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: 42-44 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
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Research Methodology
POLS 331W | Introduction to Research Methods (W) | 4
POLS 396 | Research Symposium Experience | 1
Introductory Political Science
Select one of the following: 3
LEGL 112 | Law, Politics, and Justice | 3
POLS 101 | Vital Political Problems | 3
International Relations/Comparative Politics
Select one of the following: 3
INTR 141 | Introduction to International Relations | 3
INTR 142 | Introduction to Comparative Politics | 3
Political Theory
Select one of the following: 3
POLS 432 | American Political Thought | 3
POLS 434 | Origins of Western Political Thought | 3
U.S. Politics
Select one of the following: 3
POLS 402 | State and Local Government | 3
POLS 472 | The Presidency | 3
POLS 473 | Congress | 3
Public Policy/ Public Administration
Select one of the following: 3
CRIM 250 | Introduction to Criminal Justice | 3
INTR 344 | U.S. Foreign Policy | 3
LEGL 461 | Environmental Politics and Policy | 3
PADM 260 | Introduction to Public Administration | 3
PADM 471 | Public Policy Formation | 3
Constitutional Law
Select one of the following: 3
LEGL 451A | Constitutional Law: Powers and Restraints | 3
LEGL/MCGS 451B | Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties | 3
Major Option
Select one of the following options: 19-21
U.S. Politics (p. 1)
Legal Studies (p. 2)

Total Units 42-44

1 One unit of credit for POLS 396 will be assigned when enrolled in option senior seminar (LEGL 459 or POLS 429W).

Major Option Course Requirements

Students must select one of the following options for completion of the major course requirements.

Option in U.S. Politics: 19 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) | 3
POLS/MCGS 327 | The Politics of Race and Ethnicity in the United States | 3
POLS/CHLX 328 | Latino Politics | 3
POLS 404 | Interest Groups and Lobbying | 3
POLS 427 | U.S. Campaigns and Elections | 3
U.S. Political Institutions
Select one of the following: 3
POLS 402 | State and Local Government | 3
POLS 472 | The Presidency | 3
**Political Science BA**

**Internship or Practicum**
Select three units from the following:

- CRIM 489E Internship in Criminal Justice
- LEGL 489K Internship in Legal Studies
- LEGL 490 Legal Clinic Practicum
- PADM 489A Internship in Public Administration
- PADM 489P Work or Community Experience in Selected Governmental or Community Agencies
- POLS 489C Internship in Political Science

**Senior Seminar**

- POLS 399 Independent Study *(W)*
- POLS 429W Senior Seminar in U.S. Politics *(W)*

**Elective Requirement**
Select three units from the following:

- Any upper-division Criminal Justice (CRIM), International Relations (INTR), Legal Studies (LEGL), Public Administration (PADM), or Political Science (POLS) courses

**Total Units**: 19

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LEGL 251</td>
<td>Introduction to Legal Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGL 454W</td>
<td>Legal Research and Writing <em>(W)</em></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGL 455</td>
<td>Civil Litigation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGL 459</td>
<td>Senior Seminar in Legal Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Internship or Practicum**
Select six units from the following:

- LEGL 489K Internship in Legal Studies
- LEGL 490 Legal Clinic Practicum

Select one of the following:

- BLAW 413 Employment Law
- BLAW 414 Labor Law and Collective Bargaining
- BLAW 415 Entrepreneurship Law
- FINA 453 Estate Planning
- INTR 410 International Law
- JOUR 320 Mass Communication Law
- LEGL 258 Criminal Law
- LEGL 356 Legal Analysis
- LEGL 365W Theories, Practices, and Administration of Justice *(W)*
- LEGL/MCGS 401W Sexual Minorities Law/Politics *(W)*
- LEGL 450 Criminal Procedure
- LEGL 451A Constitutional Law: Powers and Restraints

**Total Units**: 21

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

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**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 ([catalog.csuchico.edu/undergraduate-requirements/bachelors-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 ([catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/undergraduate-education/general-education/](https://catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/undergraduate-education/general-education/)) and the Class Schedule ([http://www.csuchico.edu/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
- 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 US Diversity (USD) and at least one in Global Cultures (GC). See Diversity Requirements ([catalog.csuchico.edu/undergraduate-requirements/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 ([catalog.csuchico.edu/colleges-departments/undergraduate-education/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

- LEGL 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.