



University of New Haven

**UNDERGRADUATE**

# POLITICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM



**B.A. POLITICAL SCIENCE**



## DEAN'S MESSAGE

**W**elcome to the Political Science program at the University of New Haven! We have a long history of preparing students for satisfying careers in public service and law. We are proud of the program's record of developing leaders who are critical and independent thinkers, strong and clear communicators and adept at working in teams.

The Political Science program exemplifies the University's commitment to experiential learning. Classroom activities are designed for maximum engagement and deep learning. You will work in teams on simulations, visit with legislators, policy makers and opinion leaders, and learn the nuts and bolts of the political and legislative world. Students can participate in a wide variety of internships tailored to their interests. You also can choose to work on projects of regional, national and international scope with members of our top-notch faculty.

The University of New Haven offers a wealth of activities, allowing students to actively participate and learn about political issues. The Model United Nations club successfully competes with students from around the nation. The student-run Political Science Organization sponsors coffee hours, talks by prominent speakers, panel discussions and other activities designed to get everyone more politically engaged. I am proud to see students of every political persuasion regularly come together to discuss sensitive topics in an atmosphere of intelligent and respectful dialogue. If only our Congress could follow their lead!

With our flexible curriculum, you can easily combine a major or minor in political science with another discipline. Developing expertise in business, science, history, communication, criminal justice or other areas of interest will give you a professional edge and make you well-positioned for a rapidly changing career environment.

Thank you for your interest in our political science program and the University of New Haven. We strive to prepare you for success in a life of purpose and fulfillment.

All the best,

Lourdes Alvarez, Ph.D.  
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

*“The Political Science program exemplifies the University’s commitment to experiential learning. Classroom activities are designed for maximum engagement and deep learning.”*

## COORDINATOR'S WELCOME

**O**n behalf of the Political Science faculty, I would like to convey how excited we are that you are considering the political science program at the University of New Haven! Whether you are a prospective student or parent, I trust that in the pages of our Political Science program brochure, you will learn what makes UNH a special place for those seeking an education and career in the world of politics.

The primary objective of our program is to offer courses and activities that foster and develop the skills that will best position our students for future employment or post-graduate education. We know without a doubt that when it comes to a future career in a political science-related field or post-graduate study, the graduate most highly valued is the one who can think and write critically, interact socially with a diverse audience, problem-solve in a way that indicates self-motivation and resourcefulness, and effectively communicate his or her thoughts and ideas.

To this end, we have crafted a program that highlights the development of these skills — one that places a high value on experiential learning opportunities. For example, our “Ideas into Law” course enhances problem-solving, critical thinking, and social interaction skills by asking students to propose, analyze, and present solutions to real-life problems to the mayor of West Haven, Edward O'Brien. In the fall of 2014, students conducted important public opinion research for the Mayor's office, shedding light on the concerns and issues that West Haven residents found most pressing.

In addition, in our award-winning Model United Nations (MUN) program, we train 12–15 students in the art and skill of diplomacy, problem solving, and persuasion. The culmination of the MUN experience includes attendance at national conferences in New York and Washington, D.C., where UNH

students network with hundreds of other like-minded students in a competition to propose and pass a variety of solutions to the world's most pressing problems.

As you read through this brochure, I encourage you to think about how each part of the political science program relates to our primary objective of skill development. Whether it is our emphasis on joint student-faculty research through the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, the networking opportunities with such notables as Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman or U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro that stem from our Political Science Speaker Series, or our Washington, D.C. and Hartford internship programs, I am confident that you will recognize the clear emphasis our program places on giving students the opportunity to gain the skills and knowledge necessary to be successful in gaining a career or acceptance to law or graduate school.

Finally, our program has dedicated faculty members who are deeply invested in the educational, personal, and career-oriented success of each of our political science majors. Each student is given individual advising and mentoring with a faculty member, which includes course planning, goal-setting, and post-graduate preparations.

Once again, I want to express our excitement about your interest in the UNH Political Science program and encourage you to become a part of our political science family!

With best wishes,



Chris Haynes, Ph.D.  
Coordinator, Political Science Program



*“The primary objective of our program is to offer courses and activities that foster and develop the skills that will best position our students for future employment or post-graduate education.”*

# FACULTY

Instead of the traditional lecture style of teaching, our faculty have incorporated a much more practical approach that values experiential learning. Whether it is field-based learning in Hartford at the state Capitol or personal mentoring to prepare for a career in law, our faculty are committed to a hands-on approach to learning that emphasizes why politics matter. Our faculty members are:

- ▶ **Professors with a variety of backgrounds within the arena of political science who bring extensive academic and professional experience to your courses.**
- ▶ **Approachable mentors who are personally invested in your success.**
- ▶ **Instructors who are excited to get to know you and help you evolve academically, professionally, and personally.**

## MEET OUR FULL-TIME FACULTY:

### **Natalie Ferringer, Ph.D.**

Dr. Ferringer's topical focus is on international relations and comparative politics with a focus on the Middle East. She earned her Ph.D. and Masters at the University of Virginia and her Bachelors at Temple University.

### **Joshua Sandman, Ph.D.**

Dr. Sandman earned his Ph.D., Masters and Bachelors in Political Science from New York University. His main research interest is the American presidency including; White House crisis management; agenda setting and public policy making; and the political use of shared values, media, rhetoric and symbol. Dr. Sandman's other research interests are congress, interest groups and political parties and elections.

### **Howard Stoffer, Ph.D.**

Dr. Stoffer earned his Ph.D., Masters of Arts, Masters of Philosophy, and Bachelors from Columbia University. He went on to serve in the Foreign Service of the United



States from 1980 to 2005, retiring as a member of the Senior Foreign Service of the Department of State. He served for seven years as the Deputy Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate of the United Nations Security Council.

