

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**  
**Bachelor of Arts in Political Science**

**Mission Statement**

The mission of the Department of Political Science at UNC-Pembroke is consistent with that of the University as a whole. The Department pledges to challenge students to embrace difference and adapt to change, think critically, communicate effectively, and become responsible citizens. We as a department are dedicated to active student learning, engaged scholarship, high academic standards, creative activity, and public service while enhancing the intellectual, cultural, economic, and social life of the region.

Political Science is the systematic study of politics. In its broadest sense, politics includes the decision-making and decision-enforcing processes concerned with the use of valued resources for any group that makes and enforces rules for its members. In this department the emphasis is upon the parts of these processes involving the government.

The Department of Political Science seeks to follow the aims of the liberal arts tradition. It also seeks to provide Political Science and Public Administration students with an educational background that will prepare them for a wide range of career opportunities and that are expected by prospective employers from the fields of Law, Foreign Service, Public Administration, Journalism, Politics, and Teaching.

**Goals and Objectives**

The Department has adopted eight criteria upon which students are evaluated:

1. Department of Political Science students will have a basic grasp on how political institutions are structured and how political processes are pursued—both at the micro level (i.e. American government) and at the macro level (i.e. international and comparative studies).
2. Department of Political Science students will be able to utilize methods, approaches, and theories used in collecting and interpreting information applicable to the discipline of political science.
3. Department of Political Science students will be able to appreciate the dynamics of politics and power at work in the modern world. In other words, they will have a deeper understanding of why political decisions are put in practice by decision makers at all levels.
4. Department of Political Science students will have an advanced comprehension of the content of one (or more) of the five subfields within political science: American Government, Public Administration, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory.

5. Department of Political Science students will be able to demonstrate basic research skills commonly used in the discipline.
6. Department of Political Science students will be able to demonstrate critical thinking skills and showcase those skills through both written and spoken word.
7. Department of Political Science graduates will be able to identify opportunities and needs for personal involvement in political decision making and understand why political participation is important.
8. Department of Political Science graduates will be able to critically evaluate different positions presented by decision makers on social, economic, and political topics.