



POLITICAL SCIENCE

Learn the skills, serve communities, change the world

For decades the University of Michigan's Department of Political Science has been ranked as one of the top programs in the nation. We pride ourselves on our outstanding teaching, trailblazing scholarship, and deep commitment to our undergraduate and graduate students.

Each year undergraduates in the Department of Political Science—under the guidance of outstanding faculty—employ social science methodologies, engage with classic texts, and analyze the latest research findings to explore the world of political ideas, institutions, and behavior. Political science prepares students not only for active citizenship, but also for careers ranging from data science to public service, and advanced study in the social sciences and professions, by training them to become skilled observers of political behavior in their own country and around the world. Our undergraduates build successful careers in business, data science, law, teaching, journalism, research, and government, and our graduate students become highly regarded faculty and researchers at institutions around the world.

Your gift will enable the Department of Political Science to prepare scholars and citizens as leaders who will influence public affairs, locally and nationally, for generations. Gifts at all levels will make a significant impact—from building our Center for Political Institutions, which is becoming the pre-eminent place to study political institutions in the world, to providing the resources that enable students to participate in internship opportunities and engage in research with renowned scholars.

CENTER FOR POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

The health, functioning, and resilience of political institutions around the world—legislatures, courts, executives, international organizations, alliances—has become an increasingly central real-world concern for public officials, scholars, and citizens in recent years. We are in the process of launching the Center for Political Institutions, which will bring the world-class resources of Michigan faculty to bear on these pressing concerns. Funding support in this area will enable the department to recruit and retain some of the key experts in this field, and offer world-class opportunities to our students. The center will encourage groundbreaking learning and mentorship around vital topics in the study of political institutions across subfields in the department.

To launch the center, we are seeking gifts to support summer undergraduate and graduate research assistantships, support the research of faculty and student research teams in the study of institutions, and to create an annual Michigan Conference on Political Institutions. An endowed gift of \$1M will support all these important programming areas. An endowed gift of \$7M will be recognized with the opportunity to name the center. A named Center for Political Institutions would also include funding for a directorship, undergraduate and graduate student support, additional programming for undergraduate research, a visiting speaker series, and a visiting professorship.



“I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for financially supporting my participation in the European Youth Event (EYE) at the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Many of the discussions and comments were extraordinarily insightful and directly relevant to my thesis research on far-right European parties on social media.”

—Daphne Welter, Class of 2026

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE FUND

Our students have many wonderful educational and experiential opportunities (e.g., conference attendance, internships, or research projects). With these opportunities, our students apply their skills in practical ways and gain experience and exposure that often lead to future career opportunities. Gifts to the Academic Experience Fund will help support political science students with funding and opportunities for summer and academic year opportunities. We seek gifts that will provide students with support ranging from \$250 - \$5,000 to help cover travel and living costs, as well as stipends for students in unpaid summer internships who, without such support, would not be able to participate because of financial barriers. Your support will enable political science students to explore a wide range of exciting opportunities. An endowed gift of \$100,000, or annual gifts of \$10,000 - \$50,000, will provide funds for many students.

TEACHING INITIATIVE FUND

Our faculty and graduate students are constantly updating and improving their undergraduate courses. Whether this involves using new technologies in the classroom, drawing upon new theories from psychology about how people learn, or updating course materials to reflect new developments in the world, we are constantly innovating. Gifts of \$10,000 - \$50,000 annually for this fund will support teaching in a number of significant ways, including providing funding for faculty members who need additional support during the semester—for example, to help organize simulations or other group-learning projects in class. Gifts also provide support for advanced Ph.D. students to offer their own classes on specialized and timely topics, and it would provide support faculty members developing new innovative courses or to reformulating existing courses.

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP SUPPORT

Graduate students play an essential role in our program, working closely with faculty to provide outstanding teaching to our undergraduates, conducting research alongside faculty mentors, and carrying out their own independent research. We work diligently to make sure they achieve excellence in both teaching and research, so that when they graduate and take positions as faculty elsewhere, they do so as proud representatives of the University of Michigan. An endowed gift of \$1M or annual gifts of \$50,000 will support a graduate fellowship that will help us to attract the best graduate students in the world.

STRATEGIC FUND

Each academic year presents important opportunities for the department, many of which require the availability of strategic funds. A gift of any size to the Strategic Fund can mean the difference between maximizing and missing an opportunity. Support for this fund will increase the department's ability to help students travel to meetings and conferences related to their coursework, bring in speakers that can address areas of interest to our students and the broader university community, and recruit and retain top faculty.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your partnership connects the college's rich past to a boundless and bright future. You can change lives with gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities, and create a meaningful legacy through your bequest, trusts, gift annuities, and other planned gifts. Your generosity makes an impact on what's next, for a better tomorrow.



for what's next ▶
Look to Michigan

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