I became exposed to socioeco-
nomic turmoil at a very young
age and, consequently, began
at appreciate the notion of free
inquiry and unbridled academic
curiosity. I chose UChicago
because it is certainly known
for this.

Ayesha Siddiqi
AB'11
Major: Political science

For more information, visit
collegeadmissions.uchicago.edu

The rigorous undergraduate experience of political science majors at the University of Chicago enlivens their thinking about
contemporary global and domestic political issues.

From the very beginning, the Department of Political Science at the University of Chicago
has been a pioneer in the development of social scientific understandings of government and
politics. We have maintained that same unabashed intellectualism, the disregard for disciplinary and
subdisciplinary boundaries, the commitment to
diversity of approach and method, and the pure
appreciation of fine scholarship that have always
been the distinguishing features of this institution.

UChicago’s innovative Department of Political
Science encourages methodological and
intelectual pluralism and theoretical insights.
Our research often challenges conventional
assumptions and pushes the frontiers of both
disciplinary and interdisciplinary knowledge.
Our undergraduate education enlivens
thinking about contemporary global and
domestic political issues. Students select
courses from American politics, international
relations, political theory, comparative politics,
and methodology. They can attend weekly
workshops and lectures alongside faculty and
graduate students to complement their course
work or to expand their studies of political
science. The department is committed to
providing the finest, most rigorous, and most
inventive educational experience in the country.

Sample Courses

World Politics in the 19th Century:
A History
Students gain an overview of major
developments in 19th-century history:
war, revolutions, diplomacy, economic
development, imperial expansion, and
international trade and investment. Topics
include European imperialism, the Industrial
Revolution, and the origins of World War I.

Political Nature of the American
Judiciary System
This course introduces students to the
political nature of the American legal
system. Examining foundational political
science literature on courts conceived of
as political institutions, they focus on the
relationship between the courts and other
political institutions.

Machiavelli’s Prince and Discourses
Students read Machiavelli’s Prince and
Discourses on Livy, supplemented by selec-
tions from Livy’s history of Rome. Themes
include princes, peoples, and elites; pagan
and Christian religion and morality; war and
empire; and theory and practice.

Authority, Obligation, and Dissent
Students consider what the basis is for
political authority. What, if anything,
makes it legitimate? What is the relationship
between political authorities? Under what
conditions do we disobey such orders?

American Grand Strategy
This course examines the evolution of
American grand strategy since the United
States first emerged on the world stage as a
power. The focus is on assessing how
leaders have thought over time about which
areas of the world are worth fighting for.

SOCIAL SCIENCES
COLLEGIATE DIVISION

MAJORS
Political Science

UChicago’s innovative Department of Political
Science encourages methodological and
intelectual pluralism and theoretical insights.
Our research often challenges conventional
assumptions and pushes the frontiers of both
disciplinary and interdisciplinary knowledge.
Our undergraduate education enlivens
thinking about contemporary global and
domestic political issues. Students select
courses from American politics, international
relations, political theory, comparative politics,
and methodology. They can attend weekly
workshops and lectures alongside faculty and
graduate students to complement their course
work or to expand their studies of political
science. The department is committed to
providing the finest, most rigorous, and most
inventive educational experience in the country.
Political science students at the University of Chicago find a wealth of course offerings available to them each year. Recent courses offered by the department include the following:

- Liberalism and Empire
- Politics of the U.S. Congress
- Machiavelli’s Political Thought
- Seminar on International Security Affairs
- Springtime for Hitler and Germany: The Advocates of the Aesthetic
- The American Presidency
- American Grand Strategy
- Comparative Politics of the Middle East and North Africa
- Authoritarian Regimes
- The Politics of Human Rights

In addition to meeting the undergraduate course requirements, every political science major writes a substantial paper. Students not writing an honors thesis are required to write a long paper (at least 20 pages in length) in a course required for the major.

The undergraduate and graduate programs in political science are definitively linked; this allows undergraduates to enroll in PhD-level classes to enhance their understanding of the concepts and methods of politics.

The curricula of political science majors greatly benefit from other programs at UChicago in the fields of international studies and human rights. The international studies major draws on the existing strengths of the College faculty in a variety of international fields and supports innovative work in such areas of global relevance as human rights, international relations, and globalization. It is attractive to political science majors and other students who value the benefits of studying abroad and of cross-cultural learning, and those who are interested in preparing for academic, government, nonprofit, or business careers with an international focus.

Although human rights programs are traditionally buried within either political science or law departments at universities, UChicago’s Human Rights Program is very interdisciplinary in nature. Within it, undergraduates have opportunities to participate in research, internships, and activism on various human rights issues around the globe.

**Internship Opportunities**

With the help of Career Advising and Planning Services (CAPS), UChicago’s political science students enjoy abundant research and internship resources. Many students intern in Washington, DC, holding positions in the offices of Illinois’ senators and in the White House, among others.

UChicago students also spend summers working for a variety of think tanks, public interest groups, political associations, and government bureaus, including:

- Brookings Institution
- Center for Defense Information
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Institute for Policy Studies
- National Research Council
- National Women’s Political Caucus
- Superior Court of the District of Columbia
- U.S. Department of State
- Washington Peace Center

The Jeff Metcalf Fellows Program offers undergraduate internships in the field of government and public policy in cities around the globe. Recent Metcalf interns have worked with the American Enterprise Institute, Heritage Foundation, Mayor’s Office of the City of Chicago, and Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission.

**Student Organizations**

Politically inclined students may join organizations that represent a wide spectrum of ideologies, contemporary issues, and agendas (for example, University of Chicago Democrats, College Republicans of the University of Chicago, Model United Nations Team, and the Student Political Forum). Students may also engage in campus politics through Student Government activities. Groups form at UChicago on an ad hoc basis to address and often protest current political topics, ranging from local campus concerns to international issues. Related organizations include the Chicago Society, an organization of students actively fostering discussion and debate on campus; Students for Progressive Action, which aims to help students find a political voice; the Edmund Burke Society, which provides a forum at the University for conservative political debate and literary discussion; and the Coalition for Immigrant Rights.

**After Graduation**

UChicago’s political science students have been awarded the most competitive and prestigious distinctions in the country, including Rhodes Scholarships, Mellon Fellowships, Fulbright Fellowships, and graduate fellowships from the National Science Foundation and the Ford Foundation, in addition to the Donnelley Cambridge Exchange Fellowship for one year’s study at Cambridge University.

A major in political science provides preparation for law school or for a career in politics and other fields. Some political science graduates choose to pursue a doctorate in political science at UChicago, while other political science graduates go on to top graduate and professional schools, in addition to successful careers on congressional staffs and with private nonprofit organizations, prominent newspapers, state and city bureaus and departments, and citizen action groups.