

# BA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND JOURNALISM

Units required for Major: 51  
Total units required for BA: 120

## Program Description

The Sacramento State Journalism program provides both a general academic experience and professional preparation. Sacramento's program emphasizes writing, editing, writing for interactive media, and other courses necessary to prepare students for success in media-related jobs; it also includes courses that critically examine media as an institution.

Journalism majors are the core of students who write for *The State Hornet* a weekly newspaper with a website updated daily at [www.statehornet.com](http://www.statehornet.com) (<http://www.statehornet.com>).

A student at Sacramento State may major either in Journalism or in Government-Journalism. A minor in Journalism is valuable to the student entering a career field in which journalism plays a role.

The Journalism graduate who wants to work for a newspaper should expect to serve an apprenticeship with a small newspaper before moving up to a metropolitan daily. Journalism graduates also work as magazine editors and writers, as publications employees in government agencies and associations, in broadcast journalism, and in public affairs.

## Minimum Grade Requirement

Majors must complete each required lower and upper division Journalism course with a grade of "C-" or better.

## Program Requirements

Code	Title	Units
<b>Required Lower Division Courses (9 Units)</b>		
POLS 1	Essentials Of Government <sup>1,2</sup>	3
JOUR 30	News Writing	3
JOUR/COMS 55 or JOUR 50	Media Communication and Society Media Literacy and Critical Thinking	3
<b>Required Upper Division Courses (33 Units)</b>		
<i>Political Science</i>		
POLS 170	Public Policy Development	3
POLS 180	California State and Local Government <sup>2</sup>	3
Select one of the following:		3
POLS 153	United States Presidency	
POLS 154	Political Parties in America	
POLS 155	United States Congress	
POLS 156	Interest Groups	
POLS 157	Politics, Opinion, and Participation	
POLS 159A	Campaigns and Elections	
POLS 184	Introduction to Urban Politics	
Select one of the following:		3
POLS 120A	Constitutional Law	
POLS 120B	Constitutional Rights and Liberties	
Select one of the following:		3

POLS 130	International Politics	
POLS 131	International Organization	
POLS 135	United States Foreign Policy	
<i>Journalism</i>		
JOUR 130A	News Reporting I	3
JOUR 130B	News Reporting II	3
JOUR/POLS 134	War, Peace and the Mass Media <sup>2</sup>	3
JOUR 135	Public Affairs Reporting <sup>2</sup>	3
JOUR/COMS 153	Journalism Law and Ethics	3
<i>Internship</i>		
Select one of the following:		3
POLS 195 series		
JOUR 195	Internship In Journalism	
<b>Electives (9 Units)</b>		
Select 6 units of upper division courses in Political Science <sup>3</sup>		6
Select one upper division course in Journalism		3
<b>Total Units</b>		<b>51</b>

<sup>1</sup> If a student has not taken POLS 1 or its equivalent, then POLS 150 may be used in place of POLS 1 or as its equivalent as a prerequisite.

<sup>2</sup> Course also satisfies General Education (GE)/Graduation Requirement.

<sup>3</sup> The Department of Political Science particularly recommends at least one course in political theory.

**Note:** POLS 150 may not be used as an elective.

**Note:** Political Science and Journalism majors should have both an advisor in the Political Science Department and a Journalism Advisor in the Communication Studies Department.

The University's association with the Washington Center makes it possible for California State University, Sacramento students to undertake an internship in Washington, D.C. There are many opportunities for Government-Journalism majors to do an internship to meet their unique interests through this program.

## General Education Requirements <sup>1</sup>

Code	Title	Units
<b>Area A: Basic Subjects (9 Units)</b>		
A1	Oral Communication	3
A2	Written Communication	3
A3	Critical Thinking	3
<b>Area B: Physical Universe and Its Life Forms (13 Units)</b>		
B1	Physical Science	3
B2	Life Forms	3
B3	Lab (Note: Lab experience to be taken with one of the following: B1, B2 or B5)	1
B4	Math Concepts	3
B5	Additional Course (Any B to reach 12 units) - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements.	3
<b>Area C: Arts and Humanities (12 Units)</b>		
C1	Arts	3
C2	Humanities	3
C1/C2	Area C Course	3
C1/C2	Area C Course - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements.	3

<b>Area D: The Individual and Society (6 Units)</b>	
Area D Course <sup>2</sup>	0
Area D Course	3
Area D Course	3
Area D Course - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements. <sup>2</sup>	0
<b>Area E: Understanding Personal Development (3 Units)</b>	
Area E Course	3
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>43</b>

<sup>1</sup> To help you complete your degree in a timely manner and not take more units than absolutely necessary, there are ways to use single courses to meet more than one requirement (overlap). For further information, please visit the General Education page (<https://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/academic-affairs/general-education/>).

**Note:** There is no way to list all possible overlaps so please consult with a professional advisor. The Academic Advising Center can be visited online (<http://www.csus.edu/acad/>), by phone (916) 278-1000, or email ([advising@csus.edu](mailto:advising@csus.edu)).

