Political Science track

Emory’s Quantitative Sciences (QSS) major offers a rigorous and accessible way to combine mastery of quantitative approaches with whatever discipline or career path interests you. Our Political Science track will give you the fundamental skills to stand out in the increasingly data-driven world of political research.

Career options
Quantitatively trained political scientists can pursue careers that leverage their understanding of politics and policy and their rigorous research design and method skills. With this background, you’re prepared to work with everyone from the Department of Defense to political-strategy consultancies to global agencies like the World Health Organization. Knowing how to work with data also makes you attractive to survey and polling firms such as PEW, Nielsen, and YouGov. If you’re specifically interested in national security, numerous research institutes such as RAND Corporation and the Brookings Institute, as well as government agencies like the National Defense Research Institute, hire political scientists with quantitative backgrounds.
Research opportunities
Research in the field of political science examines the relationships underlying political events and conditions to construct general principles about the way the world of politics works.

- Researchers in political science might work with large cross-national datasets to test theories of institutional design and state building.
- Political scientists examine detailed Congressional voting records to better understand the role of political parties in legislative decision-making.

Graduate study
A background in quantitative political science prepares you for master’s and PhD programs in political science as well as related fields that include international studies, political economy, and economics. You’re also ready for graduate study in public health or public policy. Additionally, the combination of quantitative training and political science makes you highly competitive for law school.

Quantitative Sciences Program Requirements
As a QSS major, you must take:
- At least 7 QSS courses: 4 core and 3 upper-level electives

Upper-Level Electives
Topics may include computational modeling, advanced statistics, GIS, technical writing, longitudinal analysis, maximum likelihood estimation, and experimental methods, among others.

- A minimum of 6 additional courses in your chosen substantive track
- Additional electives (either in the QSS major or in your substantive track) may need to be taken to fulfill the QSS degree requirements.

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