



Government & Politics

3140 Tydings Hall

(301) 405-4156

<http://www.gvpt.umd.edu/landing/Undergraduate>

College of Behavioral & Social Sciences

As a Government & Politics Major

- Students gain an understanding of basic concepts of political science including power, institutions, political systems, theories of the state, political conflict, citizenship, and contending analytical and theoretical approaches
- Students become proficient in research and analytical skills using either quantitative methods or library skills
- Students acquire a basic knowledge of the methods, approaches, and theories used in accumulating and interpreting information applicable to the discipline of political science
- Students learn effective oral and written communication skills to clearly and coherently present information in the discipline of political science

Students of Government and Politics are strongly encouraged to participate in independent research with GVPT faculty members. The independent study option provides students opportunities to work one-on-one with a faculty member doing research on a topic of the student's choosing.

Career Options & Salaries with a Government & Politics Major

With a major in Government and Politics you may pursue careers in a variety of areas: public policy, research, Foreign Service, law, nonprofit (administration, public relations, fundraising) and politics (elected or appointed leadership, campaign management, staff administration). Government and Politics is also a popular major if you are interested in going to law school.

Median salaries for popular career choices in 2015:

Lawyer	\$115,820
Political Scientist	\$99,730
Paralegal	\$48,810
Teacher	\$54,550 - \$57,200
Social Service Manager	\$63,530
Intelligence Specialist	\$28,472-\$44,873 (as of 2012)

**All career and salary information taken from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-17 (<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>)*

Advising

If you are considering a major in Government and Politics, set up an appointment or meet with an advisor during walk-in advising hours. You can find information about the GVPT Advising Office including location, office hours and how to make an appointment here: <http://www.gvpt.umd.edu/landing/Undergraduate>

- Be specific about what you are looking to discuss when making an appointment, so that an advisor can properly prepare and inform you of any materials or information you need to bring with you.

To ask general advising questions: gvptadvising@umd.edu

Declaring a Government & Politics Major

Government and Politics is a Limited Enrollment Program (LEP), which means that you must apply for enrollment in the major after completing certain pre-requisites, or “Gateway,” courses. However, if you are in your first semester at the University of Maryland and this is your first semester of college coursework, you can apply to transfer into Government and Politics without needing to complete the Gateway courses, as long as you complete the major change process prior to the last day of your first semester. If you are beyond your first semester, then you must complete the following requirements before applying to Government and Politics:

- 1) Complete the following two courses and earn at least a B- in each: GVPT 100 and GVPT 170 (Important: if you have earned AP credit for GVPT170, you are required to take GVPT241 and earn at least a B- in the course)
- 2) Completion of MATH111 or STAT100 with a grade of C- or higher. A calculus class (MATH220, 130, 140) with a grade of C- or higher may be substituted.
- 3) Finally, you must achieve a GPA of at least 2.7 in all college course work, calculated from your work at UMD, as well as at other institutions
- 4) Only one gateway or performance review course may be repeated to earn the required grade and that course may only be repeated once. When more than one course can satisfy a gateway requirement, taking a second course from the list will count as a repeat. **This policy will be in effect for all students who first matriculated at the University of Maryland in Spring 2015 or later.** A “W” or withdrawal counts as one attempt at a course.

Information for applying to Limited Enrollment Programs can also be found at www.lep.umd.edu

You can also ask any questions to the LEP Coordinator at lep@umd.edu

Declaration Process:

In addition to the above requirements, there are a few more steps to complete your change of major. Keep in mind that Government and Politics is housed within the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSOS) at the University of Maryland.

- 1) You should contact the Government and Politics advising office in order to register for a Change of Major workshop (see advising contact information above). It is recommended that you do so *before* you complete the gateway requirements to become familiar with the relevant policies. At this workshop, you will be given an application for the Government and Politics Major.
- 2) You will next complete an Academic Planning Workshop with BSOS Advising. This workshop can be completed in person or online. To register for an Academic Planning Workshop, please visit www.bsosworkshops.umd.edu. The purpose of this session is to complete an academic plan.
- 3) When you complete steps 1 and 2, turn in both the academic plan and the application to BSOS Advising at 2148 Tydings Hall.
- 4) BSOS Advising will later send an official email notifying you of your status. Please note that this will most likely take several weeks. *You will officially become a Government and Politics major the following semester.*

Four Year Plan (Gen Ed) GVPT Standard Curriculum

First Year:

English 101 (AW)	3
MA (based on placement/Gateway)	3
HU (Humanities)*	3
GVPT 170 (HS)	3
Elective	3
<u>UNIV 100</u>	<u>1</u>
	16 credits

AR (Analytic Reasoning)	3
NS (Non-lab Science) *	3
GVPT100	3
Elective	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

Second Year:

OC (Oral Communication)	3
UP (Understanding Plural Societies)	3
GVPT 241 (SP)	3
ECON200	4
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
	16 credits

