Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Requirements

• At least 28 units for the major must be from upper-division courses (300–699).
• Courses that fulfill the core and breadth requirements must be taken for a letter grade. CR/NC grading is not accepted for core and breadth courses.
• Students must earn a grade of C- or better in all Core, Breadth, and GWAR classes for them to count towards fulfilling those requirements towards the major.
• Students in the major or minor may take up to four units CR/NC only for courses that satisfy part of the elective requirement.
• One political science (PLSI) GWAR course must be taken. It also counts towards either the Breadth Requirement or electives in political science. The GWAR (writing emphasis) course must be taken in the Political Science department, even if a student has completed a GWAR course in another department.

Note: Students must take the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) (composition) course in the major even if the student has taken a GWAR course in another department. The GWAR is satisfied by earning a C- in any upper-division course with the suffix GW. The department offers a number of its courses with a GWAR and non-GWAR option. To satisfy the GWAR requirement, you must successfully complete a course that contains the GW suffix; e.g., PLSI 477GW “Congress and the Presidency - GWAR” will satisfy the requirement - PLSI 477 “Congress and the Presidency” will NOT satisfy GWAR.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Students demonstrate knowledge of basic facts about the American political system.
2. Students demonstrate comparative knowledge of diverse political systems around the world.
3. Students demonstrate knowledge of a variety of theoretical traditions from Europe, the United States, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, and other parts of the world.
4. In their senior seminar, students demonstrate that they have mastered an integrative approach to the various subfields of political science.
5. Students demonstrate proficiency in expressing complex ideas and arguments through writing as well as proficiency in political research and analysis.
6. Students demonstrate an ability to conduct basic empirical analysis on political topics as well as an ability to do textual exegesis in their written work.
7. Students demonstrate citizenship skills, including the ability to appreciate human diversity, communicate ideas effectively, and engage in community life.
8. Students demonstrate the ability to link theory to practice by applying political science knowledge to actual problem-solving and community service.

Political Science (B.A.) — Minimum 40 units
Core Requirements (13 units)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 200</td>
<td>American Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 250</td>
<td>Comparative Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 275</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 300</td>
<td>Scientific Inquiry in Political Science</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR)
At least one upper-division writing-emphasis course in one of the breadth areas or as an elective. These are ordinary courses that emphasize writing skills, and are indicated with a GW suffix in the class schedule (e.g., the GWAR version of PLSI 418 is PLSI 418GW). A GWAR course counts as either a Breadth or Elective course.

Breadth Requirement (9-12 units)
Upper-division Political Science courses chosen to include at least one course in at least three of these four sub-fields:

1. American Politics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 460</td>
<td>Topics in American Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 461</td>
<td>Voting Behavior, Campaigns, and Elections</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 462</td>
<td>Applied Public Opinion Research</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 463</td>
<td>The Politics of Immigration in the United States</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 464</td>
<td>Race and American Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 465</td>
<td>Reason, Passion, and Political Behavior</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 467</td>
<td>Politics and Community Organizing</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 472</td>
<td>Civic and Political Engagement</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 473</td>
<td>California Politics and Government</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 475</td>
<td>San Francisco Political Issues</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 477</td>
<td>Congress and the Presidency</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 479</td>
<td>Urban Politics and Community Power</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
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</table>

2. Comparative Politics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 328</td>
<td>Domestic and Foreign Policy: Post-Communist Regions</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 403</td>
<td>Cases in Comparative Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 404</td>
<td>Politics of China</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 406</td>
<td>Radical Right Politics: Far-Right Parties in Contemporary Europe</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 407</td>
<td>Politics of Russia</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 408</td>
<td>Mexican Politics and Society</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 410</td>
<td>Middle East Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 411</td>
<td>East Asian Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 412</td>
<td>South Asian Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 416</td>
<td>Ethnicity and Nationalism</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 417</td>
<td>Gender, Equality, and Politics: A Comparative Perspective</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 418</td>
<td>Political Transitions in East &amp; Southeast Asia</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 419</td>
<td>Comparative Political Economy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 421</td>
<td>Social Movements in the Francophone World</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 424</td>
<td>Social Movements</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PLSI 425  Imagining Power in the Middle East 4
PLSI 431  Constructing Kurdistan 4
PLSI 435  Politics of Global Finance and Crisis 4

