As a Political Science major at Clarkson, you’ll develop an appreciation of the processes associated with social justice and engage in critical reflection on the politics of science and technology.

Our department is distinguished by our strong commitment to a broad liberal arts education and close student-faculty interactions. Our program offers future leaders the tools that will make them more informed citizens and help them with all kinds of tasks in their daily lives.

Clarkson has multidisciplinary strengths in several important thematic areas of political science: development issues, food and farm studies, gender, energy and the environment, and war studies.

The Clarkson Advantage
The Political Science program at Clarkson differs from those at many other institutions in three important ways — broader perspectives, external fields and unique opportunities.

Wide-Ranging Perspectives
Our students benefit from the outstanding scholarship and personal attention of faculty in political science, as well as anthropology, history, literature, psychology and sociology. Faculty work individually with students to prepare them for careers in a world economy that demands creativity in analyzing problems, expertise in technology, and an understanding of diverse perspectives.

www.clarkson.edu/politicalscience
Political Science major Samantha Vokaty compared New York’s closed primary with Minnesota’s open primary for a research project. New York requires voters to register with a party before voting in primary elections, while Minnesota’s open primary does not mandate that voters declare an affiliation.

Her conclusion? A state-regulated, closed primary is preferable to an open primary because of the positive effect it has on voter and state politics. Comparing statistics from both systems, Vokaty concluded that New York’s voter turnout from primaries has increased 10% since 1950, while Minnesota has gone from a turnout rate of 30% to 3%.

Vokaty was invited to present her research at the inaugural “Independent Sector Undergraduate Research Exposition” at the Legislative Office Building in Albany, N.Y. Her project was prompted by her summer internship with the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor party.

External Fields
A required external field of five or more courses prepares students for their future careers. Chosen from one of Clarkson’s many programs and departments, external fields may be in such defined pre-professional areas as pre-law, pre-business, psychology or computer science; alternately, students may create their own external field, tailored to their specific career interests.

Careers with a Political Science Degree
Many students in Political Science are interested in graduate and professional education. A wide variety of different career paths are available, including:

- Attorney
- City Planner
- Congressional Office/Committee Staffer
- Corporate Public Affairs Advisor
- Corporate Advisor for Governmental Relations
- Federal Government Analyst
- Foreign Service Officer
- International Agency Officer
- International Research Specialist
- Labor Relations Specialist
- Legislative Analyst/Coordinator
- Lobbyist
- Political Campaign Operative
- Political Commentator
- Policy Analyst
- Professor
- Public Affairs Research Analyst
- Research Analyst
- State Legislator
- Teacher
- Urban Policy Planner

Special Opportunities

Pre-Law
Law schools have always valued the analytical and communication skills of political science students. You can prepare for law school through any of our degree programs and supplement your preparation through the minor in Law and Society.

The Washington and NY Assembly Internships
These unique opportunities allow students to intern at the NY State Assembly or attend American University in Washington D.C. for a semester. Clarkson students attending the Washington semester have worked for the World Bank, NBC, Greenpeace, Homeland Security and as legislative aides to members of Congress.

Public Policy
Occasional opportunities are available for students through various public policy programs associated with Clarkson’s Institute for a Sustainable Environment and the Center for Sustainable Energy Systems, as well as the New York Energy Policy Institute.

The Areté Program
A double major that fuses practical business preparation with a thorough grounding in the humanities and social sciences. Students gain the leadership skills and human and cultural insights needed for success in today’s multinational businesses.

To learn more
Contact the Department of Humanities & Social Sciences at 315-268-6410 or e-mail politicalscience@clarkson.edu.