### **Chris Haynes, Ph.D.**

Chris Haynes is an Assistant Professor of Political Science. He is a former Visiting Fellow at the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, UC-San Diego and has earned a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, Riverside. His NSF-funded dissertation examined the effects of empathy on immigration policy preferences.

### **Matthew Schmidt, Ph.D.**

Matthew Schmidt is a dual appointee in National Security and Political Science. Dr. Schmidt's research focuses on strategic decision-making. Previously he taught military operations planning and political science at the U.S. Army's School of Advanced Military Studies. Schmidt holds a Ph.D. in Government from Georgetown University and an M.A. in Russian Studies from the University of Kansas.

### **Patricia Crouse, Ph.D.**

Dr. Patricia A. Crouse earned a Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma, a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Connecticut. One of Dr. Crouse's main areas of research interest is elections and electoral behavior, particularly the Electoral College.

# INTERNSHIPS



## DID YOU KNOW:

- ▶ **76%** of employers indicate their primary purpose for sponsoring interns is to recruit entry-level talent.
- ▶ **58.6%** of 2011 interns were converted to full-time. In addition, 36% more companies offered internships in 2012 versus 2011.
- ▶ **83%** of employers report higher retention rates for those new hires with internship experience versus those with none.

The University of New Haven is a recognized leader in experiential education, which provides students with the experience employers are looking for. Completing an internship is one of the pillars of experiential learning — supplying the foundation needed to build your resume while still in school. Political science students can apply for internships in the Connecticut General Assembly, the U.S. Senate and Congress, the United Nations, the State Department, and many other government entities. Motivated students can take advantage of the experience and contacts of our faculty to create individualized internships that develop job skills and open networking opportunities.

### Some internship opportunities that students can take advantage of at the University of New Haven include:

**Washington, D.C.** — Students will live, learn, and engage on site through a wide variety of programs available through the Washington, D.C. internship program. They will attend classes at George Mason University while interning in their program of interest, all while living in D.C. and experiencing all that the location has to offer. [www.DCinternships.org](http://www.DCinternships.org)

**CT General Assembly** — Recognizing the need to provide educational opportunities not typically available to students in the traditional academic setting, the Connecticut General Assembly has established an internship program to acquaint students with both the formal and informal aspects of the legislative process. Accordingly, the program seeks to encourage a high level of personal interaction between legislators and interns, who serve as aides to their assigned legislators. A major objective of the program is to prepare interns to perform the necessary support services desired by the legislators for whom they are working; i.e., bill analysis and tracking, spot and in-depth research, drafting of news releases and speeches, liaison work, constituent casework, etc. [www.cga.ct.gov/isc](http://www.cga.ct.gov/isc)

**State Department** — Political Science students can experience the thrill and rewards of working in a student program at the U.S. Department of State through their highly competitive internship program. The program allows students to undertake a substantial internship supporting U.S. foreign policy and preparing for a potential career in the foreign service. At the U.S. Department of State, students will have the opportunity to gain insight into U.S. foreign policy and diplomacy, explore new career avenues, and acquire lifelong skills as you represent America to the world.

# B.A. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE



**Power brokers, kingmakers, back-room lobbyists — people whose names we don't know and whose faces we've never seen. Politicians, pundits, campaigners — the ones we do see.** They all exert their influence on our lives. When that exertion meets the people's will, what happens? You'll explore that gripping question, with its constantly changing answers, in our political science bachelor's degree program.

## Get into the thick of it.

Headlines, news flashes, and sound bites only point to what's going on. You will understand what is happening as you study American government and politics at the federal, state, and local level. You'll examine U.S. foreign policy, public interest groups, judicial behavior, international law,

and compare other countries political systems. That's for starters. Then, as you progress, you'll see how and where you can have a bigger role in the political system.

## Focus on a specific area.

On their own, few politicians fully comprehend all the issues that affect their constituents. They hire teams of expert analysts and consultants to keep themselves informed. They also need strategists, researchers, coordinators, and publicists. That's where you come in. Choose an area that excites you, like government, international relations, public policy, or campaign management, and we'll help you become a political go-to person.

The U.S. Foreign Service is another career path for political science majors. The degree is also superb training for the field of law, as it teaches you critical thinking skills in logic, writing, and analysis.

Courses for the B.A. in Political Science include the University core requirements, required common courses in the major, plus electives.

## REQUIRED COURSES

- PSCI 1121 American Government and Politics
- PSCI 2241 International Relations
- PSCI 2243 International Law and Organizations
- PSCI 2261 Modern Political Analysis
- PSCI 2262 Investigative Methods in Political Science
- PSCI 2280–2285 Comparative Political Systems
- PSCI 3304 Political Parties
  - OR PSCI 3308 Legislative Process
  - OR PSCI 3309 The American Presidency
  - OR PSCI 2224 Public Attitudes and Public Policy
- PSCI 4461 Ancient and Medieval Political Theory
  - OR PSCI 4462 Modern and Contemporary Political Theory
- PSCI 3332 Constitutional Law
- One Experiential Learning Course**
  - PSCI 4415/4450 Internship
    - OR PSCI 3333 Ideas Into Law
    - OR other approved experiential learning course
  - PSCI 4499 Senior Seminar Capstone

## Four Political Science electives

# CURRICULUM & HIGHLIGHTED COURSES

## HIGHLIGHTED COURSES

**PSCI 4494 – History and Development of the United Nations:** A study of the formation of the United Nations system, the drafting of the United Nations Charter, function of its principal organs, evolution of the role and structure of the Organization from 1945 to present day, and its impact on international relations and conflict resolution.

