

MAJOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, LAW, POLITICS, AND GOVERNMENT CONCENTRATION

The Law, Politics, and Government concentration is designed to help students develop the knowledge and skills to analyze the connections between public law, political science, and government, and pursue careers in government or the legal profession. Students will learn about campaigns and elections, public opinion and voting behavior, American political institutions, American constitutional law, and how political forces contribute to public law in the United States, among other topics. Law, Politics, and Government students are strongly encouraged to complete an internship to gain practical experience working in the field.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

1. Reason through political claims and assertions by political actors.
2. Recognize and respond to diverse ideological perspectives.
3. Locate political issues and controversies within their relevant institutional and historical contexts.
4. Demonstrate familiarity with the institutional processes of politics in numerous global and domestic political arenas.
5. Demonstrate confidence in expressing opinions and presenting analyses of political problems and their solutions.
6. Demonstrate confidence in describing the legal, political, and governmental processes of the United States.

Requirements Effective Spring 2025

Political science majors must achieve a minimum grade of C (2.000) in each of the political science (POLS) courses counted toward meeting the requirement of the major. Students may enroll in either the standalone major or (at most) one of the concentrations under the Major in Political Science.

Freshman

		AUCC	Credits
CO 150	College Composition (GT-CO2)	1A	3
POLS 101	American Government and Politics (GT-SS1)	3C	3
POLS 160	Introduction to Public Policy and Service (GT-SS1)	3C	3
1B (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#aucc)		1B	3
Arts and Humanities (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities)		3B	6
Biological and Physical Sciences (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#biological-physical-sciences)		3A	4
Historical Perspectives (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#historical-perspectives)		3D	3
Electives			5
Total Credits			30

Sophomore

POLS 232	International Relations (GT-SS1)	1C	3
POLS 241	Comparative Government and Politics (GT-SS1)	1C	3
Select one course from the following:			3
CO 300	Writing Arguments (GT-CO3)	2	
CO 301A	Writing in the Disciplines: Arts and Humanities (GT-CO3)	2	
CO 301B	Writing in the Disciplines: Sciences (GT-CO3)	2	
CO 301C	Writing in the Disciplines: Social Sciences (GT-CO3)	2	
CO 301D	Writing in the Disciplines: Education (GT-CO3)	2	
CO 302	Writing in Digital Environments (GT-CO3)	2	
JTC 300	Strategic Writing and Communication (GT-CO3)	2	
LB 300	Specialized Professional Writing	2	
American Politics and Law (300-level courses only; see list below) ^{1,2}			3
International Relations, Comparative Politics., Public Policy and Administration, Political Theory (300-level courses only; see list below) ^{2,3}			0-3
Support Option (see list below)			3-12
Biological and Physical Sciences (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#biological-physical-sciences)		3A	3

Electives			3-15
Total Credits			33
Junior			
Political Theory/Analytical Tools (Select one course from the following):			3
POLS 320	Empirical Political Analysis	4A,4B	
POLS 420	History of Political Thought	4A,4B	
POLS 421	Contemporary Political Theories	4A,4B	
POLS 422	Democratic Theory	4A,4B	
POLS 423	American Political Theories	4A,4B	
POLS 459	Program Evaluation for Public Administrators	4A,4B	
American Politics and Law (courses not taken previously; see list below) ^{1,2}			3-6
International Relations, Comparative Politics, Public Policy and Administration, Political Theory (courses not taken previously; see list below) ^{2,3}			3-6
Support Option (see list below)			6-12
Electives ⁴			3-15
Total Credits			30
Senior			
POLS 492 ⁵	Capstone Seminar	4A,4B,4C	3
American Politics and Law (courses not taken previously; see list below) ^{1,2}			3-6
Support Option (see list below)			6-12
Electives ⁴			6-15
Total Credits			27
Program Total Credits:			120

International Relations, Comparative Politics, Public Policy and Administration, and Political Theory List

Code	Title	AUCC	Credits
Select 6 unique credits, one course from any of the two different subfields below, taken in the sophomore, junior and/or senior years ^{2,3}			
International Relations:			
POLS 331	Politics and Society Along Mexican Border		3
POLS 332/ECON 332	International Political Economy		3
POLS 362	Global Environmental Politics		3
POLS 431	International Law		3
POLS 433	International Organization		3
POLS 435	United States Foreign Policy		3
Comparative Politics:			
POLS 341	Western European Government and Politics		3
POLS 345	Russian, Central, and East European Politics		3
POLS 347	Comparative Authoritarianism		3
POLS 441	Comparative Indigenous Politics--Americas		3
POLS 442	Environmental Politics in Developing World		3
POLS 443	Comparative Social Movements		3
POLS 444	Comparative African Politics		3
POLS 445	Comparative Asian Politics		3

