

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.