BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

- At least 28 units for the major must be from upper-division courses (300–699).

- Only three lower-division units may be counted towards the PLSI elective requirements. All other PLSI electives must be upper-division classes (300-level or above).

- For a course to count towards the Political Science major, students must earn a grade of C- or better in all core, breadth, and culminating experience courses.

- Political Science majors may take up to four units of political science coursework as credit no credit (CR/NC), as long as those units are part of their electives. All PLSI courses other than electives must be taken for a letter grade (i.e., A-, B, C+, etc.)

- 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.

- Students who want to do an independent study/special study must arrange it with faculty, submit a Petition for Course by Individual Study (PLSI 699) form, and have at least a 3.0 grade-point average. Independent Study units count only as electives.

Program Learning Outcomes

a. Demonstrate knowledge of the American political system, comparative knowledge of diverse political systems and dynamics around the world, and of a variety of theoretical traditions from different cultures and societies.

b. Demonstrate critical thinking skills and proficiency in expressing complex ideas and arguments through writing, proficiency in political research and analysis, an ability to conduct basic empirical analysis in political topics, and an ability to do textual exegesis in written work.

c. In their senior culminating experience, students demonstrate an ability to develop thoughtful and persuasive research projects of their own in an area of political science.

d. Demonstrate citizenship skills, including an 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.) – 42 units

Core Requirements (19 units)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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 302GW</td>
<td>Writing for Political Science - GWAR</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 303</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Political Science</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 304</td>
<td>Scientific Inquiry in Political Science</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Breadth Requirement (9-12 units)

Upper-division Political Science courses selected to include at least one course in three of the four sub-fields:
Electives (7-11 units)

Select enough Political Science courses (PLSI prefix) to reach a total of 42 units for the major. No more than 3 units of major electives can come from lower-division coursework. With permission of a major advisor, up to 4 units of courses from closely related departments may be used as electives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 100</td>
<td>Understanding Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 105</td>
<td>Principles of Government and Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 106</td>
<td>Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy: Introduction to Political Economy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI/PHIL 150</td>
<td>Contemporary Moral/Political Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 216</td>
<td>The 2020 Presidential Election: Issues and Analysis</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 318</td>
<td>Modern Citizenship: Pundits, Podcasts, and Political Know-How in the 21st Century</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI 320</td>
<td>Political Forum</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI/I R 321</td>
<td>Development and Foreign Policy: Africa</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI/I R 322</td>
<td>Policy Analysis: The Latin American Cases</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI/I R 325</td>
<td>Chinese Foreign Policy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSI/I R 342</td>
<td>Modern Conflict: Cyber Warfare, Food Security, and Crises in the International System</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: A minimum of 30 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. in Political Science. These units may come from any courses bearing a prefix other than PLSI that are not cross-listed with Political Science.

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>
</tbody>
</table>
First-Time Student Roadmap (4 Year)

a. The roadmaps presented in this Bulletin are intended as suggested plans of study and do not replace meeting with an advisor. For a more personalized roadmap, please use the Degree Planner (https://registrar.sfsu.edu/degreeplanner/) tool found in your Student Center.

b. In order to choose your English Composition A2 course and your QR/Math B4 course, please complete the online advising activities at writingadvising.sfsu.edu (https://writingadvising.sfsu.edu) and mathadvising.sfsu.edu. Questions? Contact Gator Smart Start (https://gatorsmartstart.sfsu.edu).

SF State Scholars

The San Francisco State Scholars program provides undergraduate students with an accelerated pathway to a graduate degree. Students in this program pursue a bachelor's and master's degree simultaneously. This program allows students to earn graduate credit while in their junior and/or senior year, reducing the number of semesters required for completion of a master's degree.

SF State Scholars Roadmap (http://bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/liberal-creative-arts/political-science/ba-political-science/scholars-roadmap/)

Transfer Student Roadmap (2 Year)

For students with an AA-T in Political Science.

POLS ADT Roadmap (http://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.

LPPS AT Roadmap (http://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 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**

a. Before transfer, complete as many lower-division requirements or electives for this major as possible.
b. 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](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 [bulletin.sfsu.edu/undergraduate-education/general-education/lower-division/#AAEL](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.