## SPOTLIGHT ON

### **PSCI 3333 Ideas into Law (Fall 2014)**

Students of Ideas into Law spent the early part of the semester learning about the science of polling and public opinion. In cooperation with West Haven Mayor Edward O'Brien's office, students created a survey to measure public opinion in West Haven in light of current events. On Election Day, students and volunteers ventured out to the polls to administer hundreds of surveys of voters. The information from the surveys will be collected and presented to Mayor O'Brien in the hope of providing him with a better understanding of the thoughts and concerns of his constituents.

**PSCI 3310 – The Politics of U.S. Immigration:** This course addresses a controversial political issue. It is part-seminar, part-lecture, and part experiential learning. Students learn, discuss, and interact with the complex topic that is immigration. The course describes and explains a range of different immigration policies. It also facilitates a broader discussion of immigration policy within its particular political and historical context.

**PSCI 3355 – Terrorism:** This course examines the modern application of terrorism in international affairs by paying special attention to ideological and infrastructure determinants. It explores the role of terror in modern society as well as its implications and origins.

## SPECIAL TOPICS COURSES

**Washington, D.C.: Power and Politics:** Students learn about the history and structure of the American foreign policy establishment through the lens of current events. The course centers on a visit to the nation's capital in the spring. Students will meet current and former government officials, visit offices, and tour the city.

**The Presidency and the Media:** This course deals with the complex relationship between the two, offering a basic review of the presidential office and the nature of the media. The class explores how the president attempts to reach the public and thereby influence those in the political arena. In addition, it deals with how the media frame issues and events and what impact this framing has on the ability of the president to exercise leadership. The class studies how the president and the public use media outlets to communicate and what role the media play in presidential elections.



## JOSHUA SANDMAN, PH.D.

# FACULTY PROFILE

### What is your educational background?

I received my Bachelors, Masters and Ph.D. in Political Science from New York University.

### What is your academic passion?

My main research interest is the American presidency. I have written academic journal articles and presented academic conference papers on presidential leadership; White House crisis management; agenda setting and

public policy making; and the political use of shared values, media, rhetoric and symbol. Other research interests are Congress, interest groups, political parties, and elections. My teaching goal is to assist the student in developing critical thinking, analytical and writing skills and to promote an intellectual classroom environment.

I am active professionally in political science associations such as the American Political Science Association, Northeastern Political Science Association, Southern Political Science Association, and the Northeast Association of Pre-Law Advisors.

### What are you most proud of?

I am most proud that I have been able to assist many in pursuing their career goal of attending law school. I have been the Pre-Law advisor at the University of New Haven for several decades. During this time, I have been able to help my students gain admission to prestigious law school programs at institutions such as George Washington University, Columbia University, Yale University, New York University, University of Connecticut, Quinnipiac University, Tulane University, and more. I am proud to say that many graduates of the political science program are now prominent attorneys throughout the nation.

### How long have you taught at UNH and what courses do you teach?

I have been a professor at the University of New Haven for over four decades. My area of expertise is the American Presidency. But I also teach courses in a diversity of areas

such as American Government and Politics, Legislative Processes, Political Parties, Judicial Behavior, Modern Political Analysis, State and Local Government, Interest Groups, and a new Honors Program course in the Presidency and the Media.

### What advice would you give parents of prospective students?

I would tell parents to trust that the political science department at UNH will help their child to develop intellectually and be well prepared for a career. We value the importance of an interactive relationship between faculty and students and are truly a student-focused department and University. Students will get to know their professors. Professors will help students grow academically and mature their career potential through experiential learning. Encourage your child to take advantage of the fact that their professors will truly care about them and their success.

### What is your favorite thing about the University of New Haven?

UNH encourages the faculty to work with their students and help them grow and develop into people who are prepared for a career and life. We have a Dean who challenges us to create an intellectual learning environment. I feel that this type of environment is extremely important for our students, and it is definitely my favorite aspect of the University of New Haven.

### How does the University of New Haven's Political Science program differ from those of other colleges and universities?

Our program stands out because of our faculty. We have a very active faculty and active student groups. We also provide a lot of student services. Because we are a relatively small school, we are able to offer small class sizes and do a lot of hands-on advising. At other schools, students don't often get to work as closely with their professors. Our faculty are always available, meet with students regularly, and truly mentor students. The availability they have really helps the students become successful and have a very personalized academic experience. We also offer a lot of cutting-edge courses that are relevant to all aspects of the world around us. These courses are oriented to experiential learning and towards the students using their analytical, critical reading and thinking skills. Our programs allow students to truly prepare for the careers they are hoping to pursue.

# FACULTY PROFILE

## HOWARD STOFFER, PH.D.



### What is your educational background?

My entire education was at Columbia University. I went to Columbia College and then enrolled in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, where I received my M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D.

### What is your academic passion?

My academic passion is teaching, especially the experiential component. Even though I am in a tenure track position, I am also a practitioner. In the National Security program, I try very hard to simulate real conditions in the realm of government or international service. For example, I simulate a United Nations Security Council meeting with my students to show them how that body conducts business, or I organize a simulated meeting at which students brief me as the President of the United States. In the example of a course I offered last summer on Syria, I had the class represent the different factions of the Syrian conflict and all of the countries involved. We had a crisis simulation to attempt to resolve the situation. For me, this is the most exciting part of teaching.

In terms of a concentration, I think my academic passion comes down to international relations and area studies. In graduate school, I found Russian-area studies fascinating, especially arms control. I also was deeply attracted to studying the Middle East, and, as a U.S. representative, I later became engaged in its many controversies. Working as a diplomat in Asia was also an absolute eye-opener for me.

