

POLITICAL SCIENCE (BA)

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/academic-standards-policies/general-requirements-bachelors-degree/#generaleducationtext>) section of this catalog, including:

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

Note: No Major, Support or Concentration courses may be selected as credit/no credit. In addition, no more than 12 units of cooperative or internship courses can count towards your degree requirements.

Code	Title	Units
MAJOR COURSES		
POLS 1112	U.S. and California Government (4A) ¹	3
POLS 1180	Political Inquiry	3
POLS 2225	Introduction to International Relations	3
POLS 2229	Introduction to Comparative Politics	3
POLS 2230	Basic Concepts of Political Thought	3
POLS 3359	Research Design	3
POLS 3361	Data Analysis in Political Science	3
POLS 4461	Senior Project I	2
POLS 4462	Senior Project II	2
Concentration or Individualized Course of Study		
(See list of Concentrations and Individualized Course of Study below) ^{2,3}		21
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion		
Select from the following: ³		3
POLS 3308	Political Violence and Conflict Resolution	
POLS 3310	Politics of Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality in the U.S.	
POLS 3343	Civil Rights in the U.S.	
POLS/RELS 3380	Religion and Politics in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	
POLS/WGQS 4417	Feminist Legal Theory	
POLS 4419	Social Movements and Political Protest	
POLS 4445	Voting Rights and Representation	
POLS/WGQS 4457	U.S. Reproductive Politics	
POLS 4459	The Politics of Poverty	
Upper-Division Electives		
Select any 3000-4000 level POLS courses ^{2,3}		12
SUPPORT COURSES		
STAT 1110	Applied Statistical Concepts and Methods (2) ¹	3
Select from the following: (4B) ¹		3
ANT 2201	Cultural Anthropology	
GEOG 1150	Human Geography	
HIST 2222	World History to 1500	
HIST 2223	World History since 1500	
SOC 1110	Comparative Societies	
GENERAL EDUCATION (GE)		
(See GE program requirements below)		34
FREE ELECTIVES		

Free Electives ⁴

19

Total Units**120**

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

² A maximum of 3 units of either POLS 3386 or POLS 3387 may count towards the Concentration. A maximum of 3 units of either POLS 3386 or POLS 3387 may count towards the Upper-Division Electives.

³ If a course is taken to meet a Major or Support requirement, it cannot be double-counted in the concentration.

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
Global Politics

Code	Title	Units
REQUIRED COURSES		
POLS 3308 or POLS 3381	Political Violence and Conflict Resolution ¹ Peace and War	3
Select from the following:		3
POLS 3321	Comparative Political Culture	
POLS 4426	International Organizations and Law	
POLS 4427	Politics of the Global Economy	
POLS 3328 or POLS 3383	Politics of Developing Areas Politics of the European Union	3
POLS 3382 or POLS 4420	Comparative Foreign Policy Contemporary U.S. Foreign Policy	3
POLS 4428 or POLS 4429	Issues and Topics in Comparative Politics Issues and Topics in International Relations	3
Approved Electives		
Select from the following: ^{1, 2, 3}		6
POLS 2285	Model United Nations	
POLS 3324	International Relations Theory	
POLS 3325	Global Political Issues	
POLS 3332	World Food Systems	
POLS 3339	Authoritarian and Democratic Rule	
POLS/RELS 3380	Religion and Politics in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	
POLS 3384	Comparative Law	
POLS 3386	Government Internship	
POLS 3387	Research Internship	
POLS 4425	Comparative Political Corruption	
POLS 4435	Political Communication	
POLS 4451	Technology and Public Policy	
POLS 4452	Technology and International Development	
Select any course that was not taken to satisfy a requirement listed above		
Total Units		21

¹ If a course is taken to meet a Major or Support requirement, it cannot be double-counted in the concentration.

² A minimum of 3 units of either POLS 3386 or POLS 3387 may count towards the concentration.

³ Consultation with advisor is recommended prior to selecting Approved Electives; bear in mind that your selection may impact pursuit of post-baccalaureate studies and/or goals.

