



POLITICAL SCIENCE

Learn the skills, serve communities, change the world.

For decades the University of Michigan's Department of Political Science consistently has been ranked as one of the top three or four programs in the nation. We pride ourselves on our outstanding teaching, our trailblazing scholarship, and our deep commitment to our undergraduate and graduate students. In order to maintain this long tradition of excellence, the department has developed a strategic plan that emphasizes our goal of providing an outstanding experience for all of our students.

Each year undergraduates in the Department of Political Science, under the guidance of outstanding faculty, engage with classic texts and the latest research findings to explore a wide array of subjects relating to political interactions. Political science prepares students for active citizenship, for careers in public service, and for advanced study in the social sciences and professions by training them to become skilled observers of political behavior in their own country and around the world. Our undergraduates build successful careers in business, law, teaching, journalism, research, and government, and our graduate students become highly regarded social science faculty and researchers at institutions around the world.

The Department of Political Science is poised to become the foremost in the nation, preparing scholars and citizens as leaders who will influence public affairs, locally and nationally, for generations. Gifts at all levels will advance the department's strategic plan and make a significant impact—from creating a Center for Political Institutions that, by virtue of being located in U-M's top-ranked program, would become the most prominent place to study political institutions in the world, to providing the resources that enable students to participate in internship opportunities and engage in research with renowned scholars.

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP SUPPORT

Graduate students play an essential role in our program, working closely with faculty to provide outstanding teaching to our undergraduates, conducting research with our faculty, and carrying out their own independent research. We work diligently to make sure they achieve excellence in both teaching and research, so that when they graduate and take positions as faculty elsewhere, they do so as proud representatives of the University of Michigan. An endowed gift of \$1M or annual gifts of \$50,000 will support a graduate fellowship, which benefits the department in several ways. First, fellowship funding provides crucial support for graduate students, reducing their need to seek outside employment while they are learning to be teachers and scholars. Second, it lowers the amount of debt they incur. Third, because the amount of fellowship funding we can provide has, in recent years, fallen far below that offered by the other top programs in political science, gifts help us to attract the best graduate students in the country.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Educators have increasingly come to recognize that participation in research projects provides significant educational advantages for students. These benefits are especially strong when the research is supervised closely by, or conducted together with, faculty members or advanced Ph.D. candidates. Gifts of \$50,000 - \$100,000 annually for undergraduate research opportunities would allow the department to support student research, hire undergraduates to serve as research assistants to faculty and Ph.D. candidates, and provide support for faculty and students to co-author research papers. It would also enable students to travel to academic conferences to present their research findings. In addition, this funding would provide the resources for students who had participated in the college's outstanding Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program during their first or second year in LSA to continue working with faculty during their junior and senior years.

TEACHING INITIATIVE FUND

Our faculty and graduate students are constantly updating and improving their undergraduate courses. Whether this involves using new technologies in the classroom, drawing upon new theories from psychology about how people learn, or updating course materials to reflect new developments in the world, we are constantly innovating. Gifts of \$10,000 - \$50,000 annually for this fund would support teaching in a number of significant ways. It would provide funding for faculty members who need additional support during the semester—for example, to help organize simulations or other group-learning projects in class. It could provide support for advanced Ph.D. students to offer their own classes. And it would provide support for faculty members to develop new innovative courses or to reformulate existing courses.

UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Internships offer wonderful educational and experiential opportunities for our students. With these opportunities, our students apply their skills in practical ways and gain experience and exposure that lead to future career possibilities. Your gift to the college internship program will help support political science students with funding and opportunities for summer and academic year internships. We seek gifts for internships that will provide students with support ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 to help cover travel and living costs, as well as stipends for students in unpaid summer internships who, without such support, would not be able to participate because of financial barriers. Your support could enable political science students to explore a wide range of exciting opportunities:

with members of the House or Senate in Washington, D.C.; with state legislators; with interest groups that work on specific policy areas, such as tax or environmental policy; and with state or federal government agencies, such as those that address issues like Medicare or food safety. An endowed gift of \$100,000, or annual gifts of \$10,000 - \$50,000, will provide funds for two to five students.

STRATEGIC FUND

Each academic year presents difficult challenges and exciting possibilities, many of which require the availability of strategic funds. Unfortunately, the department has an extremely limited pool of discretionary dollars that it can draw upon for these needs. A gift of any size to the Strategic Fund can mean the difference between maximizing and missing an opportunity. Support for this fund would increase the department's ability to help students travel to meetings and conferences related to their coursework, to bring in speakers that can address areas of interest to our students and to the broader university community, and to ensure that we have adequate financial resources for recruiting and retaining top faculty.



"I am deeply interested in both the law and politics. As an aspiring appellate litigator, spending a semester working and studying in Washington, D.C. represented an unparalleled opportunity to have a formative experience learning about the law in the city where laws are written, argued about, and overturned."

—CHASE GLASSER, A.B. '21

CENTER FOR POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

Ranked among the top three or four in the nation, the department's strength in American politics has historically been in the study and teaching of political behavior—voting, elections, public opinion, and so on. In the past few decades, however, the study of political institutions has become increasingly prominent in political science. Funding support in this area would make a significant difference for the department by reducing or eliminating its competitive disadvantage in recruiting and retaining some of the key people in this field. Opportunities that bring scholars focused in this area together to create synergies in the field would produce groundbreaking learning that addresses vital topics in the study of political institutions in fresh and insightful ways.

To launch the center, we are seeking gifts to support summer graduate research assistantships, faculty research grants, and founding a Michigan Conference on Political Institutions. An endowed gift of \$1M will support all these important programming areas. An endowed gift of \$7M will be recognized with the opportunity to name the center. A named Center for Political Institutions would also include funding for a directorship, graduate student support, additional programming for undergraduate research, a visiting speaker series, and a visiting professorship.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

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