# DATA FOR POLITICAL RESEARCH (MINOR)

## Mission Statement

The scope of the world's social and political problems is simply too great to rely on personal observation as a route to understanding. We need systematic observation of unbiased data to accurately diagnose, understand, and treat them. The DPR minor aims to foster a problem-centric, quantitative approach to understanding the interactions of people, society, and their governing institutions. Students in the minor will receive training in how to design research for social impact, how to analyze data for more certain conclusions, and how to visualize data and results for clarity and persuasion in service of understanding politics in its many contexts. Together, design, analysis, and visualization enable researchers to contribute their own answers to pressing social and political questions with opportunities for oral and written translation of that expertise to public audiences. In this way, DPR students are encouraged to consider how they can use quantitative social science tools of design, analysis, and visualization to serve and inform the public consistent with the Denison mission.

## Departmental Guidelines

DPR students are interested in why and how people and policies act in the way they do. Coming to understand human political behavior and policy impact hinges on 1) research design to turn theory into questions and 2) analysis and visualization of data generated by those research designs to reach confident conclusions. Compatible with any major, the minor offers desirable skills in any organizational, academic, or government setting: comprehension of social science research methods, writing with data for public audiences, and conducting original quantitative research.

DPR is the also home of the onetwentyseven.blog (http://onetwentyseven.blog/), dedicated to addressing questions with evidence to offer reflection with data on Denison and Denisonians. Over the past five years, we have published hundreds of data-driven posts by authors from all sorts of academic backgrounds, including political science, sociology, economics, data analytics, and more.