Pre-Law

Code	Title	Units
REQUIRED COURSES		
POLS 2245	Judicial Process	3
POLS 3334	Jurisprudence	3
POLS 3341	U.S. Constitutional Law	3
POLS 3343	Civil Rights in the U.S. ¹	3
POLS 3344	Civil Liberties	3
Approved Electives		
Select from the following: ^{1, 2, 3}		6
BUS 2207	Legal Responsibilities of Business	
BUS 4409	Law of Real Property and Real Estate	
BUS 4410	The Legal Environment of International Business	
CRP/NR 4404	Environmental Law	
CRP/NR 4408	Water Resource Law and Policy	
ES 3380	Critical Race Theory	
LS 3214	Constitutional Issues and Social/Historical Foundations of U.S. and California Education	
PHIL 3334	Philosophy of Law	
POLS 2295	Foundations of Mock Trial	
POLS 3340	U.S. Judicial Politics	
POLS 3342	Constitutional Theory	
POLS 3384	Comparative Law	
POLS 3386	Government Internship	
POLS 3387	Research Internship	
POLS/WGQS 4417	Feminist Legal Theory	
POLS 4426	International Organizations and Law	
POLS 4445	Voting Rights and Representation	
POLS/WGQS 4457	U.S. Reproductive Politics	
Total Units		21

¹ If a course is taken to meet a Major or Support requirement, it cannot be double-counted in the concentration.

² A minimum of 3 units of either POLS 3386 or POLS 3387 may count towards the concentration.

³ Consultation with advisor is recommended prior to selecting Approved Electives; bear in mind that your selection may impact pursuit of post-baccalaureate studies and/or goals.

U.S. Politics

Code	Title	Units
REQUIRED COURSES		
Select from the following: ¹		6
POLS 3315	The U.S. Presidency	
POLS 3319	U.S. Congress	
POLS 3341	U.S. Constitutional Law	
POLS 3348	Early U.S. Political Thought	
POLS 3349	Contemporary U.S. Political Thought	
POLS/WGQS 4417	Feminist Legal Theory	
Select from the following: ¹		6
POLS 3310	Politics of Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality in the U.S.	
POLS 3316	Political Participation	
POLS 3317	Campaigns and Elections	
POLS 4419	Social Movements and Political Protest	
POLS 4445	Voting Rights and Representation	
POLS/WGQS 4457	U.S. Reproductive Politics	
POLS 4459	The Politics of Poverty	
Select from the following: ²		6
POLS 3338	Critical Issues in U.S. Politics	
POLS 3351	Public Policy and Administration	
POLS 3375	California Politics	
POLS 3386	Government Internship	
POLS 3387	Research Internship	
POLS 4431	Issues in U.S. Politics	
POLS 4440	California Student Bill Project	
POLS 4451	Technology and Public Policy	
POLS 4470	Special Advanced Topics	
POLS 4458	Urban Politics	
Approved Electives		
Select any course that was not taken to satisfy a requirement listed above ^{1, 2, 3}		3
Total Units		21

¹ If a course is taken to meet a Major or Support requirement, it cannot be double-counted in the concentration.

² A maximum of 3 units of either POLS 3386 or POLS 3387 may count towards the concentration.

³ Consultation with advisor is recommended prior to selecting Approved Electives; bear in mind that your selection may impact pursuit of post-baccalaureate studies and/or goals.

Individualized Course of Study

Offered at: San Luis Obispo Campus

An Individualized Course of study consists of 21 units of coursework to be selected by the student and approved by the student's faculty advisor. 12 of the 21 units must be at the 3000–4000 (upper-division) level and 12 units must be a POLS prefix. The 12 units of upper-division coursework are not required to be the same 12 units as the POLS-prefix courses. The list of courses is a contract between the student and the Department.

General Education (GE) Requirements
General Education (GE) Requirements

- 43 units required, 9 of which are specified in Major and/or Support.
- If any of the remaining 34 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/academic-standards-policies/general-requirements-bachelors-degree/#generaleducationtext>).
- A grade of C- or better is required in one course in each of the following GE Areas: 1A (English Composition), 1B (Critical Thinking), 1C (Oral Communication), and 2 (Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning).

Lower-Division General Education

Area 1	English Communication and Critical Thinking	
1A	Written Communication	3
1B	Critical Thinking	3
1C	Oral Communication	3
Area 2	Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning	
2	Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning (3 units in Support) ¹	0
Area 3	Arts and Humanities	
3A	Arts	3
3B	Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, Languages other than English	3
Area 4	Social and Behavioral Sciences (Area 4 courses must come from at least two different course prefixes.)	
4A	American Institutions (Title 5, Section 40404 Requirement) (3 units in Major) ¹	0
4B	Social and Behavioral Sciences (3 units in Support) ¹	0
Area 5	Physical and Life Sciences	
5A	Physical Sciences	3
5B	Life Sciences	3
5C	Laboratory (may be embedded in a 5A or 5B course)	1
Area 6	Ethnic Studies	
6	Ethnic Studies	3
Upper-Division General Education		
Upper-Division 2/5	Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning or Physical and Life Sciences	3
Upper-Division 3	Arts and Humanities	3
Upper-Division 4	Social and Behavioral Sciences (Area 4 courses must come from at least two different course prefixes.)	3
Total Units		34

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