“I know that it was due to the teaching that I received from professors within the Department of History and Political Science that I truly began to learn to think, to cultivate ideas, to focus on virtues, (and) to strive for excellence.”

— Jennifer M.

WHAT SOME RECENT GRADUATES ARE DOING NOW:

• Political Affairs at the White House
• Historical re-enacting at Colonial Williamsburg
• Teaching political science or history
• Legislative Assistant in the U.S. House of Representatives
• JAG Lawyer in the Marine Corps
• Senior Tax Associate
• In graduate school at Georgetown University, George Washington University, University of Dallas, University of London, and Boston College, among many others.

“Without the support of the faculty of the Department of History and Political Science I would not have had the confidence to attempt graduate school. They taught me to listen to others, analyze what I see and hear, and base my arguments on facts not beliefs. These concepts are the basis of my job as a lawyer.”

— Rebecca B.

ASHLAND UNIVERSITY:
Ashland University, in Ashland, Ohio, is a private university that offers a wide range of liberal arts and professional degrees. Ashland University is home to more than 2,100 full-time undergraduate students.

Ashland University was founded in 1878 by the Brethren Church to offer courses in the arts and sciences and in the professions. The spirit of the founders was summed up in the 1884-85 catalog, which said that the courses “would develop students intellectually, but not at the expense of the heart; that rich and poor meet on the grounds of equality; that worth, not dress, is valued and respected; that economy, not extravagance, is fostered; and that a desire for usefulness, not show, is promoted.” This commitment to a broad and useful education continues to this day.
The History and Political Science Program at Ashland University

Tired of boring textbooks? Want to read great books, study original documents, and discuss the big questions of history and politics? That’s what you’ll do in the History and Political Science programs at Ashland University. Uniquely combining history and politics, our classes engage you in serious conversation about everything from the collapse of the Roman Empire and the causes of the Civil War to the meaning of equality and Machiavelli’s advice on how to get and keep power.

The heart of our curriculum is to challenge you to re-examine your own opinions and habits of thought in the light of history and the world’s best books. If you embrace that challenge, you will be on the way to acquiring the intellectual skills and habits needed to become a responsible citizen and a genuinely free human being. In the process, you will learn much about the history and politics of the United States, Western Civilization, and the world; and you will acquire the important skills of careful reading, analyzing arguments, writing clearly, and speaking thoughtfully. Our approach has made History and Political Science into one of the most popular majors at Ashland University. Our graduates report that it has helped them succeed in professional and graduate schools and in a wide variety of careers.

HISTORY www.ashland.edu/history

By helping you interpret historical figures and events, by studying times and places very different from our own, and by examining the political, intellectual, and cultural forces that shape the modern world, our major in history will help you understand yourself and your world. At Ashland, you won’t study history to become a specialist in a particular area; rather, you will study it to become a student of history, in the best sense of the word — a student who can think critically about the past and its relevance to the present.

POLITICAL SCIENCE www.ashland.edu/polisci

Some people think that politics is all about voting and elections. At Ashland, we do study these things, but we put them in the context of a deeper examination of how and why human beings live together in political society. You’ll explore the most fundamental questions animating political life: What is justice? Who should rule? What is the best kind of society? For answers, you’ll turn to such great political thinkers as Plato, Aristotle, John Locke, and Alexander Hamilton, but also to the political thought of Shakespeare, Mark Twain, and the Bible. Other courses examine the world of political action: laws, governing institutions, international relations, and the words and deeds of great statesmen like Abraham Lincoln and Winston Churchill. This combination of political philosophy, political institutions, and statesmanship makes up Ashland’s vibrant program in political science.

OTHER MAJORS

For students interested in international affairs, we offer a BA in International Political Studies. This multi-disciplinary program combines courses in American, European, and World History, with courses in political philosophy, international politics, and economics. Students interested in high school teaching can pursue our comprehensive major in Integrated Social Studies (offered in partnership with the College of Education).

MASTERS OF AMERICAN HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT mahg.ashland.edu

This unique graduate program combines history and politics. Courses are week-long intensive seminars taught in the summer by prominent teachers and scholars from around the country. The program is designed for high school teachers, but it is open to anyone interested in graduate study.

THE ASHБROOK SCHOLAR PROGRAM AshbrookScholar.org

This is a scholarship program for students of political science, history, or integrated social studies education. In addition to their regular coursework, Ashbrook Scholars participate in a series of special events, colloquia with prominent scholars, and private seminars with some of the leading political actors of our time. The aim is to deepen and test your understanding of history and politics through conversation with people such as Margaret Thatcher, Clarence Thomas, Benjamin Netanyahu, Dick Cheney, and Colin Powell. Ashbrook Scholars must also write a thesis in their senior year.

“T]he unexamined life is not worth living for a human being.”

— Socrates

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