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.
• All Core, Breadth, GWAR, and culminating experience (senior seminar) courses must be completed with a grade of C- or better.
• Students in the major or minor may take up to 4 units CR/NC only for courses that satisfy part of the elective requirement.
• One Political Science (PLSI) GWAR course must be taken. 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.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Students demonstrate knowledge of the American political system, comparative knowledge of diverse political systems and dynamics around the world, and a variety of theoretical traditions from different cultures and societies.
2. Students demonstrate critical thinking skills and proficiency in expressing complex ideas and arguments through writing, demonstrate proficiency in political research and analysis, an ability to conduct basic empirical analysis in political topics, and an ability to do textual exegesis in their written work.
3. In their senior culminating experience, students demonstrate the ability to develop thoughtful and persuasive research projects of their own, in an area of political science.
4. Students demonstrate citizenship skills, including the ability to appreciate human diversity, communicate ideas effectively, engage in community life, and 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)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 200</td>
<td>Introduction to 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>
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<td>4</td>
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</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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 460</td>
<td>Topics in American Politics</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSI 461</td>
<td>Voting Behavior, Campaigns, and Elections</td>
<td>4</td>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>PLSI 479</td>
<td>The United States Congress</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 512</td>
<td>Urban Politics and Community Power</td>
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2. Comparative Politics

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<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>
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<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>3</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>
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<tr>
<td>PLSI 415</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSI 416</td>
<td>Ethnicity and Nationalism</td>
<td>4</td>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>PLSI 419</td>
<td>Comparative Political Economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSI 420</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSI 421</td>
<td>Social Movements in the Francophone World</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSI 424</td>
<td>Social Movements</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 425</td>
<td>Imagining Power in the Middle East</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSI 431</td>
<td>Constructing Kurdistan</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 435</td>
<td>Politics of Global Finance and Crisis</td>
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3. Political Theory

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 351GW</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSI 352</td>
<td>Political Theory: Reformation to Nineteenth Century</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 353</td>
<td>Political Theory: The Twentieth Century</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSI 354</td>
<td>Politics, the Environment and Social Change</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLSI 355</td>
<td>Politics and Ethics of the Consumer Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 356</td>
<td>Political Theories of Neoliberalism</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 357GW</td>
<td>Political Movements: Lessons from Freedom Summer - GWAR</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 360</td>
<td>Development of American Political Thought</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
General Education Requirements

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.

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 (bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/liberal-creative-arts/political-science/ba-political-science/roadmap-i-ii-eng) | Roadmap C (bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/liberal-creative-arts/political-science/ba-political-science/roadmap-iii-iv-eng)
ENG 104/ENG 105 | Roadmap B (bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/liberal-creative-arts/political-science/ba-political-science/roadmap-i-ii-stretch) | Roadmap D (bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/liberal-creative-arts/political-science/ba-political-science/roadmap-iii-iv-stretch)

*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 (bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/liberal-creative-arts/political-science/ba-political-science/adt-roadmap).

For students with an AA-T in Law, Public Policy and Society. This roadmap opens in a new tab (bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/liberal-creative-arts/political-science/ba-political-science/lpps-adt-roadmap).

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 preparation for the major.)
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;
• Which courses at a CCC satisfy CSU GE, US History, and US & CA
  Government requirements.

Remedial courses are not transferable and do not apply to the minimum
60 semester units/90 quarter units 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 (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
(bulletin.sfsu.edu/undergraduate-admissions).

• 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.