

POLITICAL SCIENCE—PUBLIC SERVICE, BACHELOR OF ARTS

College of Letters & Science

Political science is the study of politics and political systems at the local, national, and international levels. It concerns not only the institutions of government but also the analysis of such phenomena as political behavior, political values, political change and stability, parties, pressure groups, bureaucracies, administrative behavior, justice, national security, and international affairs.

The Program

The Department of Political Science offers three majors:

- International Relations (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/departments-programs-degrees/political-science/international-relations-ab/>) — Explores problems of security, development, ethnic conflict, human rights, health, and the environment at a global level.
- Political Science (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/departments-programs-degrees/political-science/political-science-ab/>) — Aims to provide the student with a broad understanding of political concepts, political institutions, political behavior, and political processes.
- Political Science—Public Service (p. 1) — For students who desire opportunities for practical hands-on experience in their major. It differs in particular from the political science major in its internship requirement and its focus on the American political system.

Major Advisors

Contact the Department of Political Science (<https://ps.ucdavis.edu/>).

Internships & Career Alternatives

Both the proximity of UC Davis to the state capitol and the programs offered by the UC Washington Center afford exceptional internship possibilities in local, state, and national government offices, providing students with actual experience in politics and government service while still attending school. A student who majors in political science acquires research and analytic skills relevant to many professional fields. Consequently, the majors offered in political science are valuable not only in providing students with a better understanding of politics and political systems, but also as a first step toward careers in teaching, law, management, government, urban planning, journalism, politics, administration, or for graduate studies in numerous fields.

American History & Institutions

This University requirement may be satisfied by passing any one of the following Political Science (POL) courses:¹

Code	Title	Units
POL 001 or POL 001Y	American National Government	4
POL 005	Contemporary Problems of the American Political System	4
POL 100	Local Government & Politics	4
POL 102	Urban Public Policy	4
POL 104	California State Government & Politics	4
POL 105	The Legislative Process	4

POL 106	The Presidency	4
POL 108	Policy Making in the Public Sector	4
POL 109	Public Policy & the Governmental Process	4
POL 113	American Political Thought	4
POL 130	Recent U.S. Foreign Policy	4
POL 131	Analysis of U.S. Foreign Policy	4
POL 160	American Political Parties	4
POL 163	Group Politics	4

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See also under American History & Institutions Requirement (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/university-degree-requirements/american-history-institutions-requirement/>).

Graduate Study

The Department of Political Science offers a program of graduate study and research leading to a Ph.D. degree or an M.A./J.D. joint degree. The M.A./J.D. joint degree is done only in conjunction with UC Davis School of Law. Information concerning admission to these programs and requirements for completion are available in the Graduate Program Coordinator's office.

Graduate Advisor

Contact the Department of Political Science (<https://ps.ucdavis.edu/>).

The major requirements below are in addition to meeting University Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/university-degree-requirements/>) & College Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/college-degree-requirements/>); unless otherwise noted. The minimum number of units required for the Political Science—Public Service Bachelor of Arts is 68.

Code	Title	Units
Preparatory Subject Matter		
POL 001 or POL 001Y	American National Government	4
POL 051	Scientific Study of Politics	4
Choose three:		12
POL 002	Introduction to Comparative Politics	
POL 003	International Relations	
POL 004	Basic Concepts in Political Theory	
POL 005	Contemporary Problems of the American Political System	
POL 007 or POL 007V	Introduction to Law & Politics	
Choose one:		4
POL/CMN/SOC/ PSC 012Y	Data Visualization in the Social Sciences	
STA 013 or STA 013Y	Elementary Statistics	
STA 032	Gateway to Statistical Data Science	
Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal		24
Depth Subject Matter		
<i>Core Program</i>		
Choose three:		12

POL 100	Local Government & Politics	
POL 102	Urban Public Policy	
POL 104	California State Government & Politics	
POL 105	The Legislative Process	
POL 106	The Presidency	
POL 108	Policy Making in the Public Sector	
POL 109	Public Policy & the Governmental Process	
POL 113	American Political Thought	
POL 114	Quantitative Analysis of Political Data	
POL 180	Bureaucracy in Modern Society	
<i>Internship</i>		
Choose one:		6
POL 192A	Internship in Public Affairs	
POL 192B	Internship in Public Affairs	
WAS 192	Internship in the UC Davis Washington Program	
<i>Research Paper</i>		
WAS 193/POL 193W	Washington Center Research Seminar	2-4
or POL 193	Research in Practical Politics	
<i>Fields of Concentration</i>		
Select six upper division courses from two or three fields of concentration listed below with at least two courses in each field selected; at least 16 of the units must be in Political Science; No overlap between Core Program courses and Fields of Concentration allowed.		24
Field (1) Policy Process (p. 2)		
Field (2) Policy Interpretation (Public/Pre-Law) (p. 2)		
Field (3) State & Local Policy (p. 2)		
Field (4) Foreign Policy (p. 2)		
Field (5) Environmental Policy (p. 2)		
Field (6) Economic Policy (p. 3)		
Field (7) Social Policy (p. 3)		
Field (8) Policy Analysis Tool (p. 3)		
Field (9) Honors Thesis (p. 3)		
Depth Subject Matter Subtotal		44-46
Total Units		68-70