3. Political Theory

Code  Title  Units
PLSI 351  Political Theory: The Classical Tradition 4
PLSI 352  Political Theory: Reformation to Nineteenth Century 4
PLSI 353  Political Theory: The Twentieth Century 4
PLSI 354  Politics, the Environment and Social Change 4
PLSI 355  Politics and Ethics of the Consumer Society 3
PLSI 356  Political Theories of Neoliberalism 4
PLSI 357GW  Political Movements: Lessons from Freedom Summer - GWAR 4
PLSI 360  Development of American Political Thought 4
PLSI 371  Marxist Political Theory 4
PLSI 372  Critical Political Theory 4
PLSI 381  Political Theories of Sexuality 4
PLSI 382  Politics and Literature 4
PLSI 386  Introduction to Critical Social Thought 3
PLSI 387  Non Western Comparative Political Thought 4
PLSI 388  Politics and the Popular 4
PLSI 389  Latin American Revolutionary Societies 4
PLSI 393  Anarchist Political Theory 4
PLSI 394  Political Theories of Work, Labor, and Free Time 4
PLSI 396  Fascism and Communism in 20th Century Europe 4

4. Public Law

Code  Title  Units
PLSI 478  Judicial Process 4
PLSI 552  Individual Rights and the Constitution 4
PLSI 553  Legal Issues 4
PLSI 555  Moot Court 1 4
PLSI 610  Judicial and Legal Internship 4
& PLSI 611  and Judicial and Legal Internship Seminar 4

Administrative Note 4

Electives (8-11 units)

It is recommended that elective units be taken in Political Science. However, up to eight upper-division units may be selected from related departments with consent of a major advisor.

Code  Title  Units
PLSI 100  Understanding Politics 3
PLSI 105  Principles of Government and Politics 3
PLSI 106  Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy: Introduction to Political Economy 3
PLSI 150  Contemporary Moral/Political Issues 3
PLSI 320  Political Forum 2
PLSI 321  Development and Foreign Policy: Africa 4
PLSI 322  Latin American Policy Analysis 4
PLSI 325  Chinese Foreign Policy 4
PLSI 329  U.S.-Japan Politics 4
PLSI 342  Strategy and War 4

PLSI 362  Domestic & Transnational Sources of U.S. Foreign Policy 4
PLSI 373  Essentials of California Politics 1
PLSI 395  Political Theories of Pedagogy and Community Activism 3
PLSI 430  Israeli Democracy: Politics, Institutions, and Society 3
PLSI 492  Research Methods 4
PLSI 493  Data Analysis 4
PLSI 500  Labor and Government 3
PLSI 544  Women in the World 4
PLSI 560  Urban Poverty and Policy 4
PLSI 570  Urban Health Policy 3
PLSI 580  Housing Policy and Planning 3
PLSI 685  Projects in the Teaching of Political Science 1-4
PLSI 699  Independent Study 1-4

Senior Seminar: Culminating Experience (3-4 units)

Code  Title  Units
PLSI 605  Senior Seminar: Student's Choice Empirical Research Project 4
PLSI 606  Senior Seminar in American Politics 3
PLSI 607  Senior Seminar in Comparative Politics 3
PLSI 608  Senior Seminar in Political Theory 3
PLSI 609  Senior Seminar in Public Law: Legal Issues 3

1  Moot Court may be repeated once for credit, but only 4 units may be applied to the Breadth requirement.

Note: A minimum of 40 upper-division units must be completed for the degree (including upper-division units required for the major, general education, electives, etc.). A student can complete this major yet not attain the necessary number of upper-division units required for graduation. In this case, additional upper-division courses will be needed to reach the required total.

Complementary Studies

Twelve units of complementary studies are required of all candidates for the B.A. degree in Political Science. These units must come from courses bearing a prefix other than PLSI that are not cross-listed with Political Science. Students can satisfy this requirement by completing a related minor, a secondary major, or through an approved Study Abroad program.