### What are you most proud of?

I am proud of many things in my student life and career. I was in the Soviet Union when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. I was proud to be out in the streets and then reporting to Washington when the turrets of the tanks turned from facing the Russian parliament to defending the Russian parliament. It was a pretty amazing moment. There were many shots fired during those three days of the Soviet coup, and some of us received awards for valor and superior reporting.

I'm also proud of the work I did for the Middle East peace process. Although it did not result in a settlement, all of us worked very hard during the mid-1990s. I was stationed in Tel Aviv and worked in Jerusalem, and I often visited the territories with the Secretary of State. Finally, I'm very proud of the work I carried out as a Deputy Director of the Counter Terrorism Office of the Security Council inside the United Nations. I think we helped a number of States strengthen

their efforts to prevent terrorists from operating in their respective countries. I think my seven years of service as Deputy Director were a very important part of my life.

### How long have you taught at UNH and what courses do you teach?

I came to UNH as an adjunct professor in 2011 while I was still a Deputy Director of the Counter Terrorism Office in the UN. I started teaching full-time in the fall of 2012. Some of the courses I have offered were special topic classes based on conflicts in Syria, Israel, and the Middle East. I also teach a United Nations Development course and a class on Counter Terrorism and International Organizations, and I hope in the future to offer a course on the Policies of Weapons of Mass Destruction. I try to teach as many different courses with as much variety as possible.

### How would you describe your role as an advisor and mentor?

My role as an advisor and mentor for undergraduates and graduate students is to help them with their projects and have a fruitful education at UNH. My responsibilities include guiding and supporting students in their decision after graduation, whether it is focusing on a career or pursuing professional studies like law school or graduate school. I made the decision in my own case to earn a Ph.D., enter the State Department, and, much later in my life, work for the United Nations. I think my experiences help me serve as a knowledgeable resource to assist students, particularly in finding jobs. Parents and prospective students both ask, "Where are all the jobs?" There are, in fact, a lot of them out there, but you have to know where to look. Helping students focus on a career and establish their working credentials is my main focus.

### What is your favorite thing about the University of New Haven?

One of my favorite things about UNH is the people — the students, faculty, and staff. The faculty is incredibly supportive. I find that they come from many walks of life, not just from one field of academic or practitioner experience. I'm a member of the Faculty Senate, and I encounter faculty across many disciplines. The people who are a part of the UNH community come here to teach, work, and interact with a wide variety of students in order to give them the best possible experience they can. I find this level of commitment very exciting and encouraging. To me, it is the most attractive part about teaching at the University.



## MATTHEW SCHMIDT, PH.D.

# FACULTY PROFILE

### What is your educational background?

I earned a B.A. in Literature and Government from Claremont McKenna College. I received

my M.A. in Russian & East European Studies from the University of Kansas, and my Ph.D. in Government from Georgetown University.

### What is your academic passion?

I'm passionate about politics, which is the art and science of how people live together. I am fascinated by how groups make decisions. I study strategic decision-making, which is how decisions are made when people are deeply uncertain about future conditions but must make decisions about how to act now. People live together in societies and make these kinds of strategic decisions about all sorts of things, and they're really terrible at it — I'm intrigued by that.

### What are you most proud of?

My kids. I love how inquisitive, kind, and generous of spirit they are. But that's a cliché answer. Professionally, I am most proud of the work I've done with military officers and educating them on how to make good decisions when employing (or not employing) violence. I also try to teach the same concepts to my students here. It's a way of thinking that I hope they'll carry on with them years from now when they take on leadership positions in politics or national security and my kids are in their charge.

### How long have you taught at UNH and what courses do you teach?

I joined the faculty fairly recently — in 2013. I teach both graduate and undergraduate courses ranging from U.S. Foreign Defense Policy to Terrorism.

### What is a fun fact about you?

In 2012, I was ranked #22 on Fast Company's "Top 100 Most Creative People in Business"... I beat Wes Anderson!

### What advice would you give parents of prospective students?

It is important that students and their parents understand that potential employers are looking for employees with applicable skills — one of the most important being critical thinking. Students need to not only absorb information, but also analyze it and apply it to the world around them. I believe the role of the teacher in conveying this idea is founded in straightforwardness — showing students how to constructively observe themselves and grow from those experiences.

### What is your favorite thing about the University of New Haven?

My colleagues. They energize me with their enthusiasm for the students, and they teach me things from their own concentrations that enrich my own. The faculty here are a tremendous support system for me and so are Deans Mario Gaboury and Lourdes Alvarez. They're truly rare leaders in academia. They're gutsy about trying new things, while most administrators are risk averse. And, they're accessible to me as faculty — I feel that I can always go to them for support. This kind of faculty and administration are what keep UNH on a strong upward trajectory as a school. Students don't often see this side of an institution, but it's critical, and UNH does a great job at it.

### How does the University of New Haven's Political Science program differ from those of other colleges and universities?

When talking about the program here at UNH, I like the term "impact learning." What I mean by that is providing students with opportunities for contextual learning. The political science program provides courses with simulations and real-world field research. Students have the opportunity to appreciate the impossible choices many of our leaders have to make. It is so important for students to be able to understand the intricacies of the decision-making process.

# FACULTY PROFILE

## PATRICIA CROUSE, PH.D.



### What is your educational background?

I have a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Connecticut, a Master of Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma, and a Ph.D. in Political Science, also from the University of Oklahoma.

### What is your academic passion?

My academic passion is having the ability to teach something I love — politics and political science. Being able to be in a classroom every day and transfer that passion to students is very gratifying. The political world is constantly changing. I want my students to understand that politics and political science are about more than what we learn in a textbook. It's about how the real world and political decisions affect their lives every day. If we really want things to change in this country, we must be a part of the process.

