

Fast Facts: Political Science

Western's Political Science program is in the top tier in political research and teaching across Canada. We teach and engage in research in all of the traditional subfields of political science, including international relations, political theory, Canadian politics, comparative politics, local government, and public administration.

Western's Political Science Department is a mid-sized Department with a high proportion of award-winning teachers, some of the top researchers in their field, and individuals who have served in leadership roles in the Canadian Political Science Association.



- The Department has 20 full-time tenured faculty members, 2 probationary tenure-track faculty members, and 5 limited-term full-time faculty members.
- The Department has three main areas of research strength:

Global Justice and International Politics

This research area is distinctive in that it emphasizes the fundamental and interconnected issues of justice, human rights, the ethical analysis of the states system, and other concerns of global normative importance such as climate change and nuclear disarmament. This specific research and teaching focus is not offered by any other Political Science Department in Canada.

Multilevel Governance

This research area encompasses the study of governance in local, regional, and global contexts. The Department is the site of work on comparative urban politics, international political economy, and Canadian politics at all levels. Multilevel governance is the focus of Professor Robert Young's Tier 1 Canada Research Chair. As part of our commitment to studying political activity at all levels, a new Political Behaviour Research Group started its work in 2010.

Democracy and Citizenship

This broad area of research is central to the study of politics across its various subfields. Faculty members pursue research on minority citizenship rights, the conditions of democratic stability, voting behavior, political culture, political leadership, and the links between think tanks and public opinion.

- The Department is formally involved in teaching and research in twelve interdisciplinary programs or centres including:

Africa Institute	Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction
Allan O'Brien Multilevel Governance Research Laboratory	Moral, Political, and Legal Philosophy Research Group
Canada Research Chair in Multilevel Governance	Political Behaviour Research Group
The Canada-US Institute	Political Economy Research Group
Centre for American Studies	Public Policy in Municipalities
Centre for Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Reconstruction	RBC Financial Group Economic Policy Research Institute

- The Department offers programs leading to BA, MA, and PhD degrees, along with MPA (Masters in Public Administration), and DPA (Diploma in Public Administration) degrees.
- We are committed to improving our students' capacity to think critically, to communicate in both written and spoken forms, and to become responsible citizens capable of contributing positively to a diverse and increasingly globalized society.
- In 2012-13, there were 627 undergraduate students enrolled in the program and 125 full-time and part-time graduate students.
- The Department's undergraduate Honors Specialization attracts some of the best students in the Faculty of Social Science.