POLS 446	Latin American Politics		3
POLS 447	Politics in Mexico, Central America, Caribbean		3
POLS 449	Middle East Politics		3
Public Policy and Administration:			
POLS 351	Public Administration		3
POLS 361	U.S. Environmental Politics and Policy		3
POLS 364	Air, Climate, and Energy Policy Analysis		3
POLS 365	Food Policy and Politics in America		3
POLS 451	Public Policy Design and Governance		3
POLS 460	Public Policy Process		3
POLS 462	Globalization, Sustainability, and Justice		3
POLS 463	Urban Policy and Management		3
POLS 465	Public Policy Analysis		3
Political Theory:			
POLS 420	History of Political Thought	4A,4B	3
POLS 421	Contemporary Political Theories	4A,4B	3
POLS 422	Democratic Theory	4A,4B	3
POLS 423	American Political Theories	4A,4B	3

American Politics and Law Course List

Code	Title	AUCC	Credits
Select 12 unique credits, taken in the sophomore, junior and/or senior years ^{1,2}			
American Politics and Law:			
POLS 302	U.S. Political Parties and Elections		3
POLS 303	Politics of Organized Interests		3
POLS 304	Legislative Politics		3
POLS 305	Judicial Politics		3
POLS 306	Executive Politics		3
POLS 307	Media and Politics		3
POLS 308	Political Psychology		3
POLS 309	Urban Politics		3
POLS 320	Empirical Political Analysis	4A,4B	3
POLS 321	Empirical Political Analysis Laboratory		1
POLS 405	Race and Ethnicity in U.S. Politics		3
POLS 409	Urban and Regional Politics		3
POLS 410	American Constitutional Law		3
POLS 413	U.S. Civil Rights and Liberties		3
POLS 431	International Law		3
Up to 6 credit hours of the following courses may count toward the required credit hours for International Relations/Comparative Politics/Public Policy and Administration/Political Theory/American Politics and Law. The nature of the internship and the content of the work performed will determine credit allocation.			
POLS 392	Washington DC Semester Seminar		
POLS 486A	Practicum: Legislative Politics		
POLS 486B	Practicum: Government		

POLS 487	Internship – Washington DC Semester
POLS 496	Washington DC Semester Colloquium Group Study

Support Option

Political Science majors must complete one of the following five Support Options.

Minor or Interdisciplinary Minor Support Option

Code	Title	Credits
Select a minor or interdisciplinary minor in consultation with advisor.		21-24

Student-Selected Course Group Support Option

Code	Title	Credits
A program of courses proposed by student and approved by advisor containing a minimum of 21 credits, of which at least 12 must be upper-division (300- to 400-level).		21

Second Major Support Option

Code	Title	Credits
Select a second major in consultation with advisor. This option may require as much as 36 credits. Credit range shown is approximate, and may require more or less, depending on the second major chosen.		27-36

Foreign Language Support Option

Code	Title	Credits
A minimum of 5 courses totaling at least 15 credits in a single foreign language, including at least 2 courses of language instruction or in the language at the upper-division level.		15-22

Methods Support Option

Code	Title	Credits
Methods Support Option		21
POLS 320	Empirical Political Analysis	3
STAT 301	Introduction to Applied Statistical Methods	3
Select two from the following:		6
PHIL 120	History and Philosophy of Scientific Thought (GT-AH3)	
PHIL 327	Philosophy of Behavioral Sciences	
PHIL 415	Logic and Scientific Method	
Select one from the following:		3

Freshman

Semester 1	Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
CO 150 College Composition (GT-CO2)	X		1A	3
POLS 101 American Government and Politics (GT-SS1)	X		3C	3
Arts and Humanities (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities)		X	3B	3
Biological and Physical Sciences (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#biological-physical-sciences)		X	3A	4
Elective		X		2
Total Credits				15
Semester 2	Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
POLS 160 Introduction to Public Policy and Service (GT-SS1)			3C	3