### What are you most proud of?

I am most proud of my son, who is an amazing human being, but second to him would be my education. I was not a traditional student when I pursued my graduate degree, which made it very challenging. Unlike most students in my program, I worked full time while taking classes, and I had a family. My husband was often deployed during this period as an active-duty member of the Air Force, which often left me as a “single” parent. Most of my schoolwork got done between 10:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m., and then I would get up at 6:00 a.m. to start my day all over again. It probably took me longer than most students to complete my Ph.D., but I did it, which is the most important thing.

### How long have you taught at UNH and what courses do you teach?

I have been teaching at UNH for a year and a half. I currently teach introductory courses — American Government and Politics, State and Local Government, and Introduction to Politics.

### How would you describe your role as an advisor and mentor?

I think we should be advising and mentoring our students every day in the classroom. I like to talk a lot about the real world when I teach because I want students to understand that nothing comes easily. They can make a difference, and yes, change the world, but it takes hard work and effort. Their degree is simply a piece of paper and will take them only so far. It is up to them to see how far they can go.

### What are some fun facts about you?

My husband was a member of the Air Force for 20 years, so we moved, on average, every three to five years. From 1989 to 2009, I lived in three different states (New York, Oklahoma, and Virginia) and two different countries (Japan and Germany). While in Japan and Germany, we also visited 11 different countries. A not-so-fun fact is that I tried to learn both the Japanese and German languages and failed miserably.

### What advice would you give parents of prospective students?

I would tell them to listen to their kids. I have seen so many students choose a particular major because it is what their parents wanted them to do, not because it was what they wanted to do. I think you have to give your kids the freedom to make their own choices and mistakes in order for them to succeed in life. If they are old enough to go to college, they are old enough to make their own decisions. To get the most out of college, students need to have a passion for what they are studying.

### What is your favorite thing about the University of New Haven?

My favorite thing is the small student body. It allows for smaller classes and closer relationships with students. I like that I can walk across campus and see familiar faces every day; students and faculty don't get lost in the crowd.



# STUDENT PROFILE

## MELISSA PEIL

**Major:** Political Science  
and Global Studies

**Class:** Freshman

**Hometown:** Syracuse, New York

### Why did you choose to attend UNH?

I chose the University of New Haven based on the quality programs and ranking of the school itself. I also loved the friendly environment. Everyone is always willing and eager to provide help when you need it. The location was key for me as well. It offers opportunities for all majors and interests.

### What was the hardest part about making the transition from high school to UNH?

The hardest part is holding yourself accountable. You make all of your own decisions and no matter how they turn out you are responsible for them. Realizing you have that much responsibility is a bit overwhelming, but once you figure it out it becomes empowering knowing you are self-dependent.

### What do you like most about UNH?

The greatest thing about UNH is the amount of options they have to help you. There's never a time where you don't have someone to get help from for absolutely anything. The staff is warm and friendly and you don't feel pressured when you need to reach out.

### What extracurricular clubs and organizations are you involved in?

I'm currently involved in Model United Nations. We recently went to our first conference in Washington, D.C. and we were selected as a distinguished delegation. It was a great feeling and experience. We're taking a trip to a New York City conference in March!

### What are your plans for the future?

I hope to go to law school after graduating from UNH. After that I hope to become a court judge or become a part of congress. Who knows — one day I could be running for office!

### What is your favorite UNH tradition?

Homecoming! I love all the activities going on and the energy on campus. It's great to feel all the school spirit in one place, and I enjoy watching the game with friends.

### What do you feel you are getting out of your major?

Being in a politically inclined major means I'm constantly forming opinions about things that happen in the world daily. I love being up to date with important issues and being passionate about them. It makes me feel connected to the rest of the world.

### Do you have any advice for students and families interested in UNH?

Don't be nervous to find out what you want! Just because you're starting college doing one thing doesn't mean you're going to end doing the same.

# STUDENT PROFILE

## Why did you choose to attend UNH?

I chose UNH for a number of reasons. First, I fell in love with its New England charm. From the architecture of the buildings to the friendliness of the staff, everything about UNH felt like home. Secondly, I chose UNH because it is home to a fantastic pre-education program. I hope to one day become a secondary history teacher with a special focus on American government and politics. Lastly, I decided UNH was the best fit for me because of its focus on experiential education. I knew it would provide me with the experiences I would need to excel in my career and become an outstanding member of society.

## What was the hardest part about making the transition from high school to UNH?

I would definitely say the increase in responsibility was the hardest part about my transition from high school to UNH. After my first day of classes, all of a sudden I realized that it was up to me to keep track of everything: meet deadlines, make calls, etc. Luckily, I invested in a personal planner and quickly adapted!

## What do you like most about UNH?

The greatest feature of UNH is definitely the sense of community. The faculty know all of their students' names here. UNH is much more than a university; it's a family.

## What extracurricular clubs and organizations are you involved in?

I'm involved in three different honors programs: the UNH Honors program, Phi Alpha Theta, and Alpha Lambda Delta. I am the President and Founder of the Pre-Law Society here at UNH. We are a student-run organization dedicated to aiding and

guiding students through the law school application process. Even though we are a relatively new organization, we aim and strive to make a difference through community service events, hosting guest speakers, panels, and much more. I'm also a member of the Future Teacher's Club.

## What is your favorite UNH tradition?

There are so many to choose from, but my absolute favorite tradition is the homecoming tailgate. It's always amazing to see students, faculty, families, and alumni come together to cheer on our great football team. In fact, at Homecoming there are no labels; everyone is simply a member of the Charger family.

## What do you feel you are getting out of your major?

As a political science major, I am gaining the knowledge and experience needed to excel in the real world after I graduate. This discipline is providing me with the skills necessary to succeed in all situations and challenges thrown my way. I am very confident that as a political science major I can better handle the obstacles that are presented to me throughout my entire life.

