



# Political Science

**Department of Political Science**  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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## KEY STRENGTHS

- Besides offering a Bachelor of Arts in political science, the department also serves the university and the community through special programs.
- The Jack Pope Fellows Program, established by the trustees of Abilene Christian University to honor Judge Jack Pope, former Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court and an ACU alumnus, awards scholarships to outstanding ACU students who intend to pursue careers in public service.
- Five political science majors have been honored as fellows for the Center of the Study of the Presidency in Washington, D.C.
- The department offers a certificate in International Relations and Comparative Politics.
- Faculty members are active in the American Political Science Association and the International Studies Association. The department sponsors a chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, and the National Political Science Honor Society.

## DEGREES OFFERED

- Bachelor of Arts

## MAJORS AVAILABLE

- Political science

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Government service
- Communication journalism
- Law
- Secondary teaching
- College teaching
- Business

## STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Off-campus study and research opportunities

- Public service internship

### Scholarships available

- ACT/SAT Academic Scholarships
- Trent and Nell Meaders Scholarship
- Pat and Joann Sublett Scholarship
- Gary and Nancy Thompson Scholarship
- Ted Poe Scholarship

Please consult with your admissions counselor for details on these and other scholarships available to you.

## FACILITIES

Every classroom has access to C-SPAN I and II so students may monitor proceedings in Congress. Students also have daily access to the Congressional Record, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, Lexis/Nexis and the Internet. ACU's Brown Library is a selective depository for U.S. government documents and publications.

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

- Kasey Pipes**, class of 1996; speechwriter, George W. Bush Presidential Campaign, Austin, Texas.
- Jeff Clark**, class of 1992; executive director, National Federation of Independent Business (Texas), Austin, Texas.
- Brenda Dillard, J.D.**, class of 1991; Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Thousand Oaks, Calif.
- Neely Frye**, class of 1991; associate director, Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Hummelstown, Pa.
- Karen Mitchell, J.D.**, class of 1986; clerk of Northern District of Texas Federal Courts, Irving, Texas.
- Len Wade, J.D.**, class of 1983; 141st district court judge, Tarrant County, Fort Worth, Texas.
- Ron Holifield**, class of 1980; principal government relations specialist, National Consulting Firm, DeSoto, Texas.
- Terry Childers**, class of 1974; former city manager of Oklahoma City, Okla.; president, Childers Construction, Inc., Tyler, Texas.
- Ted Poe, J.D.**, class of 1970; former judge, 228th State District Court, Houston, Texas; U.S. House of Representatives, 2nd Congressional District.
- Mary Volcansek, Ph.D.**, class of 1970; dean, AddRan College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas.
- James David Woodard, Ph.D.**, class of 1970; professor, Department of Political Science, Clemson University, Clemson, S.C.

## RECENT GRADUATES

- Brian Weber**, class of 2003; Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.
- Angela Lello**, class of 2002; Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, Austin, Texas.
- Lori Halstead, J.D.**, class of 2001; graduate of Harvard Law School; attorney, The Beckett Fund for Religious Liberty, Washington, D.C.
- Carrie Denbleyker, M.A.**, class of 2001; graduate of University of Denver School of International Studies, Denver, Colo.
- Kevin Christian, J.D.**, class of 2000; graduate of The University of Texas School of Law, Governor's regional liaison for the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office, Abilene, Texas.
- Adam Parish, M.P.Aff.**, class of 1999; graduate of Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, pilot, U.S. Navy.

## FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

**Mel Hailey** – University Teacher of the Year, 1991; College of Liberal and Fine Arts Faculty Member of the Year, 1989-90; Research Award, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1989; Student Mentoring Award, College of Arts and Sciences, 2001-02; and Areté Award, Abilene Chamber of Commerce for exemplary community service, 2004.

**David Dillman** – Trevelyan College Research Fellow, Durham University, Durham, England, Summer 1990; Teacher of the Year in liberal arts presented by the College of Business Administration, 1993; and Teacher of the Year presented by the College of Arts and Sciences, 1997.

**Neal Coates** – University Seminar Teacher of the Year, 2003-04; Colleague Service Award, College of Arts and Sciences, 2006-07.

**Caron E. Gentry** – Honors Program Professor of the Year, 2006-07; Lilly Summer Fellowship, 2005.

## FACULTY

**Neal Coates, Ph.D.**, *professor*; B.A., Abilene Christian University, 1987; J.D., The University of Kansas, 1990; M.A., University of Connecticut, 1998; Ph.D., University of Connecticut, 2004.

**David L. Dillman, Ph.D.**, *professor*; B.S., Abilene Christian University, 1970; M.A., University of Houston, 1974; Ph.D., University of Massachusetts, 1982.

**Caron E. Gentry, Ph.D.**, *assistant professor*; B.A., Mount Holyoke College, 1999; Ph.D., University of St. Andrews, 2003.

**Mel Hailey, Ph.D.**, *professor, chair*; B.A., Abilene Christian University, 1971; M.A., Texas Tech University, 1973; Ph.D., Texas Tech University, 1988.

**Gary Thompson, Ph.D.**, *professor emeritus*; B.S., Abilene Christian University, 1960; M.A., University of Arkansas, 1973; Ph.D., University of North Texas, 1983.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### ***About the Department***

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### ***About ACU and Admissions***

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