Fields of Concentration

Field (1) Policy Process

Code	Title	Units
POL 100	Local Government & Politics	4
POL 102	Urban Public Policy	4
POL 104	California State Government & Politics	4
POL 105	The Legislative Process	4
POL 106	The Presidency	4
POL 108	Policy Making in the Public Sector	4
POL 109	Public Policy & the Governmental Process	4
POL 140A	Comparative Political Institutions: Electoral Systems	4
POL 160	American Political Parties	4
POL 162	Elections & Voting Behavior	4
POL 163	Group Politics	4
POL 164	Public Opinion	4

POL 165	Mass Media & Politics	4
or POL 165V	Mass Media & Politics	
POL 166	Women in Politics	4
POL 168	Latino Politics	4
POL 170	Political Psychology	4
POL 171	The Politics of Energy	4
POL 172	American Political Development	4
POL 174	Government & the Economy	4
POL 175	Science, Technology, & Policy	4
POL 180	Bureaucracy in Modern Society	4
POL 183	Administrative Behavior	4
POL 187	Administrative Theory	4
POL 195	Special Studies in American Politics	4
ECN 130	Public Microeconomics	4
or ECN 130Y	Public Microeconomics	
ECN 131	Public Finance	4
or ECN 131V	Public Finance	
or ECN 131Y	Public Finance	

Field (2) Policy Interpretation (Public/Pre-Law)

Code	Title	Units
POL 119	Contemporary Political Thought	4
POL 150	Judicial Politics & Constitutional Interpretation	4
POL 151	Constitutional Politics of the First Amendment & the Right to Privacy.	4
POL 152	The Constitutional Politics of the Equality	4
POL 153	The Constitutional Politics of the Justice System	4
POL 155	Judicial Process & Behavior	4

Field (3) State & Local Policy

Code	Title	Units
POL 100	Local Government & Politics	4
POL 102	Urban Public Policy	4
POL 104	California State Government & Politics	4
ESP 173	Land Use & Growth Controls	4
SOC 143A	Urban Society	4

Field (4) Foreign Policy

Code	Title	Units
POL 122	International Law	4
POL 130	Recent U.S. Foreign Policy	4
POL 131	Analysis of U.S. Foreign Policy	4
POL 132	National Security Policy	4
POL 134	Africa & U.S. Foreign Policy	4
POL 139	Special Studies in Foreign Policy	4

Field (5) Environmental Policy

Code	Title	Units
POL 107	Environmental Politics & Administration	4
ESP 160	The Policy Process	4
ESP 161	Environmental Law	4
ESP 162	Environmental Policy	4

ESP 166	Ocean & Coastal Policy	3
ESP 168A	Methods of Environmental Policy Analysis	5
ESP 168B	Methods of Environmental Policy Evaluation	4
ESP 169	Water Policy & Politics	3
ESP 171	Urban & Regional Planning	4
ESP 172	Public Lands Management	4
ESP 173	Land Use & Growth Controls	4
ESP 179	Environmental Impact Assessment	4

Field (6) Economic Policy

Code	Title	Units
ECN 100A	Intermediate Micro Theory: Consumer & Producer Theory	4
or ECN 100AV	Intermediate Micro Theory: Consumer & Producer Theory	
ECN 130	Public Microeconomics	4
or ECN 130Y	Public Microeconomics	
ECN 131	Public Finance	4
or ECN 131V	Public Finance	
or ECN 131Y	Public Finance	
ECN 151A	Economics of the Labor Market	4
ECN 151B	Economics of Human Resources	4

Field (7) Social Policy

Code	Title	Units
SOC/IRE 104	The Political Economy of International Migration	4
SOC 124	Education & Inequality in the U.S.	4
SOC 141	Industrialization & Social Change	4
SOC 150	Criminology	4
SOC 151	The Criminal Justice System	4
SOC 154	(Discontinued)	4
SOC 155	Sociology of Law	4
SOC 175	(Discontinued)	4
SOC 181	(Discontinued)	4

Field (8) Policy Analysis Tools

Code	Title	Units
ECN 102	Analysis of Economic Data	4
ECN 140	Econometrics	4
POL 114	Quantitative Analysis of Political Data	4

Field (9) Honors Thesis

Code	Title	Units
POL 194HA	Special Study for Honors Students	4
POL 194HB	Special Study for Honors Students	4