## Do you have any advice for students and families interested in UNH?

I advise students and their families to visit UNH in order to gain personal understanding of the university's sense of community, top-notch academic programs, and diverse student organizations. Take tours, meet with admissions counselors, research our many successful alumni, and trust me, it is impossible not to fall in love at first sight with UNH.



## CRISTAL REYES

**Major:** Political Science with a minor in History

**Class:** Senior

**Hometown:** Yonkers, New York



## PAUL RAFFILE

**Major:** Political Science and Criminal Justice: International Justice and Security

**Class:** Senior

**Hometown:** Wallingford, Connecticut

# STUDENT PROFILE

### Why did you choose to attend UNH?

I chose UNH because of its size. There is a great faculty-to-student ratio here, and it helps students get the one-on-one attention they deserve. Students have the opportunity to customize their learning experience to fit whatever their goals are for the future, which is especially good for independent study courses. It's very easy for a student to pursue a topic that interests them, find a faculty member to serve as a mentor, and then spend a semester conducting research in that specific field.

### What was the hardest part about making the transition from high school to UNH?

I spent my first semester abroad in Seville, Spain in a program designed specifically for incoming freshmen. It was such a great opportunity! There were concerns about studying abroad my first semester — one of them was that I wouldn't integrate well back into campus after the experience. But, I actually feel studying abroad made my adjustment even easier because I already had a core group of friends to help support me in my transition to UNH.

### What do you like most about UNH?

The greatest feature of UNH is its focus on experiential education. The University prides itself on being a leader in experiential education, the four pillars of which include study abroad, faculty-mentored research, internships, and academic service learning. UNH really puts an emphasis on students learning outside of the classroom as much as they do inside it. I would say that having the opportunity to study abroad through UNH has given me some of the best experiences of my life.

### What extracurricular clubs and organizations are you involved in?

I am involved in the Political Science Organization, the American Criminal Justice Association, the Sigma Chi Fraternity, the Under-

graduate Student Government Association, the Victimology Club, and the Coalition to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

### What are your plans for the future?

At this point, I want to keep all of my options open. But I am definitely looking into foreign service careers with the Department of State or working in a federal criminal justice agency.

### What is your favorite UNH tradition?

My favorite UNH tradition is Welcome Week because there are a ton of great events packed into one week on campus. The activities include trips to Broadway and amusement parks as well as a bunch of other events on and off campus. Welcome Week is a great time for returning students and new students alike to intermingle and get involved on campus.

### What do you feel you are getting out of your major?

I feel that my major can relate a lot to my future career — it has provided a great foundation for where I want to be after college. In fact, everything — from the major-specific classes to some of the core classes — culminates in a solid foundation for a career. Studying political science allows me to take a step back from some of the local and national concerns we worry about. I have the ability to look at the big picture and ask, "How does each individual state play a role on the world stage?"

### Do you have any advice for students and their families interested in UNH?

Definitely consider how well different programs have demonstrated their ability to bridge the interdisciplinary gap. You see a lot of students at UNH double majoring or minoring with political science and other majors, which shows how we strive to educate and develop well-rounded individuals who will contribute to today's society.

# STUDENT PROFILE

## Why did you choose to attend UNH?

I attended a much larger university prior to UNH and found myself at odds with the enormous class sizes. I truly value the close academic relationships I have been able to build at UNH. More important, this university provides a number of experiential learning opportunities, which I know will prove to be valuable when I enter the job market. Also, as a veteran, UNH has done a great job of reintroducing me to academia after serving in the military.

## What was the hardest part about making the transition from high school to UNH?

Actually, my difficulty was in transitioning from the military to college. The hardest part was maintaining self-motivation. In the military, someone is always checking in on you, but in college, you have to hold yourself accountable.

## What do you like most about UNH?

Because the political science program is small, I feel very connected to my professors and fully aware of the opportunities available to me. In my previous, larger university, those relationships were much harder to come by.

## What extracurricular clubs and organizations are you involved in?

I have been involved with WNHU — the University's radio station; the UNH College Democrats, which is now the Political Science Organization; and more recently, I am a founding member of the Model UN program.

## What are your plans for the future?

I was recently accepted to the Master of Education program here at UNH, which I intend to pursue. During that time, I will be looking into political and governmental consulting.

## What do you feel you are getting out of your major?

Because of my connections to the faculty, I have been able to take part in a number of internships and experiential learning opportunities.

## Do you have any advice for students and families interested in UNH?

UNH provides a number of opportunities to “think outside of the box.” I can't encourage students enough to take advantage of those opportunities. Hands-on learning and experience in the field will help students to become well-rounded and more marketable to potential employers.



## JAMES HART

**Major:** Political Science

**Class:** Senior

**Hometown:** Moultonborough,  
New Hampshire

# ALUMNI PROFILE



## MEGAN SEIFARTH, '14

Political Science  
with minors in History  
and Legal Studies

*“The courses in the political science program allowed me to experience the diverse career paths I could pursue with my degree.”*

### What are you currently doing, and how did you get there?

I am currently moving down to Nashville, Tennessee to work for a national non-profit called Rebuilding Together. I was extended this opportunity through AmeriCorps. I will be the Outreach Program Director for the Nashville area in the upcoming year where I will be hosting events and gaining the interest of the surrounding community for the organization. My main task is to educate people of the Nashville area on the mission of Rebuilding Together and how they can get involved in the movement. I decided to check out the program after hearing such great stories from my friends who were currently serving.

### How did UNH prepare you for life after college?

UNH helped me prepare for life after college by providing a variety of classes. The courses in the political science program allowed me to experience the diverse career paths I could pursue with my degree. Some of the different routes highlighted for me included campaign involvement, local governmental work, or even going on to law school. But I decided I wanted to apply my acquired skills to help communities.

