia). Teaching and research specializations: American politics—presidency, parties, and elections; American constitutional law; comparative politics.

Dr. John Harles (D.Phil., Oxford University). Teaching and research specializations: immigration and ethnic politics; comparative politics—Canada and the United Kingdom; political theory.

Dr. Robin Lauer mann (Ph.D., SUNY Buffalo). Teaching and research specializations: American politics—Congress representation, gender; comparative politics—Latin America; quantitative research methods.

From Our Graduates

As a politics major, I have studied alongside some of Messiah's brightest and most interesting students and have developed mutual and lasting friendships with my professors.

My internships at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C., the International Labour Organization's Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour in Geneva, Switzerland, and the YWCA's Domestic Violence Shelter in Harrisburg—all with the gentle guidance and encouragement of the department—have not only improved my career prospects, but acted as self-defining experiences during which I came to realize the responsibility—no, the privilege—to live out the calling of Christ in this world. The curriculum has challenged my critical thinking and writing abilities. Beyond that, it has forced me to consider opinions that are different from my own, an exercise that has tested, refined and ultimately strengthened my own political and religious beliefs. More importantly, being a politics major has helped me to realize my passion for public service work. The sharpening of my academic skills, the rewarding internships, the interesting coursework—I might have expected all of this from my college experience. What I did not know was that this education would change me as a person. It has given me extraordinary confidence as a young woman, the first in my entire family to graduate from college. It has helped me to develop the conviction and the courage to address social injustice. Soon I will be teaching elementary school in inner-city Camden, New Jersey, as a part of Teach for America. Because my four years at Messiah have stretched me so much as a student and as a person, I feel truly prepared for whatever lies ahead.

—Jamie Davies, '05
Truman Scholar ('04)

The quality of teaching and mentoring in Messiah's history and political science department was as good or better than anything I experienced at Oxford or Harvard. But at Messiah College education doesn't stop with a textbook—students are encouraged to

think about how the Christian faith should shape their understanding of the subjects they study. As a result, the education I received at Messiah has become more and more valuable to me as time passes.

—Kevin Hicks '93
Legal Counsel for CB Technologies, Inc.

Beyond Grantham

Our faculty members strongly advise students to leave Messiah for at least one term in order to gain practical experience and perspective.

The opportunities are considerable: internships in state and federal government, in law offices and judges' chambers, and with various interest groups. Off-campus study is available in England, France, Germany, Spain, Greece, Egypt, China, Russia, and Washington, D.C., among other locations.

After Graduation

Today's graduates can reasonably expect to change jobs, even careers, several times over the course of their working years.

An undergraduate education in politics is excellent preparation for this necessary flexibility in employment. Recruiters look for individuals who are well spoken, can do thorough research, and can think clearly; companies can teach the specific technical skills they require, but they cannot compensate for the essential qualities that make for bright and articulate employees.

Consequently, our students have found significant success in the world of work. Among the jobs they have secured: attorney, city planner, social psychologist, foreign service officer, budget analyst, university professor, interest group administrator, congressional staffer—one alumnus is even a golf course architect! The range of vocations suggests the potential of the major. And though we cannot make promises, there is published survey evidence that within ten years of graduation students with degrees in the social sciences achieve higher status positions within the workplace, earn higher incomes, and express greater career satisfaction than do their peers with degrees in scientific and technical fields of study.

Our graduates' record in gaining admission to top-tier graduate and law schools is equally solid. Harvard, Oxford, Penn, Virginia, Toronto, North Carolina, Duke, Georgetown, and Syracuse have all received our alumni. In addition, our students have won several prestigious fellowships for graduate study, including the Carnegie, Fulbright, and Rhodes scholarships (though, in truth, we shared the latter student with our friends in the English Department).

Messiah College does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, age, disability, or national or ethnic origin.

Office of Admissions, P.O. Box 3005, One College Avenue,
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HIGHER EDUCATION.
HIGHER CALLING.