**Political Science (BA) Learning Outcomes:**

Major Learning Outcomes

1. *Students will initiate, develop, and present independent research (Independent Research).*

   Students are expected to:
   - Write clear thesis statements;
   - Be familiar with and cite the literature relevant to their research topic;
   - Collect evidence relating to their thesis;
   - Draw conclusions appropriate to the findings of their research.

2. *Students will write effectively, engage in intellectually grounded debate, and form and express cogent arguments (Effective Writing).*

   Students are expected to:
   - Use proper grammar and syntax in writing;
   - Present ideas in an organized manner;
   - Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the context, audience, and purpose for which they are writing;
   - Ground positions and arguments in scholarly research.

3. *Students will become knowledgeable members of the community capable of reasoned judgments on political issues and ideas (Reasoned Judgments).*

   Students are expected to:
   - Demonstrate exposure to information representing various viewpoints with respect to political issues and debates;
   - Differentiate facts and opinions with respect to political issues and debates;
   - Formulate and express their own opinions on political issues;
   - Present arguments in support of and in opposition to their positions;
   - Demonstrate understanding of the development of their opinions referencing information and how that information is used and interpreted.

4. *Students will demonstrate knowledge of the major subfields of political science, as represented by the major’s foundation requirements and concentrations (Subfield Knowledge).*

   Students are expected to:
   - Demonstrate the attainment of factual knowledge in these subfields;
   - Demonstrate knowledge of and the ability to apply the major theories or approaches in these subfields;
   - Demonstrate familiarity with the relevant academic sources in these subfields.