

POLITICAL SCIENCE



What can a major in political science offer you? If you're like Kristen Thompson, the answer is a whole new world.

Like most high school students, Thompson had stereotypical views of what college would be like. But those views changed dramatically in her first few weeks on campus. "What surprised me most," she said, "was the openness of the professors. They're willing to spend so much time with you. And the small class sizes in the political science department added to the sense of community I felt. You definitely do not feel like a number here."

Thompson opted to focus her studies on world politics. As a sophomore, she helped establish the College's chapter of Americans for Informed Democracy. Then she heard David Batstone, an expert on the contemporary slave trade, speak at the political science department's annual convocation. That experience led to a summer internship in Baltimore, Md. with Not For Sale, an advocacy group. Back on campus, she organized a workshop on human trafficking, and then began working with faculty advisors on a bachelor's essay entitled the "Modern Slave Trade in South Carolina."

As a junior, Thompson spent a semester at sea. "Our ship transited the Red Sea," she recalled. "On board, I took a course on international terrorism, and I ended up doing an independent study on that topic when I returned to Charleston. Ultimately, I wrote three papers comparing and contrasting different ideas, including religion and terrorism." And, in order to put the subject matter into context, Thompson read several novels for a special topics course – From Utopia to Dystopia.

When she graduated, Thompson earned the College's highest academic honors and won a Rotary Ambassadorial scholarship to study politics in South Africa. Obviously, she was an exceptional student, but her story isn't all that rare. A major in political science can bring you into contact with inspiration you didn't know existed, and it can open doors to places you never dreamed of going. This major can be the key to a whole new world.

COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

Political science graduates gain analytical skills and communication abilities, along with a sense of engagement in public affairs. They end up in a broad spectrum of careers.

The Facts

Twenty-five percent of our majors enter law school or graduate school immediately after graduation.

Our alumni succeed. Recent graduates have become research analysts, legislative staffers, nonprofit directors and investment advisors.

Student-focused events throughout the year include engaging speakers, workshops and films.

Opportunities

Personalized education means independent study opportunities and hands-on internships.

Our innovative teaching and high-impact learning include community-based research, service opportunities, SC Student Legislature, for-credit mock trial team and delegations to Washington, D.C. for the Model African Union and Model Organization of American States.

The S.C. Lowcountry is a learning laboratory offering field trips, geographic perspectives on urban issues and a focus on sustainability.

An internationalized curriculum and a faculty committed to the study of local and global politics includes faculty-led study abroad opportunities in Spain, Cuba, Morocco, South Africa, Southeast Asia and other destinations.