

BA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Units required for Major: 42

Total units required for BA: 120

Program Description

The Political Science major complements a student's liberal arts education with an emphasis on understanding the theoretical and practical aspects of government and politics. The department offers a BA in Political Science, a BA in Political Science-Journalism, and the minor in Political Science. The Political Science major is structured to provide students with a comprehensive background in the basic fields of political science, as well as to permit them a range of choice in completing the program. The Political Science Department offers several courses integral to interdisciplinary programs such as California Studies, Environmental Studies, Ethnic Studies, Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies, and Women's Studies.

The department emphasizes its expectation that students seek faculty advice when planning their program. Students may ask any faculty member's assistance initially. As specific interests are developed, students may wish to seek the advice of faculty sharing their interests.

Note: Although it is not a requirement of the major, the department **strongly recommends** that students take an introductory statistics course as part of their undergraduate work. A course in statistics may be used to satisfy the GE requirement in mathematics.

Minimum GPA Requirement

Students are required to maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA in the Major.

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Units
Required Lower Division Courses (3 Units)		
POLS 1	Essentials Of Government ^{1,2}	3
Required Upper Division Courses (18 Units) ³		
POLS 100	Introduction to Research Methods in Political Science	3
POLS 110	Political Thought I	3
or POLS 111	Political Thought II	
or POLS 112	Current Political Thought	
POLS 120A	Constitutional Law	3
or POLS 120B	Constitutional Rights and Liberties	
POLS 130	International Politics	3
POLS 140	Comparative Politics	3
POLS 170	Public Policy Development ⁴	3
Electives (21 Units)		
Select 21 units ⁵		21
Total Units		42

¹ POLS 150 or a score of 3 or higher on the AP American Government Exam may be used in place of POLS 1 to satisfy the requirement.

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

³ The Department recommends students take no more than two of these required courses a semester.

⁴ POLS 170 should be taken in the final year of a student's undergraduate work.

⁵ 18 of the 21 elective units must be upper division even though all 21 required elective units may be satisfied with upper division courses. POLS 10 and POLS 35 may be taken to fulfill 3 lower division units of the elective requirement.

Select courses from the following Fields below. A seminar and/or internship is strongly recommended.

- Political Theory
- Public Law and Judicial Studies
- International and Comparative Politics
- American Governments, Politics and Policy

These courses **must** be selected in consultation with an advisor from the Political Science Department.

Notes:

- POLS 150 may not be counted as an elective toward the major, but may be used in place of POLS 1 or as its equivalent as a prerequisite;
- Students may take a maximum of 6 units of a POLS 195 (Internship) within the major, but may use no more than 3 of those units to complete the 36 units of required upper division work.
- Students should be aware that the Department offers a concentration in International Relations that is distinct from a field emphasis within the major. See complete International Relations Concentration description.

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 (6 Units)		
Area D Course		3
Area D Course		3
Area D Course	- Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements.	0
Area E: Understanding Personal Development (3 Units)		
Area E Course		3
Area F: Ethnic Studies		

Area F Course

Total Units	40
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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) (6 Units)		
American Institutions: U.S. History		3
American Institutions: U.S. Constitution & CA Government ²		0
Writing Intensive (WI)		3
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

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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> (<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, 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 4 - Social & Behavioral Sciences ²		3
Elective of Choice		3
Units		15
Second Semester		
GE Area 1A - English Composition ²		3

GE Area 1B - Critical Thinking ²		3
GE Area 3A - Arts ²		3
GE Area 5A - Physical Science ²		3
GE Area 6 - Ethnic Studies ²		3

Units	15
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Year 2

First Semester

ENGL 20	College Composition II	3
POLS 110 or POLS 111 or POLS 112	Political Thought I ³ or Political Thought II or Current Political Thought	3
GE Area 5B - Biological Science ²		3
GE Area 5C - Laboratory ²		1
Foreign Language Semester 1 ²		4

Units	14
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Second Semester

Political Science Elective ³		3
Upper Division GE Area 5 or 2 - Science or Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning ²		3
GE Area 3B - Humanities ²		3
Foreign Language Semester 2 ²		4
Elective of Choice		3

Units	16
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Year 3

First Semester

POLS 100	Introduction to Research Methods in Political Science	3
POLS 130	International Politics	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
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Second Semester

POLS 120A or POLS 120B	Constitutional Law ³ or Constitutional Rights and Liberties	3
POLS 140	Comparative Politics	3
Political Science Elective ³		3
Political Science Elective ³		3
Elective of Choice		3

Units	15
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Year 4

First Semester

Political Science Elective ³		3
Political Science Elective ³		3
Political Science Elective ³		3
Elective of Choice		3
Elective of Choice		3

Units	15
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Second Semester

POLS 170	Public Policy Development	3
Writing Intensive ²		3
GR American Institutions (US History) ²		3
Elective of Choice		3
Elective of Choice		3

Units	15
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Total Units	120
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Political Science, BA: 2-Year Roadmap

Course	Title	Units
Year 1		
First Semester		
POLS 100	Introduction to Research Methods in Political Science	3
POLS 130	International Politics	3
Upper Division GE Area 4 - Social & Behavioral Sciences ²		3
Foreign Language Semester 1 ²		4
Elective of Choice		3
Units		16
Second Semester		
POLS 110 or POLS 111 or POLS 112	Political Thought I ³ or Political Thought II or Current Political Thought	3
POLS 140	Comparative Politics	3
Political Science Elective ³		3
Political Science Elective ³		3
Foreign Language Semester 2 ²		4
Units		16
Year 2		
First Semester		
POLS 120A or POLS 120B	Constitutional Law ³ or Constitutional Rights and Liberties	3
Political Science Elective ³		3
Political Science Elective ³		3
Political Science Elective ³		3
Political Science Elective ³		3
Units		15
Second Semester		
POLS 170	Public Policy Development	3
Political Science Elective ³		3
Upper Division GE Area 3 - Arts or Humanities + Writing Intensive ²		3
Upper Division GE Area 5 or 2 - Science or Mathematical Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning ²		3
GR American Institutions (US History) ²		3
Units		15
Total Units		62

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.