

MAJOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Requirements Effective Fall 2024

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.

Political Science, Upper-Division

At least 24 credits of upper-division political science courses must be completed for the major. The 24 credits include the senior capstone course, POLS 492, at least 3 credits of AUCC 4A and 4B in addition to POLS 492, and at least one upper-division course in each of the following five subfields.

American Politics and Law

Code	Title	AUCC	Credits
POLS 302	U.S. Political Parties and Elections	4A,4B	3
POLS 303	Politics of Organized Interests	4A,4B	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 405	Race and Ethnicity in U.S. Politics	4A,4B	3
POLS 409	Urban and Regional Politics		3
POLS 410	American Constitutional Law		3
POLS 413	U.S. Civil Rights and Liberties		3

Political Theory

Code	Title	AUCC	Credits
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

International Relations

Code	Title	AUCC	Credits
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
POLS 436	Comparative Foreign Policy		3
POLS 437	International Security		3

Comparative Politics

Code	Title	AUCC	Credits
POLS 341	Western European Government and Politics		3
POLS 345	Russian, Central, and East European Politics		3

POLS 347	Comparative Authoritarianism		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	Politics of South America		3
POLS 447	Politics in Mexico, Central America, Caribbean		3
POLS 448	Comparative Racial/Ethnic Politics	4A,4B	3
POLS 449	Middle East Politics	4A,4B	3

Public Policy and Administration

Code	Title	AUCC	Credits
POLS 351	Public Administration		3
POLS 361	U.S. Environmental Politics and Policy		3
POLS 364	Air, Climate, and Energy Policy Analysis		3
POLS 451	Public Policy Design and Governance		3
POLS 459	Program Evaluation for Public Administrators		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

Other Possible Elective Courses Under the 24-Credit Requirement

Code	Title	AUCC	Credits
POLS 320	Empirical Political Analysis		3
POLS 5**	Selected graduate course ¹		

A maximum of six credits from the following may be used to fulfill this requirement:

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 Options

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 ²

Code	Title	AUCC	Credits
Methods Support Option			21
POLS 320	Empirical Political Analysis ²		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)	3B	
PHIL 327	Philosophy of Behavioral Sciences		
PHIL 415	Logic and Scientific Method		
Select one from the following:			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		

Freshman

		AUCC	Credits
CO 150	College Composition (GT-CO2)	1A	3
POLS 101	American Government and Politics (GT-SS1)	3C	3
POLS 103	State and Local Government and Politics (GT-SS1)	3C	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
Quantitative Reasoning (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#quantitativereasoning)		1B	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	
Political Science, Upper-Division (See list above) ³			3-6
Support Option (See list above)			3-12
Biological and Physical Sciences (http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/all-university-core-curriculum/aucc/#biological-physical-sciences)		3A	3
Electives			12
Total Credits			33
Junior			
Political Science - AUCC 4A and/or 4B (See Upper-Division list above) ⁴		4A,4B	3
Political Science, Upper-Division (See list above) ³			6-12
Support Option (See list above)			6-12
Electives			3-12
Total Credits			30
Senior			
POLS 492 ⁵	Capstone Seminar	4A,4B,4C	3
Political Science, Upper-Division (See list above) ³			3-6
Support Option (See list above)			6-12
Electives ⁶			3-15
Total Credits			27
Program Total Credits:			120

¹ Students may select a 500-level POLS graduate course with approval of advisor and the instructor to fulfill a maximum of 3 credits of the 24-credit upper-division requirement.

² Students choosing the Methods Support Option must take POLS 320. Credits earned in POLS 495 may not be used to satisfy this requirement.

³ Select a minimum of 24 upper-division (300- to 400-level) courses as described above in the Political Science, Upper-Division list.

⁴ In addition to POLS 492 students must select at least one course from among the courses listed in the five subfields (see Political Science, Upper-Division list above), for a minimum of 3 credits, that meets the AUCC 4A/4B requirement for the major.

⁵ Students must have completed at least 12 credits from POLS 300 – 499 classes in order to enroll in POLS 492.

⁶ 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).