



Politics & Government



Western's Politics & Government program challenges you to rethink your assumptions about the world and your place in it, while giving you the skills to influence issues that matter to you.

What is the Western Difference?

As a student in Western's Politics & Government program, you will be a part of a small and dedicated community that searches for answers to the largest social questions of our day. You will learn to think critically about the times we live in and learn about our democracy's history.

The faculty is committed to teaching students how to bring about social change through active citizenship—at the local, state, national and international levels. Instructors encourage students to find ways to address political problems such as the loss of biodiversity, disparities among neighboring communities, gender and social inequalities and international security.

Students also explore the relationships between private and public life in a democracy. And they put what they learn into practice through community service opportunities and internships with law offices, political representatives and local government.

The program's new Global Studies emphasis—the only one of its kind on Colorado's Western Slope—focuses on foreign policy, human rights, social movements, political economy, world politics and international organizations.

QUICK FACTS

The program offers a standard major, a Pre-Law emphasis, a Global Studies emphasis and Secondary Licensure emphasis.

Student internships have included work in local law offices, at the State Capitol and in U.S. Senate offices in Washington, D.C.

Faculty-sponsored events include the Global Justice Film Series, political debates, voter registration and speaker series.

The student-led Politics Club tackles political topics, provides professional development opportunities and works to bring dynamic debate to campus.

Western students participate in the National Model United Nations in New York as well as the newly formed Mock Trial Team.



What Skills Will I Learn?

Western's Politics & Government program will teach you to:

- Think and write critically
- Put abstract ideas into real-life context
- Identify issues that matter to you and give you the skills to tackle them
- Present ideas, debate and speak in public
- Outreach to the community and organize events

What Can I Do With My Degree?

Western's Politics & Government graduates are prepared for graduate or professional schools, or for careers in business, journalism, government service and public life. Students in the Pre-Law emphasis get one-on-one advising and preparation for law school admission.

Our students have attended law school at the University of Denver, University of Colorado Boulder, University of Arizona, Drake University, American University and Willamette University, among many others.

A degree in politics can also prepare students for graduate school of other kinds. Graduates have pursued MPA degrees at the University of Denver and University of Kansas, among others.

Western alumni have become environmental lawyers, state legislators and lobbyists.

Career opportunities include:

- Advocacy
- Local government
- Journalism
- Peace Corps
- K-12 teaching
- Non-government organizations
- U.S. government
- Law
- Diplomacy
- National security
- State and regional organizations



Meet Courtney Kauffman

Courtney Kauffman, '17, a double major in Politics & Government and Psychology, says she felt at home the minute she stepped on campus. "What's kept me here is those relationships that I've developed with my professors and with other students ... everybody here wants you to be successful and they push you to thrive, and I love that."

Courtney has participated in Western's team at the National Model United Nations in New York." Courtney says, "I think I have a different approach to things, and Model UN tries to open your eyes to think of issues through multiple perspectives."

Courtney also broadened her world view through her study abroad in Russia. She says the combination of her major, her experience with Model UN and her study abroad have allowed her to think in new ways. "I have a multifaceted approach in how I understand concepts and analyze them."

More Info: 800.876.5309 | admissions@western.edu

western.edu/politics