STAT 305	Sampling Techniques
STAT 341	Statistical Data Analysis I
STAT 342	Statistical Data Analysis II
Select two from the following:	6
ANTH 441	Method in Cultural Anthropology
AREC 335/ ECON 335	Introduction to Econometrics
SOC 210	The Power of Numbers--Statistics in Sociology
SOC 311	Sociological Research Methods

- 1 Select a minimum of 12 upper-division (300- to 400-level) credits to fulfill American Politics and Law. Sophomores may take only 300-level courses from this section.
- 2 Courses selected to fulfill International Relations/Comparative Politics/Public Policy and Administration/Political Theory requirements may not also fulfill American Politics and Law requirements, and vice versa.
- 3 Sophomores are advised to only take only 300-level courses from this list.
- 4 Select enough elective credits to bring the program total to a minimum of 120 credits, of which at least 42 must be upper-division (300- to 400-level).
- 5 Students must complete one upper-division course in each of four of the five departmental subfields (American Politics and Law, Political Theory, International Relations, Comparative Politics, and Public Policy and Administration) prior to taking POLS 492.

Major Completion Map

Distinctive Requirements for Degree Program:

Political science majors must achieve a minimum grade of C (2.000) in each of the political science (POLS) courses counted toward meeting the requirement of the major. Students may enroll in either the standalone major or (at most) one of the concentrations under the Major in Political Science.

Upper-Division course in at least four subfields of political science required to register for POLS 492.

1B (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#aucc)	X	1B	3
Arts and Humanities (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#arts-humanities)		X 3B	3
Historical Perspectives (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#historical-perspectives)		X 3D	3
Elective		X	3
CO 150 must be completed by the end of Semester 2.	X		

Total Credits**15****Sophomore**

Semester 3	Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
POLS 232 International Relations (GT-SS1)	X		1C	3
International Relations/Comparative Politics/Public Policy and Administration/Political Theory requirement (See Department list on Concentration Requirements tab)	X			0-3
Support Option (See Option list on Concentration Requirements tab)	X			3-9
Biological and Physical Sciences (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#biological-physical-sciences)		X	3A	3
Electives		X		0-9

Total Credits**18**

Semester 4	Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
POLS 241 Comparative Government and Politics (GT-SS1)	X		1C	3
Select one course from the following:	X			3
CO 300 Writing Arguments (GT-CO3)			2	
CO 301A Writing in the Disciplines: Arts and Humanities (GT-CO3)			2	
CO 301B Writing in the Disciplines: Sciences (GT-CO3)			2	
CO 301C Writing in the Disciplines: Social Sciences (GT-CO3)			2	
CO 301D Writing in the Disciplines: Education (GT-CO3)			2	
CO 302 Writing in Digital Environments (GT-CO3)			2	
JTC 300 Strategic Writing and Communication (GT-CO3)			2	
LB 300 Specialized Professional Writing			2	
American Politics and Law (300-level only; see list on Requirements tab)	X			3
Support Option (See option list on Concentration Requirements Tab)				0-3
Electives		X		3-6

Total Credits**15****Junior**

Semester 5	Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
International Relations, Comparative Politics, Public Policy and Administration, Political Theory (course not taken previously; see list below)	X			3-6
American Politics and Law (courses not taken previously; see list on Concentration Requirements tab)	X			3-6
Support Option (See Option list on Concentration Requirements tab)	X			3-6
Electives		X		0-9

Total Credits**18**

Semester 6	Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
Political Theory/Analytic Tools (Select one course from the following):	X			3
POLS 320 Empirical Political Analysis			4A,4B	
POLS 420 History of Political Thought			4A,4B	
POLS 421 Contemporary Political Theories			4A,4B	
POLS 422 Democratic Theory			4A,4B	
POLS 423 American Political Theories			4A,4B	
POLS 459 Program Evaluation for Public Administrators			4A,4B	
Support Option (See Option list on Concentration Requirements tab)	X			3-6

Electives			X		3-6
Total Credits					12
Senior					
Semester 7		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
American Politics and Law (courses not taken previously; see list on Concentration Requirements tab)		X			3-6
Support Option (See Option list on Concentration Requirements tab)		X			3-6
Electives			X		0-6
Total Credits					12
Semester 8		Critical	Recommended	AUCC	Credits
POLS 492	Capstone Seminar	X		4A,4B,4C	3
Support Option (See Option list on Concentration Requirements tab)		X			3-6
Electives			X		6-9
The benchmark courses for the 8th semester are the remaining courses in the entire program of study.		X			
Total Credits					15
Program Total Credits:					120