

# MAJOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political science is the study of politics and political action in society. It encompasses international agreements and organizations as well as the patterns of political action which both create and shape them. It encompasses citizen action and the institutions which produce public policy at the local, state, and national levels within the United States. It encompasses systems of voting, political parties, and courts, compared across national political systems. It encompasses the raising of normative questions about the nature and purposes of political life. The presence of politics is felt in all areas and sectors of society at all times. The dynamic and transformative effects of political action are seen virtually everywhere.

The department's curriculum is distributed across five subfields of the discipline: American politics, political theory, comparative politics, international relations, and public policy. Course work across the discipline's subfields is complemented by a required support option. Support options include a minor in another department; an interdisciplinary minor; the second language support option; the methods support option, or a second major.

## Learning Objectives

Students majoring in Political Science shall demonstrate the following:

1. Ability to reason through political claims and assertions by political actors.
2. Skill in recognizing and responding to diverse ideological perspectives.
3. Ability to locate political issues and controversies within their relevant institutional and historical contexts.
4. Familiarity with the institutional processes of politics in numerous global and domestic political arenas.
5. Confidence in expressing opinions and presenting analyses of political problems and their solutions.

## Accelerated Program

The major in Political Science includes an accelerated program option (<https://provost.colostate.edu/accelerated-programs/>) for students to graduate on a faster schedule. Accelerated Programs typically include 15-16 credits each fall and spring semester for three years, plus 6-9 credits over two to three summer sessions (<https://summer.colostate.edu/>). Students who enter CSU with prior credit (AP, IB, transfer, etc.) may use applicable courses to further accelerate their graduation. Visit the Office of the Provost website for additional information about Accelerated Programs (<https://provost.colostate.edu/accelerated-programs/>).

## Potential Occupations

The major in Political Science, like all studies in the liberal arts, provides students with a broad academic background that is serviceable across a broad spectrum of employment in the public and private sectors. Political Science majors are trained to be independent and critical thinkers; to be discerning and active observers and listeners; to communicate persuasively; to constructively engage and solve intellectual and practical problems; to adapt and function effectively in a number of distinct occupational and institutional settings; to function comfortably in a

multiethnic, multiracial, and globalizing society. The employment profiles of departmental alumni attest to the breadth of possibilities for today's graduates: public and non-profit organization managers, prosecutors, public policy analysts and consultants, federal law enforcement agents, legislators and legislative analysts, foreign service officers, private attorneys, demographers, criminal investigators, advertising specialists, urban/regional planners, environmental policy analysts, state budget analysts, public relations representatives, market researchers, elementary and high school teachers, international businessmen and businesswomen, lobbyists, novelists, construction industry managers, insurance agents and managers, financiers, and real estate brokers. Some graduates join professions following advanced study in law, international relations, area studies, public administration, public policy analysis, and business management.

## Concentrations

**Students may complete the general Political Science major or select one of the following concentrations for a more specialized course of study.**

- Environmental Politics and Policy Concentration (<http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/colleges/liberal-arts/political-science/political-science-major-environmental-politics-policy-concentration/>)
- Global Politics and Policy Concentration (<http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/colleges/liberal-arts/political-science/political-science-major-global-politics-policy-concentration/>)
- U.S. Government, Law, and Policy Concentration (<http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/colleges/liberal-arts/political-science/political-science-major-us-government-law-policy-concentration/>)

For further information on declaring the Major in Political Science, please schedule an appointment with a College of Liberal Arts Academic Success Coordinator by calling 970-491-3117 or visiting Clark C207.

To change your major to Political Science, you can either call the College of Liberal Arts Academic Advising Center at 970-491-3117 or send an email to [cla\\_advising@colostate.edu](mailto:cla_advising@colostate.edu). More information is available on <https://advising.libarts.colostate.edu>.