# Bachelor of Arts in Political Science Roadmap

**120 Total Units Required**  
**Minimum Number of Units in the Major: 40**

## First Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</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>GE Area A: Oral Communication (A1) or Critical Thinking (A3)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE Area A: Written English Communication (A2)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE Area B: Quantitative Reasoning (B4)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE Area C: Arts (C1) or Humanities (C2)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Units</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Second Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GE Area A: Oral Communication (A1) or Critical Thinking (A3)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE Area A: Written English Communication II (A4)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or Written English Communication (A2) Stretch II</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE Area B: Physical Science (B1) and Laboratory Science (B3)</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complementary Studies or SF State Studies or University Elective – Take Two</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Units</strong></td>
<td><strong>15-16</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Third Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GE Area A: Written English Communication II (A4) if not already satisfied</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or Complementary Studies or SF State Studies or University Elective</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE Area B: Life Science (B2) and Laboratory Science (B3)</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE Area C: Arts (C1)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE Area D: U.S. History (D2)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complementary Studies or SF State Studies or University Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Units</strong></td>
<td><strong>15-16</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Fourth Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>GE Area C: Humanities: Literature (C3)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE Area D: Social Sciences (D1)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complementary Studies or SF State Studies or University Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Units</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Fifth Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 300</td>
<td>Scientific Inquiry in Political Science</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GWAR Requirement</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE Area UD-B: Upper Division Physical and/or Life Sciences (Consider SF State Studies Course)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Sixth Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complementary Studies or SF State Studies or University Elective</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Units</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Seventh Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breadth Requirement</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE Area UD-D: Upper Division Social Sciences (Consider SF State Studies Course)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complementary Studies or SF State Studies or University Elective – Take Two</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Units</strong></td>
<td><strong>16-17</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Eighth Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breadth Requirement</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culminating Experience (3-4 units)</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complementary Studies or SF State Studies or University Elective – Take Two</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Units</strong></td>
<td><strong>16-17</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Total Units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Units</strong></td>
<td><strong>121-127</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

1. To avoid taking additional units, it is recommended that you meet **LLD and SF State Studies** requirements (AERM, GP, ES, SJ) within your GE or major.
2. ENG 114 can only be taken if you complete Directed Self-Placement (DSP) and select ENG 114; if you choose ENG 104/ENG 105 through DSP you will satisfy A2 upon successful completion of ENG 105 in the second semester; multilingual students may be advised into alternative English courses.
3. Depending on courses completed through Early Start, students in Pathway/Category 3 or 4 may be required to enroll in a support course to complement their Quantitative Reasoning/B4 requirement. There are multiple course options for this pathway. Before enrolling in a B4 course, students should verify their MATH Pathway/Category in their Student Center (http://cms.sfsu.edu/content/student-center). Information regarding the courses that correspond with your MATH Pathway/Category can be found on the Developmental Studies Office Website (http://developmentalstudies.sfsu.edu).
4. Consider taking a class combined with a laboratory or a separate lab to fulfill B3 if not already satisfied.
**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.

**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:

**American Politics**
- PLSI 460 Topics in American Politics (4 units)
- PLSI 461 Voting Behavior, Campaigns, and Elections (4 units)
- PLSI 462 Applied Public Opinion Research (4 units)
- PLSI 463 The Politics of Immigration in the United States (4 units)
- PLSI 464 Race and American Politics (4 units)
- PLSI 465 Reason, Passion, and Political Behavior (4 units)
- PLSI 467 Politics and Community Organizing (4 units)
- PLSI 472 Civic and Political Engagement (4 units)
- PLSI 473 California Politics and Government (4 units)
- PLSI 475 San Francisco Political Issues (4 units)
- PLSI 477 Congress and the Presidency (4 units)
- PLSI 479 The United States Congress (4 units)
- PLSI 512 Urban Politics and Community Power (4 units)

**Comparative Politics**
- PLSI 328 Domestic and Foreign Policy: Post-Communist Regions (4 units)
- PLSI 403 Cases in Comparative Politics (4 units)
- PLSI 404 Politics of China (4 units)
- PLSI 406 Radical Right Politics: Far-Right Parties in Contemporary Europe (4 units)
- PLSI 407 Politics of Russia (4 units)
- PLSI 408 Mexican Politics and Society (3 units)
- PLSI 410 Middle East Politics (4 units)
- PLSI 411 East Asian Politics (4 units)
- PLSI 412 South Asian Politics (4 units)
- PLSI 415 Politics of India (4 units)
- PLSI 416 Ethnicity and Nationalism (4 units)
- PLSI 417 Gender, Equality, and Politics: A Comparative Perspective (4 units)
- PLSI 418 Political Transitions in East & Southeast Asia (4 units)
- PLSI 419 Comparative Political Economy (4 units)
- PLSI 420 State-Society Relations in the Middle East (4 units)
- PLSI 421 Social Movements in the Francophone World (3 units)
- PLSI 424 Social Movements (4 units)
- PLSI 425 Imagining Power in the Middle East (4 units)
- PLSI 431 Constructing Kurdistan (4 units)
- PLSI 435 Politics of Global Finance and Crisis (4 units)

