

BA POLITICAL SCIENCE

Program Learning Objectives

1. **Subject Matter Expertise:** Through their curricular and co-curricular work, students will demonstrate expertise in political science and its subfields, as well as its relationship to the broader worlds of study and practice.
2. **Critical Thinking:** Students will demonstrate critical thinking through their coursework and/or co-curricular activities.
3. **Working Productively and Communicating Effectively:** Through their coursework and/or co-curricular activities, students will demonstrate their ability to work productively, both alone and in groups, their knowledge of the principles of effective communication, and their ability to communicate the results of their work effectively through a variety of tools and techniques.
4. **Ethics, Diversity and Sustainability:** In the context of coursework and/or co-curricular activities, students will demonstrate that they have the knowledge and skills necessary to make reasoned decisions, and that they can bring an understanding of the politics surrounding and the value of ethics, diversity and sustainability to bear on those decisions.
5. **Lifelong Learning and Positive Contribution:** Through their coursework and/or co-curricular activities, students will demonstrate that they have the knowledge and skills to engage in lifelong learning aimed at making a positive contribution to society.

Degree Requirements and Curriculum

In addition to the program requirements listed on this page, students must also satisfy requirements outlined in more detail in the Minimum Requirements for Graduation (<https://catalog.calpoly.edu/generalrequirementsbachelorsdegree/#generaleducationtext>) section of this catalog, including:

- 60 units of upper-division courses
- Graduation Writing Requirement (GWR)
- 2.0 GPA
- U.S. Cultural Pluralism (USCP)

Note: No Major, Support or Concentration courses may be selected as credit/no credit.

MAJOR COURSES

POLS 112	American and California Government (D1) ¹	4
POLS 180	Political Inquiry	4
POLS 225	Introduction to International Relations	4
POLS 229	Introduction to Comparative Politics	4
POLS 230	Basic Concepts of Political Thought	4
POLS 359	Research Design	4
POLS 361	Data Analysis in Political Science	4
POLS 461 & POLS 462	Senior Project I and Senior Project II	4
Political Science Electives (300-400 level) ²		16
Political Science Diversity and Inclusion Course, select from the following: ³		4

POLS 308	Political Violence and Conflict Resolution	
POLS 310	The Politics of Race, Class, Gender and Sexuality (USCP)	
POLS 343	Civil Rights in America (USCP)	
POLS 380	Religion and Politics in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	
POLS 417	Feminist Legal Theory	
POLS 419	Social Movements and Political Protest	
POLS 445	Voting Rights and Representation (USCP)	
POLS 457	U.S. Reproductive Politics	
POLS 459	The Politics of Poverty	
Concentration or Individualized Course of Study		28
SUPPORT COURSES		
Select from the following:		4
ANT 201	Cultural Anthropology	
GEOG 150	Human Geography	
HIST 110	Western Civilization: Ancient to Renaissance	
HIST 111	Western Civilization: Reformation to the Present	
HIST 222	World History, 1000-1800	
HIST 223	World History, 1800 - Present	
SOC 110	Comparative Societies	
STAT 217	Introduction to Statistical Concepts and Methods (B4) ¹	4
Select any 200 or 300-level ES or WGQS course(s)		4
GENERAL EDUCATION (GE)		
(See GE program requirements below.)		64
FREE ELECTIVES		
Free Electives ⁴		24
Total units		180

¹ Required in Major or Support; also satisfies General Education (GE) requirement.

² A total of 4 units of either POLS 386 or POLS 387 may count toward upper-division Political Science electives. A total of 4 units of either POLS 386 or POLS 387 may count towards the Concentration. A total of 4 units of either POLS 386 or POLS 387 may count toward Free Electives. Any combination of POLS 386 and POLS 387 may be taken for a maximum of 12 units total credit for the degree.

³ Political Science Diversity and Inclusion course cannot be double-counted from Concentration courses.

⁴ If a General Education (GE) course is used to satisfy a Major or Support requirement, additional units of Free Electives may be needed to complete the total units required for the degree.

Concentrations or Individualized Course of Study (select one)

- American Politics (<https://catalog.calpoly.edu/collegesandprograms/collegeofliberalarts/politicalscience/bapoliticalscience/americanpoliticsconcentration/>)

- Global Politics (<https://catalog.calpoly.edu/collegesandprograms/collegeofliberalarts/politicalscience/bapoliticalscience/globalpoliticsconcentration/>)
- Pre-Law (<https://catalog.calpoly.edu/collegesandprograms/collegeofliberalarts/politicalscience/bapoliticalscience/prelawconcentration/>)

Individualized Course of Study

A minimum of 28 units of coursework are selected by the student and approved by the student's academic advisor. 20 of these must be at the 300–400 level and 16 units must carry a POLS prefix.

General Education (GE) Requirements

- 72 units required, 8 of which are specified in Major and/or Support.
- If any of the remaining 64 units is used to satisfy a Major or Support requirement, additional units of Free Electives may be needed to complete the total units required for the degree.
- See the complete GE course listing (<https://catalog.calpoly.edu/generalrequirementsbachelorsdegree/#generaleducationtext>).
- A grade of C- or better is required in one course in each of the following GE Areas: A1 (Oral Communication), A2 (Written Communication), A3 (Critical Thinking), and B4 (Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning).

Area A	English Language Communication and Critical Thinking	
A1	Oral Communication	4
A2	Written Communication	4
A3	Critical Thinking	4
Area B	Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning	
B1	Physical Science	4
B2	Life Science	4
B3	One lab taken with either a B1 or B2 course	
B4	Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (4 units in Support) ¹	0
Upper-Division B		4
Area C	Arts and Humanities	
Lower-division courses in Area C must come from three different subject prefixes.		
C1	Arts: Arts, Cinema, Dance, Music, Theater	4
C2	Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, Languages other than English	4
Lower-Division C Elective - Select a course from either C1 or C2		4
Upper-Division C		4
Area D	Social Sciences - Select courses in Area D from at least two different prefixes	
D1	American Institutions (Title 5, Section 40404 Requirement) (4 units in Major) ¹	0
D2	Lower-Division D	4
Upper-Division D		4

Area E	Lifelong Learning and Self-Development	
Lower-Division E		4
Area F	Ethnic Studies	
F	Ethnic Studies	4
GE Electives in Areas B, C, and D		
Select courses from two different areas; may be lower-division or upper-division courses.		
GE Electives		8
Total units		64

¹ Required in Major or Support; also satisfies General Education (GE) requirement.