Goal 1: Substantive knowledge. Students will graduate with substantive knowledge of basic political concepts and systems. It is our goal that politics students will understand the institutions, processes, and values that shape politics within and among nations and states and be able to apply that knowledge to the world. Within this framework of understanding, our goal is for students to master the major theories, concepts, foundations, and methodologies used in the study of politics.

- Learning outcome 1: Knowledge of political systems. Students will be able to understand the structure and operation of the U.S. and other political systems.
- Learning outcome 2: Knowledge of concepts and theories of politics. Students will be able to understand the diversity of traditions in the field of political science.

Goal 2: Critical thinking, writing, and research skills. Students will graduate with the ability to think critically about political concepts and systems. It is our goal that Politics students will demonstrate the ability to apply their knowledge of politics by using the major analytic and theoretical frameworks in several subfields of politics. It is also our goal that students be
able to formulate questions and evaluate arguments and hypotheses based on these frameworks.

- **Learning Outcome 3: Writing and critical thinking.** Students should be able to construct and evaluate analytical arguments and write clear logical prose.

- **Learning Outcome 4: Research and methodology.** Students should be able to identify and gather information from credible primary and secondary sources; they should be able to recognize assumptions and to devise basic research designs, test questions, arguments, and hypotheses with qualitative and/or quantitative methods.

**Goal 3: Engagement in Politics.** It is our goal that students are prepared for active citizenship and begin to develop an ongoing interest in national and global politics.

- **Learning Outcome 5: Active participation in politics and global citizenship and political efficacy.** Students will develop an understanding of the importance of engaging in politics and a realization of political competence. They should be able to understand both theoretically and practically the values of citizenship and its beneficial consequences.