POLITICAL SCIENCE BA

More Information

Advising Requirement
Advising is mandatory for this program. Consult your department advisor or program coordinator for information.

E-advising Tools
Students are encouraged to use the interactive e-advising tools that have been designed to help them graduate within four years. These tools can be accessed through the Student Center.

The Bachelor of Arts in Political Science offers great flexibility in two areas, U.S. politics and legal studies.

The option in U.S. politics. Students choose courses from a rich curriculum, providing close student-faculty contact. Significant work experience and internship opportunities are offered in the state legislature, with lobbying groups, political parties, candidates, and in the offices of U.S. Senators and Representatives.

The option in legal studies. This option provides students with an innovative course of study with a law-related emphasis. Students engage in hands-on work in internships or the legal clinic practicum, giving students practical experience through contact with attorneys, judges, inmates, and persons in the community. Students also can participate in a moot court competition. Graduates from this major often pursue careers in law.

Grading Requirement
All courses taken to fulfill program course requirements must be taken for a letter grade except those courses specified by the department as credit/no credit grading only.

Course Requirements for the Major: 42-43 units
Completion of the following courses, or their approved transfer equivalents, is required of all candidates for this degree. Courses in this program may complete more than one graduation requirement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Methodology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 331W</td>
<td>Introduction to Research Methods (W)</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introductory Political Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 101</td>
<td>Vital Political Problems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 112</td>
<td>Law, Politics, and Justice</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>International Relations/Comparative Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 141</td>
<td>Introduction to International Relations</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 142</td>
<td>Introduction to Comparative Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political Theory</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Select one of the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 432</td>
<td>American Political Thought</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 434</td>
<td>Origins of Western Political Thought</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 437</td>
<td>Contemporary Political Thought</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

U.S. Politics
Select one of the following: 3 units
- POLS 402 State and Local Government
- POLS 472 The Presidency
- POLS 473 Congress

Public Policy/ Public Administration
Select one of the following: 3 units
- POLS 250 Introduction to Criminal Justice
- POLS 260 Introduction to Public Administration
- POLS 344 U.S. Foreign Policy
- POLS 461 Environmental Politics and Policy
- POLS 471 Public Policy Formation

Constitutional Law
Select one of the following: 3 units
- POLS 451A Constitutional Law: Powers and Restraints
- POLS/MCGS 451B Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Major Option
Select one of the following options: 20-21 units
- U.S. Politics (p. 1)
- Legal Studies (p. 2)

Total Units: 42-43

Major Option Course Requirements
Students must select one of the following options for completion of the major course requirements.

Option in U.S. Politics: 20 units

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<tr>
<td>Research Methodology</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 421</td>
<td>Applied Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS/WMST 324W</td>
<td>Women and Politics (W)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS/MCGS 327</td>
<td>The Politics of Race and Ethnicity in the United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS/CHLX 328</td>
<td>Latino Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 404</td>
<td>Interest Groups and Lobbying</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 427</td>
<td>U.S. Campaigns and Elections</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Political Institutions</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 402</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 473</td>
<td>Congress</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Internship or Practicum
Select three units from the following: 3 units
- POLS 489A Internship in Public Administration
- POLS 489C Internship in Political Science
- POLS 489E Internship in Criminal Justice
POLS 489K Internship in Legal Studies
POLS 489P Work or Community Experience in Selected Governmental or Community Agencies
POLS 490 Legal Clinic Practicum

Senior Seminar
POLS 397 Tutorial in Political Science 1
POLS 399 Independent Study 2 1
POLS 429W Senior Seminar in U.S. Politics (W) 3

Elective Requirement
Select three units from the following: 3
Any upper-division political science (POLS) courses (with no more than 6 units from internships and 3 units of independent research or study counting toward the major)

Total Units 20

1 These courses may be used to satisfy this requirement if not used above in the major core.
2 Take for 1 unit.

Option in Legal Studies: 21 units
Courses listed in multiple requirements can be used only once towards completion of the major.