### What are some of your favorite memories about your time at UNH?

There are so many memories at UNH that I will forever keep close to my heart. Some of my favorite experiences at UNH include being an Orientation Leader and participating in my first Greek Week with the Phi Sigma Sigma Sorority.

### What would you change about your experience at UNH, if anything?

I honestly would not change much about my time spent at UNH. If anything, I might have joined more clubs and organizations.

### What can you say about the faculty and staff at UNH?

The faculty and staff within the political science department are beyond resourceful. Each professor has a very different perspective on the world of politics, which taught me to look at a conflict from all angles. My professors went above and beyond to make sure I succeeded in my degree and in my college career.

### What advice would you give to prospective students and their families?

The most important advice I can give is to treasure each day. I would say to focus on your education, but also make sure to participate in the college experience. It only lasts for four years, which may seem like an eternity but actually flies by pretty fast.

# ALUMNI PROFILE

## What are you currently doing, and how did you get there?

During the summer of 2014, I was an intern in Washington, D.C. in Senator Richard Blumenthal's office. My duties included redirecting patrons to the appropriate point of contact, completing official documents, and performing other tasks assigned by Senator Blumenthal. I applied for the intern position in February of 2014 and was extended the opportunity with the help of faculty members who provided letters of recommendation on my behalf. I am grateful to have received such support from the Political Science Department.

Currently, I am the campaign manager for Theresa Conroy of the 105th Assembly District of the Connecticut State House. I manage all of the financial aspects of her campaign, coordinate the volunteers, implement the candidacy events, and the campaign marketing. It's been a great experience working with the district and my campaign team.

## How did UNH prepare you for life after college?

UNH prepared me for life after college by giving me opportunities to strengthen important life skills. For example, I was able to manage a \$1.5-million dollar budget for the University's clubs and organizations as the President of the Undergraduate Student Government Association (USGA). Through this position and many others like it, UNH has truly allowed me to enhance my interpersonal skills, leadership qualities, and time management efficiency — all of which come from experiences inside and outside of the classroom.

## What are some of your favorite memories about your time at UNH?

My favorite memories come from the organizations that I have had the privilege of being a part of, whether it was the Undergraduate Student Government Association or Greek life. I had a chance to meet and become lifelong friends with students who come from all over the country. The greatest honor and memory I had during my undergraduate career was being USGA President — the experiences and memories will stay with me throughout my entire life.

## What would you change about your experience at UNH, if anything?

Nothing at all!

## What can you say about the faculty and staff at UNH?

The faculty and staff at UNH are truly some of the best instructors I have ever had. They go the extra mile to help any student gain a further understanding of course material, and they inspire students to act on ambitious goals. By offering different perspectives from their impressive work experience, the faculty and staff of UNH are a phenomenal resource for knowledge and motivation.

## What advice would you give to prospective students and their families?

To students who are interested in UNH, my advice would be to really look into all UNH has to offer — inside and outside of the classroom — that will improve your personal development. Take advantage of the many clubs and organizations and the diverse demographic of students, and be open to change — whether it's in your career plan or overall college experience.



## ZANI IMETOVSKI, '14

Political Science

*"The faculty and staff at UNH are truly some of the best instructors I have ever had."*

# POLITICAL SCIENCE PANEL & SPEAKER SERIES



A key component of a successful career in political science is the ability to understand the current issues and events facing society. Students must also learn to debate and compromise on opposing viewpoints and to work collaboratively to find ways to address them. At the University of New Haven, political science students hone this skill set through thought-provoking, professional development opportunities held right on our main campus.

Throughout the fall and spring semesters, the political science department coordinates a panel and speaker series available to all students. The speakers range from UNH faculty members and local political officials to high profile national political figures. The series gives students a chance to learn about and debate important social and political issues including: education, women in politics, drinking age laws, college athletics, government and leadership, healthcare in Connecticut, the minimum wage, election practices and procedures and more. A few of the recent speakers to visit campus include:

- ▶ Senator Richard Blumenthal
- ▶ United States Representative Rosa DeLauro
- ▶ Connecticut State Comptroller Kevin Lembo
- ▶ Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman
- ▶ Mayor of West Haven Edward O'Brien
- ▶ Mayor of New Haven Toni Harp
- ▶ Former United States Representative Sam Gejdenson
- ▶ United States Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor



# CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

170

UNH students are *involved* with a capital “I.” With over 170 clubs and activities on campus, it’s easy to join and make a contribution.

- ▶ **Political Science Organization (PSO).** The Political Science Organization is a student-driven group that focuses on cultivating political community, generating respectful discourse, providing an outlet for political expression, and spreading political awareness. To achieve its goals, the PSO facilitates a variety of activities and programs. In their monthly professional series, the PSO hosts either a single speaker or panel of speakers to share their expertise and thoughts on some of the most vexing political issues. In their annual trip to Washington, D.C., the organization strives to bring the ideas and figures discussed in class to life. PSO also hosts debates, political trivia hour, movie hour, and a variety of socials.
- ▶ **Political Science Coffee Hour.** Coffee Hour is a weekly hour-long round table discussion and debate about an important political issue including primarily students, but also administrators and faculty. The primary goal of these talks is to foster and build a vibrant, engaged, and informed political community here at the University of New Haven. They do so by providing a comfortable, respectful, conducive, and informative

environment in which students not only learn more about political issues, but also feel free to express themselves to others and ultimately, become more engaged in the political process.

- ▶ **The Undergraduate Student Government Association (USGA).** The Undergraduate Student Government Association is responsible for representing the undergraduate student body at UNH. USGA is an integral organization with many functions and is an excellent source for involvement opportunities.

