



Research on the U.S.-Mexico border helped alumnus Cristian Martinez go from foster care to the halls of power in Washington, D.C. Photo courtesy of Political Science.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

THE DEGREE

Why do some countries become democracies? How are public policies determined? What shapes relationships between nations in the international system? Political science majors at UC Irvine explore these and other issues related to how politics work at the individual, group, national and international levels.

Methods for gathering and analyzing information about political behavior and political processes are a major focus of the introductory course work.

Upper-division courses are organized around general areas of study including American politics, comparative politics, international relations, political theory and public law. Each area provides students an opportunity to pursue a more in-depth look at political science from different angles.

CAREERS

Students have many opportunities to pursue special topics in political science through independent study courses, field studies and internships. Many choose to participate in the UC/DC Internship Program in Washington, D.C. and the university's Education Abroad Program.

Political science majors learn how to understand politics and acquire skills for effective performance in many professional fields. The course work emphasizes development of analytic thinking and clear writing skills essential for success in a number of fields.

Political science majors have gone on to pursue careers in business, international relations, law, politics, consultancy, journalism and public service as well as advanced graduate training in law, academics and public policy.

RESEARCH

As one of the top 35 programs in the nation, the political science department offers more than 100 courses each year to nearly 1,000 undergraduate majors.

World renowned faculty experts explore a host of topics including politics of advanced and democratizing societies and their interactions, political economy, international relations, legal systems, political institutions, political philosophy, political ideology, political behavior and radical and ethnic politics.