<sup>2</sup> Required in Major; also satisfies GE.

## Graduation Requirements <sup>1</sup>

Code	Title	Units
<b>Graduation Requirements (required by CSU) (3 Units)</b>		
American Institutions: U.S. History		3
American Institutions: U.S. Constitution & CA Government <sup>2</sup>		0
Writing Intensive (WI) <sup>2</sup>		0
<b>Graduation Requirements (required by Sacramento State) (12 Units)</b>		
English Composition II		3
Race and Ethnicity in American Society (RE)		3
Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement <sup>3</sup>		6

<sup>1</sup> To help you complete your degree in a timely manner and not take more units than absolutely necessary, there are ways to use single courses to meet more than one requirement (overlap). For further information, please visit the General Education page (<https://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/academic-affairs/general-education/>).

**Note:** There is no way to list all possible overlaps so please consult with a professional advisor. The Academic Advising Center can be visited online (<http://www.csus.edu/acad/>), by phone (916) 278-1000, or email ([advising@csus.edu](mailto:advising@csus.edu)).

<sup>2</sup> Required in Major; also satisfies Graduation Requirement.

<sup>3</sup> If not satisfied before entering Sacramento State, it may be satisfied in General Education Area C2 (Humanities). "C- or better required." The alternative methods for satisfying the Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement are described here: <https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/world-languages-literatures/foreign-language-requirement.html>

*The following roadmaps are sample planning resources. Please consult your academic advisor and Academic Catalog for graduation requirements as you develop your individualized academic plan.*

## Political Science and Journalism, BA: 4-Year Roadmap

Course	Title	Units
<b>Year 1</b>		
<b>First Semester</b>		
POLS 1	Essentials Of Government	3

GE Area 1C - Oral Communication <sup>2</sup>	3
GE Area 2 - Mathematical Concepts & Quantitative Reasoning <sup>2</sup>	3
GE Area 6 - Ethnic Studies <sup>2</sup>	3
Elective of Choice	3

### Second Semester

	Units	
JOUR 20	Style For Media Writers	1
JOUR 30	News Writing	3
JOUR 50	Media Literacy and Critical Thinking <sup>3</sup>	3
or COMS 55	or Media Communication and Society	
or JOUR 55	or Media Communication and Society	

GE Area 1A - English Composition <sup>2</sup>	3
GE Area 5A - Physical Science <sup>2</sup>	3
Elective of Choice	3

### Year 2

#### First Semester

ENGL 20	College Composition II	3
GE Area 3B - Humanities <sup>2</sup>		3
GE Area 5B - Biological Science <sup>2</sup>		3
GE Area 5C - Laboratory <sup>2</sup>		1
Foreign Language Semester 1 <sup>2</sup>		4

#### Second Semester

JOUR 130A	News Reporting I	3
JOUR 130B	News Reporting II	3
POLS 180	California State and Local Government	3
GE Area 3A - Arts <sup>2</sup>		3
Foreign Language Semester 2 <sup>2</sup>		4


### Year 3

#### First Semester

POLS 153	United States Presidency <sup>3</sup>	3
or POLS 154	or Political Parties in America	
or POLS 155	or United States Congress	
or POLS 156	or Interest Groups	
or POLS 157	or Politics, Opinion, and Participation	
or POLS 159A	or Campaigns and Elections	
or POLS 184	or Introduction to Urban Politics	

POLS 120A	Constitutional Law <sup>3</sup>	3
or POLS 120B	or Constitutional Rights and Liberties	

JOUR 130A	News Reporting I <sup>3</sup>	3
or JOUR 130B	or News Reporting II	
or JOUR 134	or War, Peace and the Mass Media	
or POLS 134	or War, Peace and the Mass Media	
or JOUR 135	or War, Peace and the Mass Media	
or JOUR 153	or Public Affairs Reporting	
or COMS 153	or Journalism Law and Ethics	
	or Journalism Law and Ethics	


JOUR 130B	News Reporting II <sup>3</sup>	3
or JOUR 130A	or News Reporting I	
or JOUR 134	or War, Peace and the Mass Media	
or POLS 134		
or JOUR 135	or War, Peace and the Mass Media	
or JOUR 153	or Public Affairs Reporting	
or COMS 153		
		
	or Journalism Law and Ethics	
	or Journalism Law and Ethics	

Upper Division GE Area 5 or 2 - Science or Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning <sup>2</sup>	3
--	---

<b>Units</b>	<b>15</b>
--------------	-----------

**Second Semester**

POLS 130	International Politics <sup>3</sup>	3
or POLS 131	or International Organization	
or POLS 135	or United States Foreign Policy	