The President, Treasurer, and Senators are placed into office by the student body through a general election. Upon entering the term of Presidency, the President appoints the Senior Vice President, Vice President of Operations, Executive Assistant, and Sergeant at Arms. Each position has a unique set of duties and responsibilities, which enables the USGA to operate effectively.

Every undergraduate student attending UNH is a member of the USGA. The organization oversees the proper distribution of funds in order to provide a number of social events that are open to the entire student body, including concerts, comedy nights, lectures, films, and cultural events.



# MODEL UNITED NATIONS PROGRAM (MUN)



Our Model United Nations Program provides UNH students with a unique opportunity to engage with other students from all over the world and gain hands-on experience in international policy making. Students, as representatives from the nation assigned, will travel to conferences all over the country and compete against other schools.

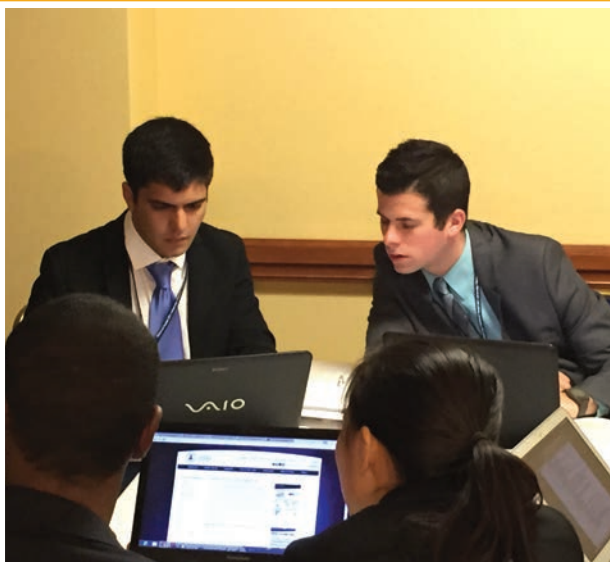
In its first-ever Model United Nations conference, the University of New Haven team won a Distinguished Delegation Award. This is an honor presented to just 14 of the more than 100 colleges and universities that participated in the annual event.

The Model United Nations, or MUN, seeks to advance understanding of the United Nations and international issues. Each team at the conference portrays a different country – UNH was Sweden – and students act as though they are

representatives of their assigned country. This year's conference also included a crisis simulation in the Security Council and briefings by distinguished speakers from the diplomatic community.

During the conference, students must remain in character while participating in committee meetings. They also must collaborate with other teams and follow proper use of the rules of procedure. Each university is then evaluated and graded by other participating teams on how well they achieved these goals, with the highest scorers selected for recognition.

“What is amazing is that our team was able to achieve this on only two months of preparation when competing against schools that run MUN as a course,” said Chris



Haynes, associate professor of political science. Haynes started MUN at UNH in the fall of 2014 with political science major Connor Briggs, who served as the team's head delegate at the national conference.

"More important is the fact that each and every student grew personally and professionally by leaps and bounds. Shy students became assertive, followers turned into leaders, individualists became collaborators, and those who lacked confidence found it," Haynes said.

In addition to UNH, some of the other teams to participate were from Davidson College, Princeton University, Texas Christian University and West Virginia University. There also were several international competitors, including teams from China, France, Great Britain, Italy, Korea and Vietnam.

***"Being able to simulate the role of a diplomat and to participate in Model UN allows me to experience my interests in a realistic fashion," said Connor Briggs '15, who served as UNH's head delegate for the conference.***

# PRE-LAW

The Association of American Law Schools encourages prospective law students to major in an area that develops their comprehension, verbal expression, critical thinking, deductive reasoning, and analytical ability. All of these attributes are critical components for graduate study as well.

Political Science is definitely a major that fits the bill and is a common precursor to law school. The most important thing, though, is to choose a major that interests you, as you'll naturally tend to be more motivated and able to perform your best in an area that stimulates your mind.

Our pre-professional advisors will get to know you and your aspirations and work with you to craft an academic strategy that makes the most of your abilities. They'll provide support, answer your questions about the field of law, and show how you can combine your academic interests with a law-related career. They are also well versed in law school admission requirements, application procedures, and curricula.

Applying to law school is a competitive process, one that students should begin preparing for during their undergraduate years. Our program will help you every step of the way.

Together, UNH and the pre-professional advising program will do everything possible to put you firmly on the path toward future success in the legal field.



# PRE-LAW LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY (LLC)



Living Learning Communities at the University of New Haven are offered through the Office of Residential Life and promote an atmosphere that aids in enhancing the first-year residential experience, while supporting academic success.

A common interest in law and justice is the foundation for the interdisciplinary Pre-Law LLC. Developed collaboratively by Legal Studies in the Henry C. Lee College and Political Science in the College of Arts & Sciences, the Pre-Law LLC welcomes students from any major at UNH interested in going to law school after graduation to join our community of justice scholars.

While developing a supportive and cohesive community around social events and a common interest in law and justice, the Pre-Law LLC also focuses on pre-law preparation. Although law school may seem far away, strong preparation beginning as soon as students enter UNH will enhance choices and opportunities after graduation. In particular, advanced preparation in reading, writing, and analytical thinking skills, tutoring, interaction with faculty, attorneys and judges, and excursions to courts and law-related locations and events will significantly enhance students' academic experience and jump-start students' preparation for success in law school.

Focused pre-law advising, in coordination with the University and respective college pre-law advisors and Career Services, will also help students integrate pre-law preparation with their academic majors. The interactions within the group, with upper class resident assistants, and with faculty and speakers from the legal field will all facilitate students' transition to the University as well as improve their chances for personal and academic development and success.



University of New Haven

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