Complementary Studies courses should have a direct bearing on the study of politics or deepen and enrich the study of politics. Such courses are typically found in departments like International Relations, Urban Studies and Planning, or Philosophy, and in the College of Ethnic Studies.

Eight of the twelve Complementary Studies units may count toward the major as elective units if approved in advance by a Political Science advisor. Students must consult with an advisor in the department to ensure that their choices fulfill the department's requirements.

Courses from the following departments will be considered to be part of Complementary Studies for political science. Any minor automatically fulfills complementary studies and, depending on one's emphasis, foreign languages can also fulfill complementary studies if they are associated with a focus on comparative politics and/or area studies.

Africana Studies
American Indian Studies
Anthropology
Asian American Studies
Criminal Justice
Environmental Studies
Ethnic Studies
History
Humanities
International Relations
Latina/Latino Studies
Philosophy
Sexuality Studies
Sociology
Urban Studies and Planning
Women and Gender Studies

Students who have earned AA-T or AS-T degrees and are pursuing a similar B.A. degree at SF State are required to fulfill the Complementary Studies requirement as defined by the major department. Students should consult with a major advisor about how transfer units and/or SF State units can best be applied to this requirement in order to ensure degree completion within 60 units.

General Education Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Course Level</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Area Designation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oral Communication</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written English Communication</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>A2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Science</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>B1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Science</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Science</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>B3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>B4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>C1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>C2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts or Humanities</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>C1 or C2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences:</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>US History</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>D1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Sciences:</td>
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<tr>
<td>US &amp; CA Government</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lifelong Learning and Self-</td>
<td>LD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>E</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development (LLD)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical and/or Life Science</td>
<td>UD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>UD-B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts and/or Humanities</td>
<td>UD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>UD-C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>UD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>UD-D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SF State Studies

Courses certified as meeting the SF State Studies requirements may be upper or lower division in General Education (GE), a major or minor, or an elective.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Course Level</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Area Designation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Ethnic and Racial</td>
<td>LD or UD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>AERM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minorties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Sustainability</td>
<td>LD or UD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Perspectives</td>
<td>LD or UD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>GP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Justice</td>
<td>LD or UD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SJ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: LD = Lower-Division; UD = Upper-Division.

First-Time Student Roadmap (4 Year)

Find the correct roadmap (A, B, C, or D):
1. Select the row that matches your English Course choice for A2.*
2. Select the column that matches your QR Category (found at your student center under Math Alert).
3. Click the Roadmap that lines up with your row and column.

For example, if you are taking ENG 104 as your first English course and your student center math alert says you are QR Category III, you should choose Roadmap D.

Pathway QR Cat I/II QR Cat III/IV
ENG 114              Roadmap A     Roadmap C
ENG 104/ENG 105     Roadmap B     Roadmap D

*Composition for Multilingual Students: If taking ENG 209 as your first English course, choose the ENG 114 row. If taking ENG 204 for your first English course, choose the ENG 104/ENG 105 row.

Transfer Student Roadmap (2 Year)

For students with an AA-T in Political Science. This roadmap opens in a new tab.

For students with an AA-T in Law, Public Policy and Society. This roadmap opens in a new tab.

This degree program is an approved pathway ("similar" major) for students earning the ADT in Political Science

California legislation SB 1440 (2009) mandated the creation of the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) to be awarded by the California Community Colleges. Two types of ADTs are awarded: Associate in Arts for Transfer (AA-T) and Associate in Science for Transfer (AS-T).

Note: no specific degree is required for admission as an upper-division student. However, the ADT includes specific guarantees related to admission and graduation and is designed to clarify the transfer process and strengthen lower-division preparation for the major.

An ADT totals 60 units and in most cases includes completion of all lower-division General Education requirements and at least 18 units in a specific major. (The Biology, Chemistry, and Environmental Science AS-T degrees defer 3 units in lower-division GE area C and 3 units in lower division GE area D until after transfer.) Students pursuing an ADT are...
guaranteed admission to the CSU if minimum eligibility requirements are met, though not necessarily to the CSU campus of primary choice.