**Political Theory**
- PLSI 351GW Political Theory: The Classical Tradition - GWAR (4 units)
- PLSI 352 Political Theory: Reformation to Nineteenth Century (4 units)
- PLSI 353 Political Theory: The Twentieth Century (4 units)
- PLSI 354 Politics, the Environment, and Social Change (4 units)
- PLSI 355 Politics and Ethics of the Consumer Society (3 units)
- PLSI 356 Political Theories of Neoliberalism (4 units)
- PLSI 357GW Political Movements: Lessons from Freedom Summer - GWAR (4 units)
- PLSI 360 Development of American Political Thought (4 units)
- PLSI 371 Marxist Political Theory (4 units)
- PLSI 372 Critical Political Theory (4 units)
- PLSI 381 Political Theories of Sexuality (4 units)
- PLSI 382 Politics and Literature (4 units)
- PLSI 386 Introduction to Critical Social Thought (3 units)
- PLSI 387 Non Western Comparative Political Thought (4 units)
- PLSI 388 Politics and the Popular (4 units)
- PLSI 389 Latin American Revolutionary Societies (4 units)
- PLSI 392 Latin American Political Thought (4 units)
- PLSI 393 Anarchist Political Theory (4 units)
- PLSI 394 Political Theories of Work, Labor and Free Time (4 units)
- PLSI 396 Fascism and Communism in 20th Century Europe (4 units)

**Public Law**
- PLSI 478 Judicial Process (4 units)
- PLSI 552 Individual Rights and the Constitution (4 units)
- PLSI 553 Legal Issues (4 units)
- PLSI 555 Moot Court (4 units)
- PLSI 610 Judicial and Legal Internship (3 units)
- PLSI 611 Judicial and Legal Internship Seminar (1 unit)

**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.

- PLSI 100 Understanding Politics (3 units)
- PLSI 105 Principles of Government and Politics (3 units)
- PLSI 106 Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy: Introduction to Political Economy (3 units)
- PLSI 150 Contemporary Moral/Political Issues (3 units)
- PLSI 276 Public Lecture Series in Politics (2 units)
- PLSI 320 Political Forum (2 units)
- PLSI 321 Development and Foreign Policy–Africa (4 units)
- PLSI 322 Latin American Political Analysis (4 units)
- PLSI 325 Chinese Foreign Policy (4 units)
- PLSI 329 U.S.-Japan Politics (4 units)
- PLSI 342 Strategy and War (4 units)
- PLSI 362 Domestic & Transnational Sources of US Foreign Policy (4 units)
- PLSI 373 Essentials of California Politics (1 units)
- PLSI 395 Political Theories of Pedagogy and Community Activism (3 units)
- PLSI 430 Israeli Democracy: Politics, Institutions, and Society (3 units)
- PLSI 492 Research Methods (4 units)
- PLSI 493 Data Analysis (4 units)
- PLSI 500 Labor and Government (3 units)
- PLSI 544 Women in the World (4 units)
- PLSI 560 Urban Poverty and Policy (4 units)
- PLSI 570 Urban Health Policy (3 units)
- PLSI 580 Housing Policy and Planning (3 units)
- PLSI 660 The Roles of Nonprofit Organizations in Urban Life (3 units)
- PLSI 685 Projects in the Teaching of Political Science (1-4 units)
- PLSI 699 Independent Study (1-4 units)

**Culminating Experience (3-4 units)**

- PLSI 605 Senior Seminar: Student's Choice Empirical Research Project (4 units)
- PLSI 606 Senior Seminar in American Politics (3 units)
- PLSI 607 Senior Seminar in Comparative Politics (3 units)
- PLSI 608 Senior Seminar in Political Theory (3 units)
- PLSI 609 Senior Seminar in Public Law: Legal Issues (3 units)
- PLSI 612 Senior Seminar Study Abroad: At Beijing University (3 units)

Either a course that is taught by SF State political science faculty abroad or an equivalent study abroad course designated by an advisor.