NL (Lab Science)*	4
CC (Cultural Competency)*	3
HU (Humanities)	3
GVPT Course of Choice 1	3
<u>Foreign Language Req.</u>	<u>3</u>
	16 credits

Third Year:

GVPT Course of Choice 2	3
GVPT Course of Choice 3	3
Quantitative Skills Req.	3
Supporting Sequence 1	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

SP (non-major)*	3
GVPT Course of Choice 4 (UL)	3
GVPT Course of Choice 5 (UL)	3
Additional Skills Req.	3
<u>Supporting Sequence 2</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

Fourth Year:

ENGL39x (PW)	3
GVPT Course of Choice 6 (UL)	3
GVPT Course of Choice 7 (UL)	3
Supporting Sequence 3	3
<u>Supporting Sequence 4 (UL)</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

GVPT Course of Choice 8 (UL)	3
GVPT Course of Choice 9 (UL)	3
Supporting Sequence 5 (UL)	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
	12 credits

TOTAL = 120 Credits

*Important Planning Notes:

- All students must take two Distributive Studies courses that will also count for I-Series requirement. (I-series are not listed separately on this plan)
- Understanding Plural Societies courses may also fulfill a Distributive Studies category.

Four Year Plan (Gen Ed) GVPT International Relations Concentration

First Year:

English 101 (AW)	3	AR (Analytic Reasoning)	3
MA (based on placement/Gateway)	3	NS (Non-lab Science) *	3
HU (Humanities)*	3	GVPT100	3
GVPT 170 (HS)	3	Elective	3
Elective	3	<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>UNIV 100</u>	<u>1</u>		15 credits
	16 credits		

Second Year:

OC (Oral Communication)	3	NL (Lab Science)*	4
UP (Understanding Plural Societies)	3	CC (Cultural Competency)*	3
GVPT 241 (SP)	3	HU (Humanities)	3
ECON200	4	GVPT200	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Intro Foreign Language</u>	<u>3</u>
	16 credits		16 credits

Third Year:

GVPT280	3	SP (non-major)*	3
GVPT Course of Choice	3	GVPT Course of Choice (UL)	3
Quantitative Skills Req.	3	IR/Comparative Course (UL)	3
Supporting Sequence 1	3	Intermediate Foreign Language	3
<u>Elective</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Supporting Sequence 2</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits		15 credits

Fourth Year:

ENGL39x (PW)	3	IR/Comparative Course (UL)	3
IR/Comparative Course (UL)	3	IR/Comparative Course (UL)	3
IR/Comparative Course (UL)	3	Supporting Sequence 5 (UL)	3
Supporting Sequence 3	3	<u>Elective or Advanced Reasoning</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Supporting Sequence 4 (UL)</u>	<u>3</u>		12 credits
	15 credits		

TOTAL = 120 Credits

*Important Planning Notes:

- All students must take two Distributive Studies courses that will also count for I-Series requirement. (I-series are not listed separately on this plan)
- Understanding Plural Societies courses may also fulfill a Distributive Studies category.

Q & A

Is the application process for declaring Government and Politics competitive?

If you complete all of the requirements (courses and minimum GPA), you can expect to be able to declare without any issues.

Can I specialize in international relations?

Yes, GVPT offers an International Relations concentration. For more information, please visit <https://gvpt.umd.edu/research/landingtopic/international-relations>.

How can I find more information about what people “do” with a Government and Politics Major?

The Advising Office has a booklet available that is published by the American Political Science Association entitled “Careers and the Study of Political Science” that students seeking more information should find helpful. Furthermore, a GVPT advisor can provide more career planning resources. For more information, please visit <http://www.gvpt.umd.edu/undergraduate/career-development>

I see that many Government and Politics majors go into Law. Where can I find more information about going to Law School?

You can contact the Pre-Law advising office: The Pre-Law Professions Advising Office serves all current and former pre-law students at the University of Maryland. We offer a wide variety of advising services to guide students through the academic and administrative processes necessary to achieve their goals. Pre-Law Advisors encourage students to learn through community service, pre-professional experience, and campus organizations. We help students to become self-directed learners and to assume a significant role in their pre-professional education. We encourage students to become broadly educated in order not to lose personal growth opportunities.

Contact: Pre-Law Advising Office

<http://www.prelaw.umd.edu/index.html>

0110 Hornbake Library

Monday-Friday

8:30am-4:30pm

301.405.2793

What are some minors to consider related to Government and Politics?

The department does not offer a minor in Government & Politics, however there are other minors to consider if interested in political science or international relations. The Center for International Development and Conflict Management offers a minor in International Development and Conflict Management. For more information about this minor, please visit: <http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/minor/>. The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources offers a minor in Global Poverty. You can find more information about this minor here: <http://www.arec.umd.edu/undergraduate/minors/global-poverty>.