

Scholarships and Awards for Undergraduate Political Science Students at EIU



Dr. Melinda Mueller presenting John Proffitt with the H. Edward Brazil Award for Undergraduate Use of Quantitative Methods.

The Political Science Department features a growing list of scholarship and awards, and this flyer includes information on a wide variety of scholarship/award opportunities for our students, noting also that we formally recognize the recipients at our annual awards banquet. We also have a prominently located display of scholarship/award recognition plaques in the Political Science hallway in Coleman Hall.

This document is organized for your benefit according to the major categories of scholarships/awards available to students: (a) scholarships and awards initiated through faculty nominations, (b) scholarships and awards initiated by student applications, (c) special recognition awards and (d) a listing of other scholarships/awards Political Science students should consider. Students who may have questions or need more information are encouraged to contact the Department Chair (rawandling@eiu.edu or 217-581-2523).

Scholarships and Awards initiated through faculty nominations:

The Outstanding First Year Political Science Student Award

- Faculty nominations are made in fall semester, based on students who have completed 26-36 hours at EIU with six credit hours in PLS and an overall g.p.a. of 3.5 or higher.

The Elisha Baumgartner Scholarship (in conjunction with the College of Sciences)

- Faculty nominations are made in spring semester, focusing on a combination of academic achievement and financial need, with the department historically viewing this scholarship as an important recognition for a sophomore PLS major. This scholarship also is awarded through the College of Sciences to students in Economics, History and Sociology/Anthropology.

The Outstanding Political Science Senior Award

- Political Science seniors with a 3.5 or higher g.p.a. are nominated by PLS faculty during the spring semester of each academic year, and then asked to submit two papers from different courses as part of their application. This truly is a culminating achievement for the political science major selected for this honor.

The H. Edward Brazil Award for Undergraduate Use of Quantitative Methods

- This award was established by the Political Science Department to remember a former colleague, Professor H. Edward Brazil following his death in 2012. Dr. Brazil was a strong proponent of the use of statistical analysis in understanding everything from elections and voting on through legislation and policy outcomes. Each spring semester nominations are sought from PLS faculty for students who have excelled in use of quantitative methods in their research papers.

Scholarships/Awards initiated by student applications:

The Robert F. Glover Student Leadership Scholarship

The application process for this scholarship takes place each during the first half of the spring semester. Applicants must be a full-time student majoring or minoring in Political Science, accepted to Eastern Illinois University, with a minimum of 9 credit hours in political science completed. The recipient(s) must maintain a minimum of 2.75 GPA. The recipient(s) must demonstrate leadership in one or more of the following campus organizations/associations:

- Student Senate and/or Student Government; Student Supreme Court; University Board; EIU Residence Hall Association; and/or organizations formally listed under the Academic, Multicultural and Service RSO categories by the Eastern Illinois University Student Life Office.

In the case of two finalists, financial need will be considered. The recipient(s) may be eligible to receive the award again provided he/she continues to meet the criteria stated herein.

The James E. and Joseph T. Connelly Scholarship

Applications for the Connelly Scholarship are sought during the first part of each spring semester, and applicants are to meet the following criteria:

- Be a Political Science major at Eastern Illinois University,
- Be either a junior or second semester sophomore,
- Have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or greater and a grade point average of 3.0 or better in three or more political science courses,
- Have a record of community or university service, and
- Submit a 300-500 word essay that illustrates a “social conscience approach” to a governmental problem.

The Watson Memorial Family Scholarship

This scholarship rotates among three departments, with Political Science making the award once every three years. When Political Science makes the award, the process is focused on its majors, and the same applies for the award process when administered by Business and Theatre Arts. Political Science last was the awarding department in the 2014-15 Academic Year. Recipients of the Watson Memorial Scholarship must:

- Be a full-time or part-time student currently accepted to and enrolled at Eastern Illinois University with a minimum of six (6) semester hours of instruction.

- Major in one of the following areas: Business, Political Science or Theatre with preference given to theatrical lighting.
- Have an overall GPA of 2.5.
- Display a need for financial aid.
- Demonstrate a high quality of character
- Submit a one page personal letter setting forth the reason for applying and stating future career goals.
- Be a resident of Illinois (with priority given to a Coles County resident who qualifies. If none should exist, then selection can be based upon statewide residency).

The Political Science Honors Scholarship

This scholarship is focused on an incoming Political Science major who is graduating from high school, and represents the department's effort to recruit high quality majors. Applicants are sought each spring semester, and to be eligible for the award, the applicant must:

- Be a graduating high school senior eligible for admission to EIU.
- ACT composite scores of 26 or higher or SAT of 1100 or higher, plus graduation in the upper 10% of the high school class or a 3.5 high school GPA.
- Demonstrate plans to major in Political Science.
- Submit an essay stating education plans and career aspirations.

The James B. Curtis Memorial Scholarship (NEW for AY 2016-17)

This scholarship is our most recent addition for our students, and the Department is pleased to learn that it has been authorized for the award's initial year of implementation--during the 2016-17 Academic Year. This scholarship is designed to encourage and support applied/experiential learning by political science majors, specifically for students approved for an upcoming Study Abroad, student exchange or Washington Center internship opportunity. The recipient(s) must be a full-time student in good academic standing, majoring in Political Science, and accepted to Eastern Illinois University. Any Political Science major meeting the above criteria is eligible to apply, but priority will be given to those demonstrating the greatest financial need.

Special Recognition Awards, including:

Induction into Pi Sigma Alpha

- Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, is the only honor society for college students of political science and government in the United States. The Articles of Incorporation of Pi Sigma Alpha state as one of its purposes "to stimulate scholarship and intelligent interest in political science." At EIU, membership is open to students with a 3.0-or-better GPA in Political Science classes, as well as overall, and the completion of at least three political science courses, at least one of which must be at the 3000 level or higher. Students are invited to join the Honor Society each year when they meet the requirements for membership.

The Outstanding Contribution to Model Illinois Government

- The award decision process is coordinated by the Model Illinois Government Advisor, based on student performance at the Annual Model Illinois Government simulation in Springfield.

The Outstanding Contribution to Moot Court

- The award decision process is coordinated by the Moot Court Advisor, based on student performance during both fall and spring semester Moot Court competitions.

The Outstanding International Student Award

- This award is coordinated by EIU's International Students Office, with the Political Science student selected for this award recognized along with other international students at the Annual International Students Banquet/Reception typically held each April. The recognition is available to either an undergraduate or graduate student.

Other Scholarships/Awards:

EIU also has scholarship and award opportunities, which while not focused exclusively on political science majors, definitely should be considered by our students. Prominent examples include:

- Pre-law scholarships administered by the EIU Pre-Law Coordinator:
 - The **C.A. Hollister Pre-Law Scholarship**
 - The **J.Y. Kelly Pre-Law Scholarship**
 - The **Errett Warner and H. Ogden Brainard and Pre-Legal Presidential Scholarship**
 - **Note: While students from other majors are nominated for EIU's Pre-Law Scholarships, it is important to note that these awards have a strong history in the Political Science Department, as seen particularly in the fact that our annual department scholarships/awards program is a joint effort of both Political Science and Pre-Law Scholarship announcements.**
- The **Birdina Gregg Annual Fund Award** (for students involved in the Campus Democrats Registered Student Organization)