

# DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

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The Department of Political Science offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in five majors; Political Science, International Affairs, Philosophy, Professional Legal Studies, and Legal Studies. In addition, the Department offers an undergraduate certificate in Paralegal Studies, and minors in Political Science and Philosophy.

Departmental curriculum emphasizes core competencies that prepare students for successful careers in the public, private, and non-profit sectors, while serving as excellent preparation for graduate and law school.

## Honors Program

The Department of Political Science participates in the Dixie and Peter Mahurin Honors College. Department honors courses allow students of exceptional academic abilities to investigate political phenomena and concepts in a more in-depth manner and to discuss contemporary political issues in small group settings. Honors courses encourage the development of critical thinking skills and analytical writing. Students also have an opportunity to assist faculty with research, present papers at regional and national conferences and/or engage in self-designed research projects. Majors in the Mahurin Honors College can complete their honors thesis in consultation with an advisor. For further information on honors courses and opportunities, contact Professor Scott Lasley, Department of Political Science.

## Degrees

- International Affairs, Bachelor of Arts (702) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/political-science/international-affairs-ba/>)
- Legal Studies, Bachelor of Arts (6001) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/history/legal-studies-ba/>)
- Philosophy, Bachelor of Arts (745) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/political-science/philosophy-ba/>)
- Political Science, Bachelor of Arts (686) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/political-science/political-science-ba/>)
- Professional Legal Studies, Bachelor of Arts (6000) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/political-science/paralegal-studies-ba/>)

## Minor

- Philosophy, Minor (429) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/political-science/philosophy-minor/>)
- Political Science, Minor (383) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/political-science/political-science-minor/>)

## Certificate

- Paralegal Studies, Certificate (1757) (<http://catalog.wku.edu/undergraduate/arts-letters/political-science/paralegal-studies-certificate/>)

## Faculty

### Professor

Audrey L. Anton PhD, The Ohio State University Main Campus, 2011  
Jeffrey L. Budziak PhD (Political Science), The Ohio State University Main Campus, 2011  
Jeffrey P. Kash PhD (Political Science), University of Iowa, 2002  
Scott J. Lasley PhD (Political Science), University of Iowa, 2000  
Timothy S. Rich PhD (Political Science, East Asian Languages), Indiana University-Bloomington, 2012  
Michael J. Seidler PhD (Philosophy), Saint Louis University, 1981  
Joel F. Turner PhD (Political Science), Florida State University, 2007

### Associate Professor

Soleiman Kiasatpour PhD (Political Science), University of California-Riverside, 1998

### Assistant Professor

Landon D. Elkind PhD (Philosophy), University of Iowa, 2018  
Michael B. Thomas PhD (Public Administration), Florida State University, 2018  
Kelsey L. Truxal JD (Law), University of Louisville, 2020