Course Title Units
Course Requirements
POLS 251 Introduction to Legal Studies 3
POLS 454W Legal Research and Writing (W) 3
POLS 455 Civil Litigation 3
POLS 459 Senior Seminar in Legal Studies 3

Internship or Practicum
Select six units from the following: 1
POLS 489K Internship in Legal Studies
POLS 490 Legal Clinic Practicum
Select one of the following: 2
BLAW 413 Employment Law
BLAW 414 Labor Law and Collective Bargaining
BLAW 415 Entrepreneurship Law
FINA 453 Estate Planning
JOUR 320 Mass Communication Law
PHHA 432 Laws, Ethics, and Regulations in Health Services
POLS 258 Criminal Law
POLS 356 Legal Analysis
POLS 365W Theories, Practices, and Administration of Justice (W)
POLS/MCGS 401W Sexual Minorities Law/Politics (W)
POLS 410 International Law
POLS 450 Criminal Procedure
POLS 451A Constitutional Law: Powers and Restraints
POLS/MCGS 451B Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
POLS 452 Alternative Dispute Resolution
POLS 461 Environmental Politics and Policy
POLS 464 Administrative Law
POLS 468 Planning Law
POLS/SWRK 481 Law and Disadvantaged Persons
POLS 491 Trial and Appellate Advocacy
POLS 495 Community Appellate Advocacy
RHPM 428 Legal Principles of Recreation, Hospitality, and Parks Management

Total Units 21

1 These courses may be taken more than once for credit.
2 POLS 451A, POLS 451B, or POLS 461 may be used to satisfy this requirement if not used above in the major core.
3 Must be taken for 3 units.

Electives Requirement
To complete the total units required for the bachelor’s degree, select additional elective courses from the total University offerings. You should consult with an advisor regarding the selection of courses which will provide breadth to your University experience and possibly apply to a supportive second major or minor.

See Bachelor’s Degree Requirements (https://catalog.csuchico.edu/undergraduate-requirements/bachelors-degree-requirements/) for complete details on general degree requirements. A minimum of 39 units, including those required for the major, must be upper division.

General Education Requirements: 48 units
See General Education (https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/undergraduate-education/general-education/) and the Class Schedule (http://www.csuchico.edu/schedule/) for the most current information on General Education Requirements and course offerings.

One of the following GE Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (B4) courses is recommended to support the student in either of the options in the Political Science major.
MATH 105 Introduction to Statistics or MATH 185 Data Analytics for Social Good.

Diversity Course Requirements: 6 units
You must complete a minimum of two courses that focus primarily on cultural diversity. At least one course must be in U.S. Diversity (USD) and at least one in Global Cultures (GC). See Diversity Requirements (https://catalog.csuchico.edu/undergraduate-requirements/diversity-requirements/) for a full list of courses. Most courses taken to satisfy these requirements may also apply to General Education (https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/undergraduate-education/general-education/).

Upper-Division Writing Requirement
Writing Across the Curriculum (EM 17-009) is a graduation requirement and may be demonstrated through satisfactory completion of four Writing (W) courses, two of which are designated by the major department. See Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning and Writing Requirements (https://catalog.csuchico.edu/undergraduate-requirements/mathematicsquantitative-reasoning-writing-requirements/) for more
details on the four courses. The first of the major designated Writing (W) courses is listed below.

**Option in U.S. Politics**

- POLS 429W Senior Seminar in U.S. Politics (W)

**Option in Legal Studies**

- POLS 454W Legal Research and Writing (W)

The second major-designated Writing course is the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GW) (EO 665 (https://calstate.policystat.com/policy/9585618/latest/)). Students must earn a C- or higher to receive GW credit. The GE Written Communication (A2) (https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/undergraduate-education/general-education/#A2) requirement must be completed before a student is permitted to register for a GW course.