

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.

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

POLS/PHIL 438	Jurisprudence: Philosophy of Law	
U.S. Politics		
Select one of the following:		3
POLS 402	State and Local Government	
POLS 472	The Presidency	
POLS 473	Congress	
Public Policy/ Public Administration		
Select one of the following:		3
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
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
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

Course	Title	Units
Research Methodology		
POLS 421	Applied Research Methods	3
U.S. Politics		
Select one of the following:		3
POLS/WMST 324W	Women and Politics (W)	
POLS/MCGS 327	The Politics of Race and Ethnicity in the United States	
POLS/CHLX 328	Latino Politics	
POLS 404	Interest Groups and Lobbying	
POLS 427	U.S. Campaigns and Elections	
U.S. Political Institutions		
Select one of the following: ¹		3
POLS 402	State and Local Government	
POLS 472	The Presidency	
POLS 473	Congress	
Internship or Practicum		
Select three units from the following:		3
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		6
POLS 489K	Internship in Legal Studies	
POLS 490	Legal Clinic Practicum	
Select one of the following: ²		3
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 Legal Information Clinic Directorship ³	
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 (<http://www.csuchico.edu/prs/EMs/2017/17-009.shtml/>)) 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.