

# GOVERNMENT & POLITICAL AFFAIRS



The Government, Policy and Law program prepares students for active citizenship, careers and advanced training in politics, law and related fields, both nationally and internationally. The curriculum includes subject matter related to American and international governments, politics and the law. It is intended to provide students with a broad and thorough understanding of politics and how it affects their lives.

## DEGREES/CONCENTRATIONS

### BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) IN GOVERNMENT, POLICY AND LAW

Students who earn a degree in government, policy, and law study all the major subfields of the discipline. The department offers a wide variety of courses in American politics, international relations, comparative government and political theory. Students have the opportunity to study the many and diverse facets of government and politics in the United States and abroad, as well as the relationships among those governments. For this degree, students are required to complete 42 credits in government, policy and law that consist of the following:

1. Four "core" courses required for the degree where you must earn a C- or better in each of the four courses;
2. Three elective courses within the GOVT major course list; and
3. Seven advanced (300-400-level) courses in the major. At least two courses must be capstone (400-level) courses in the major.

### PRE-LAW CONCENTRATION

The Department of Government, Policy and Law offers a B.A. in GOVT with a concentration in pre-law for GOVT majors who are interested in the formal study of law; how law intersects with politics; attending law school or a law-related graduate program; or pursuing a career in law or a law-related field.

Students interested in pre-law should contact Professor Richard A. Glenn at [richard.glenn@millersville.edu](mailto:richard.glenn@millersville.edu).

## FACULTY

The members of the faculty are experts in their fields. Each has earned a terminal degree in the discipline and engages regularly in research and scholarship. More importantly, the professors pride themselves on being excellent classroom instructors. Our low student-faculty ratio and small class sizes provide students with the opportunity to develop personal relationships with the faculty. Student evaluations confirm that the quality of instruction and the dedication and collegiality of the faculty are high.

## CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Students pursuing majors and minors engage in on-campus student organization activities that are open to all Millersville University students. Student organizations are part of the campus experience and can enhance the skills learned in the classroom setting. Because there is much student interaction in these organizations, students improve their leadership, social and organizational skills, which further prepare students for their careers.

The student organizations that are often paired with the Department of Government, Policy and Law, and whose faculty members are advisors to these organizations, are Asian Student Inclusivity Association (ASIA), College Democrats, College Republicans, Mock Trial Club of Millersville University, and Model United Nations.

## Become a Social Studies Teacher

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SECONDARY EDUCATION (B.S.E.) – CERTIFICATION IN SOCIAL STUDIES

This degree leads to a Pennsylvania Teaching Certificate in Social Studies for grades 7–12. Concentrations include economics, history, geography or government. With Pennsylvania's extremely high standards for teacher preparation, Millersville graduates are heavily recruited both regionally and nationally. We value our partnership with liberal arts departments in providing courses, field experiences and coadvisement for undergraduate secondary education students.



## COURSES

### FOUNDATION COURSES

Students are required to earn 12 credits in foundation courses that cover the main subfields of the discipline, earning a “C” or better in each of these courses. Students are also encouraged to choose one of these subfields as their area of focus:

- **American Government and Politics:** The study of the political behavior and institutions of the United States at the local, state and national levels.
- **Comparative Political Systems:** The study and exploration of the similarities and differences between the political behavior and institutions of countries other than the United States.
- **International Relations:** The study of the interactions of state and nonstate actors in international politics, including foreign policy, conflict resolution and negotiation, international organizations and law, and national security studies.
- **Political Theory:** The study of the views, theories, concepts and ideas that influence government, politics and people.

## INTERDISCIPLINARY OPPORTUNITIES

The department maintains a close relationship with the International Studies Program, the Women’s Studies Program, the Walker Center for Civic Responsibility and Leadership, and the Multidisciplinary Studies Program. These and other programs facilitate extracurricular and interdisciplinary opportunities for our majors.

## ABOUT OUR GRADUATES

Graduates have gone on to receive J.D.s from a number of top-ranked law schools, including Cornell University, Georgetown University, Harvard University, the University of Maryland, the University of Pennsylvania, Villanova University, and William & Mary College. Others have earned graduate degrees from such respected institutions as the City University of New York, the University of Delaware, the London School of Economics, the University of Massachusetts, the University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State University, the University of Pittsburgh and Temple University. Still others have chosen careers in education, politics (federal officials, U.S. attorneys, state representatives, legislative aides and magisterial district judges, for example) and public service. All of our majors are taught the skills of research, analysis and presentation that contribute to success in any career.

## INTERNSHIPS

The department recognizes the importance of experiential learning in preparing majors for discipline-related work. With Millersville’s proximity to Harrisburg and Washington, D.C., cooperative education internships are plentiful. Students have opportunities to participate in internships, earning academic credit and, in some cases, income while gaining a greater understanding of the functions of government and the workings of politics in a professional setting. Internships are offered in partnership with state, local and national governmental organizations; law firms; and for-profit and nonprofit entities. Students interested in participating in an internship should consult with their academic advisor. Some common internships include the following:

- **The Legislative Fellowship Program:** A 13-week paid internship in the fall and spring semesters with the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Students must have a minimum 3.0 grade-point average to apply to this program.
- **The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations (NCUSAR) “Washington Summer Internship Program”:** A 10-week professional, academic and career opportunity internship in Washington, D.C. Students receive a stipend for participation. Students must have a minimum 3.0 grade-point average to apply to this program.
- **The James A. Finnegan Fellowship Foundation:** A 10-week, paid summer internship with the legislative, executive or judicial branch of government in Pennsylvania. Students must have a minimum 3.0 grade-point average to apply to this program.
- **The James G. Fulton Internship Fund:** A 10-week summer internship in Washington, D.C. This internship is open to students from Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Washington and Westmoreland counties. Students must have a minimum 2.75 grade-point average to apply to this program.

Interested students should consult with their advisor and check with the Office of Experiential Learning and Career Management ([www.millersville.edu/elcm](http://www.millersville.edu/elcm)) for other available internships.