

Political Science Major Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements

2021-Current Catalog

Major requirements (39 units)

Lower-Division Core (6 units):

_____ PLSI 1 Modern Politics (prerequisite for PLSI 140)
_____ PLSI 90 Methods of Analysis of Quantitative Political Data

Upper-Division Core (12 units):

_____ PLSI 110 Political Thought to Machiavelli **or** PLSI 111 Political Thought Since Machiavelli
_____ PLSI 120 International Politics*
_____ PLSI 140 Approaches to Comparative Politics
_____ PLSI 150 Public Policy Making

Upper-Division Political Science Electives (18 units):

Courses used as Upper Division Electives:

(1)
(2)
(3)
(4)
(5)
(6)

All upper division (100-level) courses not part of the upper division core, including "T" (Topics) courses, may be used towards the upper division electives requirement with the exception of PLSI 102 (1 unit).

Capstone course (3 units):** PLSI 158I (internship in Political Science), PLSI 192 (capstone study abroad), PLSI 193 (senior research capstone), or SSCI 102H (College of Social Sciences Honors Research II)

General Education requirements (49 units)

University electives and remaining degree requirements, including American Government (PLSI 2) and upper-division writing skills (UDWS) requirement

Total (120 units)

Advising Notes: See following page for recommended order of courses

* PLSI 120 does NOT fulfill the Multicultural/International (MI) requirement for students in most earlier catalog years.

**Capstone course is required for students in catalog year 2019-2020 and later.

(1) CR/NC grading is not permitted in the political science major.

(2) General Education and university elective units may be used toward a double major or minor (in something other than political science; see Double Major or departmental minor). Consult the appropriate department chair, program coordinator, or faculty adviser for further information.

(3) Grading Requirement. Students majoring in political science must earn a grade of C or better in each of the six core courses in the major: PLSI 1, 90 (lower-division) and PLSI 110 or 111, 120, 140, and 150 (upper-division) and capstone course.

Recommended order of classes

Lower-division major, GE courses, and lower-division university requirements

- Lower-division major core should be taken before upper-division core. PLSI 1 should be taken before any upper-division major courses. Transfer students may take PLSI 90 in their first semester along with upper-division core. PLSI 90 is recommended before PLSI 150.
- PLSI 1 and 90 may be taken in either order.
- Take PLSI 2 (American Government) before PLSI 1 (Modern Politics).
- Take PLSI 2 after D1 (American History).
- Take PLSI 1, 2, and 90 during your sophomore year.

Upper-division courses

- Complete your UDWS as soon as possible after meeting the 60 units requirement (i.e. usually in the first semester of your junior year).
- Begin your upper-division major core courses after completing 60 units (i.e. in the first semester of your junior year).
- Upper-division core courses (110/111, 120, 140, 150) may be taken in any order. Take the 2 or 3 core courses in which you are most interested in the first semester of your junior year.
- PLSI 110 is offered only in fall. All other core courses are offered every semester.
- PLSI 120 and PLSI 140 should usually be taken before or (where necessary) concurrently with other classes in the series (e.g. 120 before 121, 128T, etc. or concurrently; 140 before 148, 149T, etc., or concurrently).
- Most upper-level electives are offered only once every three semesters, so start taking them in the first or second semester of your junior year. PLSI 170 and 171 are typically offered every fall and spring respectively.
- Consult the four optional Political Science tracks for course, adviser, and career information and to help you choose your upper-level courses. Not all courses in the catalog or in each optional track will be offered during your time as an upper division student. T (Topics) courses are electives that will vary in title.
- The capstone internship course (if selected) should usually be taken in the year before graduation.
- The senior research capstone (if selected) should ideally be taken in your final semester (after completing the majority of Political Science course requirements).

Students should consult the Department's Faculty Areas of Expertise list for upper-level major and career advising in their area of interest.

Students can make an appointment with the Chair, Dr. Melanie Ram, using this link:
https://calendly.com/dr_ram