

BA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND JOURNALISM

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

Program Description

A unique interdisciplinary program that spans the combined areas of Political Science and Journalism.

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.

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.

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
Required Lower Division Courses (9 Units)		
POLS 1	Essentials Of Government ^{1,2}	3
JOUR 30	News Writing	3
JOUR/COMS 55 or JOUR 50	Media Communication and Society Media Literacy and Critical Thinking	3
Required Upper Division Courses (33 Units)		
<i>Political Science</i>		
POLS 170	Public Policy Development	3
POLS 180	California State and Local Government ²	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 ²	3

JOUR 135	Public Affairs Reporting ²	3
JOUR/COMS 153	Journalism Law and Ethics	3
<i>Internship</i>		
Select one of the following:		3
POLS 195	Internship Course	
JOUR 195	Internship In Journalism	
Electives (9 Units)		
Select 6 units of upper division courses in Political Science ³		6
Select one upper division course in Journalism		3
Total Units		51

¹ 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.

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

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

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

General Education Requirements ¹

Code	Title	Units
Area A: Basic Subjects (9 Units)		
A1	Oral Communication	3
A2	Written Communication	3
A3	Critical Thinking	3
Area B: Physical Universe and Its Life Forms (10 Units)		
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. ²	0
Area C: Arts and Humanities (12 Units)		
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
Area D: The Individual and Society (3 Units)		
Area D Course ²		0
Area D Course		3
Area D Course - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements. ²		0
Area E: Understanding Personal Development (3 Units)		
Area E Course		3
Area F: Ethnic Studies (3 Units)		
Area F Course		3
Total Units		40

¹ 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).

² Required in Major; also satisfies GE.

Graduation Requirements ¹

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

¹ 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).


² Required in Major; also satisfies Graduation Requirement.

³ 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
Year 1		
First Semester		
POLS 1	Essentials Of Government	3
GE Area 1C - Oral Communication ²		3
GE Area 2 - Mathematical Concepts & Quantitative Reasoning ²		3
GE Area 6 - Ethnic Studies ²		3
Elective of Choice		3
Units		15
Second Semester		
JOUR 30	News Writing	3
JOUR 50 or JOUR 55 or COMS 55	Media Literacy and Critical Thinking ³ or Media Communication and Society or Media Communication and Society	3
GE Area 1A - English Composition ²		3
GE Area 5A - Physical Science ²		3

Elective of Choice (JOUR 20 recommended) ³		3
Units		15
Year 2		
First Semester		
ENGL 20	College Composition II	3
GE Area 3B - Humanities ²		3
GE Area 5B - Biological Science ²		3
GE Area 5C - Laboratory ²		1
Foreign Language Semester 1 ²		4
Units		14
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 ²		3
Foreign Language Semester 2 ²		4
Units		16
Year 3		
First Semester		
POLS 120A or POLS 120B	Constitutional Law ³ or Constitutional Rights and Liberties	3
POLS 153 or POLS 154 or POLS 155 or POLS 156 or POLS 157 or POLS 159A or POLS 184	United States Presidency ³ or Political Parties in America or United States Congress or Interest Groups or Politics, Opinion, and Participation or Campaigns and Elections or Introduction to Urban Politics	3
JOUR 134 or POLS 134	War, Peace and the Mass Media ³ or War, Peace and the Mass Media	3
Upper Division GE Area 5 or 2 - Science or Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning ²		3
Writing Intensive ²		3
Units		15
Second Semester		
POLS 130 or POLS 131 or POLS 135	International Politics ³ or International Organization or United States Foreign Policy	3
Political Science and Journalism Elective ³		3
Upper Division GE Area 3 - Arts or Humanities ²		3
Upper Division GE Area 4 - Social & Behavioral Sciences ²		3
Elective of Choice		3
Units		15
Year 4		
First Semester		
JOUR 135	Public Affairs Reporting 	3
JOUR 153 or COMS 153	Journalism Law and Ethics ³ or Journalism Law and Ethics	3
POLS 170	Public Policy Development	3
Political Science and Journalism Elective ³		3
Elective of Choice		3
Units		15
Second Semester		
JOUR 195	Internship In Journalism	1 - 6
Political Science and Journalism Elective ³		3

GE Area 4 - Social & Behavioral Sciences ²	3
GR American Institutions (US History) ²	3
Elective of Choice	3
Units	13-18
Total Units	118-123

². Please see General Education/Graduation Requirement **course options** (https://www.csus.edu/academic-affairs/curriculum-%20workflow/_internal/_documents/program-road-maps/als_2yr/art_transfer-%20roadmap-2024-25.pdf).

³. Please see an academic advisor for elective options.

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 or POLS 134	War, Peace and the Mass Media ³ or War, Peace and the Mass Media	3
Political Science and Journalism Elective ³		3
Upper Division GE Area 5 or 2 - Science or Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning ²		3
Units		15
Second Semester		
JOUR 153 or COMS 153	Journalism Law and Ethics ³ or Journalism Law and Ethics	3
POLS 180	California State and Local Government	3
Political Science and Journalism Elective ³		3
Upper Division GE Area 3 - Arts or Humanities ²		3
Foreign Language Semester 1 ²		4
Units		16
Year 2		
First Semester		
JOUR 135	Public Affairs Reporting ✎	3
POLS 153 or POLS 154 or POLS 155 or POLS 156 or POLS 157 or POLS 159A or POLS 184	United States Presidency ³ or Political Parties in America or United States Congress or Interest Groups or Politics, Opinion, and Participation or Campaigns and Elections or Introduction to Urban Politics	3
POLS 170	Public Policy Development	3
Political Science and Journalism Elective ³		3
Foreign Language Semester 2 ²		4
Units		16
Second Semester		
JOUR 195	Internship In Journalism ³	1 - 6
POLS 120A or POLS 120B	Constitutional Law ³ or Constitutional Rights and Liberties	3
POLS 130 or POLS 131 or POLS 135	International Politics ³ or International Organization or United States Foreign Policy	3
GR American Institutions (US History) ²		3
Elective of Choice		3
Units		13-18
Total Units		60-65

¹. Any course not completed in the first semester should be taken in the second or a later semester.