JOUR 134	War, Peace and the Mass Media <sup>3</sup>	3
or JOUR 130A		
or JOUR 130B	or News Reporting I	
or POLS 134	or News Reporting II	
or JOUR 135	or War, Peace and the Mass Media	
or JOUR 153	or Public Affairs Reporting	
or COMS 153		
		
	or Journalism Law and Ethics	
	or Journalism Law and Ethics	

POLS Major Elective <sup>3</sup>	3
----------------------------------	---

Upper Division GE Area 3 - Arts or Humanities <sup>2</sup>	3
--	---


Upper Division GE Area 4 - Social & Behavioral Sciences <sup>2</sup>	3
--	---


<b>Units</b>	<b>15</b>
--------------	-----------

**Year 4**

**First Semester**

POLS 170	Public Policy Development	3
----------	---------------------------	---

JOUR 135	Public Affairs Reporting  <sup>3</sup>	3
or JOUR 130A	or News Reporting I	
or JOUR 130B	or News Reporting II	
or JOUR 134	or War, Peace and the Mass Media	
or POLS 134		
or JOUR 153	or War, Peace and the Mass Media	
or COMS 153		
	or Journalism Law and Ethics	
	or Journalism Law and Ethics	

JOUR 153	Journalism Law and Ethics <sup>3</sup>	3
or JOUR 130A	or News Reporting I	
or JOUR 130B	or News Reporting II	
or JOUR 134	or War, Peace and the Mass Media	
or POLS 134		
or JOUR 135	or War, Peace and the Mass Media	
or JOUR 153	or Public Affairs Reporting	
or COMS 153		
		
	or Journalism Law and Ethics	
	or Journalism Law and Ethics	

POLS Major Elective <sup>3</sup>	3
----------------------------------	---

Elective of Choice	3
--------------------	---

<b>Units</b>	<b>15</b>
--------------	-----------

**Second Semester**

JOUR 195	Internship In Journalism <sup>3</sup>	1 - 6
----------	---------------------------------------	-------

JOUR Elective <sup>3</sup>	3
----------------------------	---

GE Area 4 - Social & Behavioral Sciences <sup>2</sup>	3
---	---

GR American Institutions (US History) <sup>2</sup>	3
--	---

Elective of Choice	4
--------------------	---

<b>Units</b>	<b>14-19</b>
--------------	--------------

<b>Total Units</b>	<b>120-125</b>
--------------------	----------------

## Political Science and Journalism, BA: 2-Year Roadmap

Course	Title	Units
--------	-------	-------

**Year 1**

**First Semester**

JOUR 130A	News Reporting I	3
-----------	------------------	---

JOUR 130B	News Reporting II	3
-----------	-------------------	---

JOUR 134	War, Peace and the Mass Media <sup>3</sup>	3
----------	--	---

or POLS 134		
or JOUR 153	or War, Peace and the Mass Media	
or COMS 153	or Journalism Law and Ethics	
	or Journalism Law and Ethics	

POLS 153	United States Presidency <sup>3</sup>	3
----------	---------------------------------------	---

or POLS 154	or Political Parties in America	
or POLS 155		
or POLS 156	or United States Congress	
or POLS 157	or Interest Groups	
or POLS 159A	or Politics, Opinion, and Participation	
or POLS 184	or Campaigns and Elections	
	or Introduction to Urban Politics	

Upper Division GE Area 5 or 2 - Science or Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning <sup>2</sup>	3
--	---

<b>Units</b>	<b>15</b>
--------------	-----------

**Second Semester**

POLS 180	California State and Local Government	3
----------	---------------------------------------	---

POLS 120A	Constitutional Law <sup>3</sup>	3
or POLS 120B	or Constitutional Rights and Liberties	

POLS Major Elective <sup>3</sup>	3
----------------------------------	---

Upper Division GE Area 3 - Arts or Humanities <sup>2</sup>	3
--	---

Foreign Language Semester 1 <sup>2</sup>	4
--	---

<b>Units</b>	<b>16</b>
--------------	-----------

**Year 2**

**First Semester**

JOUR 135	Public Affairs Reporting 	3
----------	--	---

POLS 170	Public Policy Development	3
----------	---------------------------	---

JOUR 153	Journalism Law and Ethics <sup>3</sup>	3
----------	--	---

or COMS 153	or Journalism Law and Ethics	
or JOUR 134	or War, Peace and the Mass Media	
or POLS 134	or War, Peace and the Mass Media	
	or Journalism Law and Ethics	

POLS Major Elective <sup>3</sup>	3
----------------------------------	---

Foreign Language Semester 2 <sup>2</sup>	4
--	---

<b>Units</b>	<b>16</b>
--------------	-----------

**Second Semester**

JOUR 195	Internship In Journalism	1 - 6
----------	--------------------------	-------

POLS 130	International Politics <sup>3</sup>	3
or POLS 131	or International Organization	
or POLS 135	or United States Foreign Policy	

JOUR Elective <sup>3</sup>	3
----------------------------	---

GR American Institutions (US History) <sup>2</sup>	3
--	---

Elective of Choice	3
<b>Units</b>	<b>13-18</b>
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>60-65</b>

1. Any course not completed in the first semester should be taken in the second or a later semester.
2. Please see General Education/Graduation Requirement **course options** (<https://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/academic-affairs/general-education/>).
3. Please see an academic advisor for elective options.