Upon verification that the ADT has been awarded prior to matriculation at SF State, students are guaranteed B.A. or B.S. completion in 60 units if pursuing a "similar" major after transfer. Determinations about "similar" majors at SF State are made by faculty in the discipline.

Degree completion in 60 units cannot be guaranteed when a student simultaneously pursues an additional major, a minor, certificate, or credential.

A sample advising roadmap for students who have earned an ADT and continue in a "similar" major at SF State is available on the Roadmaps tab on the degree requirements page for the major. The roadmap displays:

- How many lower-division units required for the major have been completed upon entry based on the award of a specific ADT;
- Which lower-division requirements are considered complete upon entry based on the award of a specific ADT;
- How to complete the remaining 60 units for the degree in four semesters.

Students who have earned an ADT should seek advising in the major department during the first semester of attendance.

General Advising Information for Transfer Students

1. Before transfer, complete as many lower-division requirements or electives for this major as possible.

2. The following courses are not required for admission but are required for graduation. Students are strongly encouraged to complete these units before transfer; doing so will provide more flexibility in course selection after transfer.

- A course in U.S. History
- A course in U.S. & California Government

For information about satisfying the requirements described in (1) and (2) above at a California Community College (CCC), please visit http://www.assist.org. Check any geographically accessible CCCs; sometimes options include more than one college. Use ASSIST to determine:

- Which courses at a CCC satisfy any lower-division major requirements for this major;

Remedial courses are not transferable and do not apply to the minimum 60 units/90 quarters required for admission.

Additional units for courses that are repeated do not apply to the minimum 60 units required for upper-division transfer (for example, if a course was not passed on the first attempt or was taken to earn a better grade).

Before leaving the last California Community College of attendance, obtain a summary of completion of lower-division General Education units (IGETC or CSU GE Breadth). This is often referred to as a GE certification worksheet. SF State does not require delivery of this certification to Admissions, but students should retain this document for verifying degree progress after transfer.

Credit for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or College-Level Examination Program courses: AP/IB/CLEP credit is not automatically transferred from the previous institution. Units are transferred only when an official score report is delivered to SF State. Credit is based on the academic year during which exams were taken. Refer to the University Bulletin in effect during the year of AP/IB/CLEP examination(s) for details regarding the award of credit for AP/IB/CLEP.

Students pursuing majors in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines often defer 6-9 units of lower-division general education in Areas C and D until after transfer to focus on preparation courses for the major. This advice does not apply to students pursuing associate degree completion before transfer.

Transferring From Institutions Other Than CCCs or CSUs

Review SF State's lower-division General Education requirements. Note that, as described below, the four basic skills courses required for admission meet A1, A2, A3, and B4 in the SF State GE pattern. Courses that fulfill the remaining areas of SF State's lower-division GE pattern are available at most two-year and four-year colleges and universities.

Of the four required basic skills courses, a course in critical thinking (GE A3) may not be widely offered outside the CCC and CSU systems. Students should attempt to identify and take an appropriate course no later than the term of application to the CSU. To review more information about the A3 requirement, please visit http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/undergraduate-education/general-education/lower-division/#AAEL.

Waiting until after transfer to take a single course at SF State that meets both US and CA/local government requirements may be an appropriate option, particularly if transferring from outside of California.

All Students Must Meet the Transfer Eligibility Requirements Outlined Below for Admission.

For more information, visit the Undergraduate Admissions section.

- Complete 60 or more transferable semester units or 90 or more quarter units
- Earn a college grade point average of 2.0 or better in all transferable courses. Non-local area residents may be held to a higher GPA standard.
- Be in good standing at the last college or university attended
- Complete 30-semester units (45-quarter units) of general education, including four basic skills courses:
  a. One course in oral communication (same as CSU GE Area A1)
  b. One course in written composition (same as CSU GE Area A2)
  c. One course in critical thinking (same as CSU GE Area A3)
  d. One course in mathematics or quantitative reasoning (same as CSU GE Area B4)
- The four basic skills courses and a minimum of 60 transferable semester units (90-quarter units) must be completed by the spring semester prior to fall admission, or by the fall semester prior to spring admission. Earn a “C” or better grade in each basic skills course.