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 May 2017:

- Lawyer: $120,910
- Political Scientist: $117,570
- Paralegal: $50,940
- Teacher (high school): $60-320
- Social & Community Service Manager: $65,320
- Fundraiser: $56,950

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](http://www.gvpt.umd.edu/landing/Undergraduate)

- Also, please try to be specific about what you are looking to discuss when making an appointment, so that an advisor can properly prepare for your meeting and inform you of any special materials or information you need to bring with you to the appointment.

To ask general advising questions, call their office at (301) 405-4168 or use their online contact form, found at [https://gvpt.umd.edu/webform/contact-us](https://gvpt.umd.edu/webform/contact-us)

### 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. Completion of GVPT170 with a grade of B- or higher (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 MATH107 or STAT100 with a grade of C- or higher. A calculus class (MATH120, 130, 140) with a grade of C- or higher may be substituted.
3. Minimum GPA of 2.7 in all college coursework, calculated from your work at UMD and 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](http://www.lep.umd.edu)
You can also ask any questions to the LEP Coordinator at [lep@umd.edu](mailto: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. Contact GVPT to register for a Major Change 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 major.
2. You will next complete a Graduation Planning Workshop with BSOS Advising. This workshop can be completed in person or online. Details on how to complete this workshop will be given at the GVPT Major Change Workshop.
3. When you complete steps 1 and 2, turn in both the academic plan and the application to BSOS Advising at 2148 Tydings Hall. **Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.**
4. BSOS Advising will send an official email notifying you of your status. This typically takes 2-3 weeks.
Four Year Plan (Gen Ed)

First Year:

ENGL 101 (AW)   3  AR (Analytic Reasoning)  3
MA (based on placement/Gateway)  3  Elective 3
HU (Humanities)*  3  GVPT241 (SP)   3
GVPT 170 (HS)   3  ECON200 (HS)  3
Elective    3  Elective  3
UNIV 100    1

16 credits

Second Year:

OC (Oral Communication) 3  NL (Lab Science)*  4
UP (Understanding Plural Societies) 3  CC (Cultural Competency)* 3
NS (Natural Science)*  3  HU (Humanities)  3
GVPT201  3  GVPT Course of Choice 1  3
Elective    3  Foreign Language Requirement 3

15 credits

Third Year:

GVPT Course of Choice 2  3  SP (non-major)*  3
GVPT Course of Choice 3  3  GVPT Course of Choice 4 UL  3
Quantitative Skills Requirement 3  GVPT Course of Choice 5 UL 3
Supporting Sequence 1  3  Additional Skills Requirement 3
Elective    3  Supporting Sequence 2 3

15 credits

Fourth Year:

PW (Professional Writing) 3  GVPT Course of Choice 8 UL 3
GVPT Course of Choice 6 UL 3  GVPT Course of Choice 9 UL 3
GVPT Course of Choice 7 UL  3  Supporting Sequence 5 UL 3
Supporting Sequence 3  3  Elective or AR if prev Math doesn’t satisfy 3
Supporting Sequence 4 UL 3  Elective 1

15 credits

13 credits

TOTAL = 120 Credits

UL = Upper Level
*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 (CORE)

## First Year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GVPT 170</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Writing: ENGL 101</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 110</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CORE HA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 100</td>
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**Total credits:** 14

## Second Year:

<table>
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<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>CORE HA/HL/HO/IE</td>
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<tr>
<td>CORE PS/LS</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CORE SH</td>
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<td>CORE D</td>
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**Total credits:** 16

## Third Year:

<table>
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<th>Course</th>
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<td>GVPT Course of Choice 3</td>
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<td>GVPT Language Skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting Course 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
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**Total credits:** 15

## Fourth Year:

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<tr>
<td>GVPT Course of Choice 7 UL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting Course 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting Course 4 UL</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Studies CORE 1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total credits:** 15

**Total credits:** 120
**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.

**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](http://www.gvpt.umd.edu/undergraduate/career-development) or [https://bsosundergrad.umd.edu/sites/bsosundergrad.umd.edu/files/users/csehlke/GVPT%20Explore%20Career%20Options%20UMD.pdf](https://bsosundergrad.umd.edu/sites/bsosundergrad.umd.edu/files/users/csehlke/GVPT%20Explore%20Career%20Options%20UMD.pdf)

**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](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: [https://cidcm.umd.edu/landing/MIDCM](https://cidcm.umd.edu/landing/MIDCM). 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](http://www.arec.umd.edu/undergraduate/minors/global-poverty).