

# US Government



The following learning targets represent the major concepts studied and assessed in this course.

## ***Unit 1*** Foundations of Government

- I can analyze the advantages and disadvantages of various political systems and compare the ways in which power is distributed in systems of shared power.
- I can evaluate the historical ideas and political philosophies that shaped the development of the U.S. government.
- I can summarize key political principles expressed in the foundational documents of the United States.

## ***Unit 2*** Structure of Government

- I can describe the strengths and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation to explain its failure as a national government.
- I can examine the fundamental governing principles and debates on which the Constitution is based and how those ideas are embodied in the document.
- I can examine the debates and events that led to the writing and ratification of the Constitution.
- I can summarize how various elements of the Constitution and governmental decisions exemplify efforts to divide power.
- I can analyze how the Constitution establishes a limited government in which powers are distributed among different levels and branches.
- I can analyze how the Constitution establishes a limited government in which powers are checked amongst branches of government.
- I can explain how the government has established protections for individuals.
- I can compare the structure of functions of local, state, and federal governments.

## ***Unit 3*** Government in Action

- I can describe how branches of government have changed over time.
- I can explain the role of the citizen in government actions.
- I can analyze the role that people, businesses, and government play in maintaining the public good.
- I can evaluate the role of political parties.
- I can compare federal, state, and local governments.