Program Overview

Political science focuses on fundamental questions that go to the heart of the human experience. Political science students study critical issues such as war and peace, international affairs, environmental challenges, poverty and racism, and the struggles of oppressed peoples. Such study prepares students for various careers by building analytical and writing skills while encouraging independent thought, respect, and interest in current affairs. Graduates commonly work in fields such as law and government, nonprofit organizations, teaching, journalism, international organizations, business, and election campaigns.

The Political Science department prepares students for informed and creative activism by providing them an opportunity to develop analytical skills. The program incorporates historical, quantitative, experimental, ethnographic, psychological, and creative methodologies while aiming to sensitize students to the essential questions of politics and life. Many of our graduates are community organizers, attorneys or public servants in local, state or federal government. We have become nationally known for our programs in indigenous politics, international human rights, and inner-city community development. Students will find ample opportunity to explore the innovative community engagement programs while receiving real-world experience in a variety of professional and community settings.

Academic Advising

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) supports students to graduation using a dual-advising system. CLAS students have two academic advisors with whom they should meet regularly to discuss academic and degree progress: a CLAS Academic Advisor and a major/faculty advisor.

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| *For questions related to CU Denver Core Curriculum, CLAS, general graduation requirements, university/college academic policies, or campus resources contact:* | *For questions related to major requirements, major course prerequisites, or evaluation of transfer coursework in your major contact:* |
| CLAS Academic Advising  [clas\_advising@ucdenver.edu](mailto:clas_advising@ucdenver.edu)  Find your CLAS Advisor [here](http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/CLAS/clas-advising/academicAdvising/Pages/CLASAdvisors.aspx)  North Classroom (NC) Building 1030  303-556-2555 | Lucy McGuffey  [lucy.mcguffey@ucdenver.edu](mailto:lucy.mcguffey@ucdenver.edu)  Visit the department website [here](http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/CLAS/Departments/PoliticalScience/Pages/PoliticalScience.aspx)  Student Commons Building Room 3212  303-315-1770 |

General Graduation Requirements & Policies

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| *All CU Denver CLAS students are required to complete the following minimum general graduation requirements to be eligible to apply for graduation:* | *Credits exceeding the following maximum hour restrictions will not be applied toward the minimum 120 hours required for graduation:* |
| 1. Complete a minimum of 120 semester hours passed 2. Achieve a minimum 2.0 CU cumulative grade point average (GPA) 3. Complete a minimum of 45 upper-division (3000- to 4000-level) semester hours 4. Complete all college and major requirements 5. Residency: complete a minimum of 30 CLAS hours as a declared CLAS student at CU Denver 6. Terminal Residency: complete a minimum of 21 CLAS hours in the final 30 semester hours as a declared CLAS student at CU Denver | * 56 semester hours in major department/prefix courses * 16 semester hours Pass/Fail * 12 semester hours of Independent Study * 9 semester hours of internship credit * 8 semester hours of physical education credit |

Career Resources

Political science graduates gain the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) sought by governmental, nongovernmental, and corporate organizations worldwide. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), the following are among the top 10 KSAs sought by employers:

1. Ability to make decisions and solve problems; 2. Ability to communicate verbally with people inside and outside an organization; 3. Ability to obtain and process information; 4. Ability to analyze quantitative data; 5. Ability to create and/or edit written reports; 6. Ability to persuade and influence others; 7. Ability to reflect upon the substantive ethical and political issues.

The Political Science B.A. degree prepares students for careers and occupations across diverse public and private sectors including government, communication, human services, and business. Political Science students develop [include here a brief overview/explanation of relevant and unique skills and how they may prepare students for any number of careers/occupations]. Related occupations for Political Science graduates include:

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| * City Manager | * Congressperson | * Education/Professor | * FBI/CIA Agent |
| * Journalist | * Lawyer | * News Reporter | * Non-profit manager |
| * Police Officer | * Political Analyst | * Public Official | * Urban Planner |

Some careers and occupations require additional training or education. Interested in learning more about career and occupational options for this major? Visit the CU Denver Career Center located in the Tivoli Student Union (TV) Suite 267 to speak with a career counselor. The Career Center also provides *Career Briefs*, overviews of careers related to specific CU Denver majors, which include related links and resources to the particular field and show potential jobs related to the major. Access Career Briefs [here](http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/careercenter/Students/Pages/Career-Briefs.aspx).

Program Requirements & Policies

**Students are responsible for meeting with the major/faculty advisor in the department to confirm major requirements**. Students completing the Political Science B.A. Degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Complete a minimum of 36 semester hours in Political Science with a grade of C (2.0) or better in each course.
2. Complete at least 15 of the 36 semester hours with CU Denver faculty.
3. Complete at least 21 hours of upper-division semester hours in Political Science.
4. Complete two cognate courses in addition to the 36 semester hours in Political Science.

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| **Courses** | **Credits** | **Notes** |
| **\* Course prerequisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for prerequisite information.** **\*** | | |
| **Required Courses** | **9** |  |
| PSCI 1001 Introduction to Political Science: The Quest for Freedom & Justice | 3 |  |
| PSCI 1101 American Political System | 3 |  |
| PSCI 3011 Research Methods or PSCI 4011 GIS in Political Science | 3 |  |
| **Political Theory Course** | **6** | **\****See department list* |
| **4000-Level American Politics Course** | **3** | **\****See department list* |
| **4000-Level Comparative Politics Course** | **3** | **\****See department list* |
| **4000-Level International Politics Course** | **3** | **\****See department list* |
| **PSCI Elective Courses** | **9** |  |
| **Experiential Learning Course**  PSCI 3914 The Urban Citizen, 3939 Internship, 4934 CU at the Capitol, or 4934 CU in the City | **3** | *An exception to this requirement may be made by the department. See PSCI advisor for more information.* |
| **Two Cognate Courses** | **6** | **\****See department list* |
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| **Total Program Hours:** | **36** | *21 semester hours must be upper-division* |

Sample Academic Plan of Study

The following academic plan is a *sample* pathway to completing degree requirements for this major. Students should tailor this plan based on previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit), course availability, and individual preferences related to course load, schedules, or add-on programs such as minors or double-majors.

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| Year One | Milestones | Fall | CRS | Grade | √ | Spring | CRS | Grade | √ |
| * Meet your advisors * Introduce yourself to faculty in your department * Create an academic plan and check your Degree Audit with your advisors * Visit campus resources | ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I | 3 |  |  | ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II | 3 |  |  |
| CU Core Mathematics | 3 |  |  | CU Core Humanities M | 3 |  |  |
| PSCI 1001 | 3 |  |  | PSCI 1101 | 3 |  |  |
| CU Core Arts | 3 |  |  | CU Core Science with lab | 4 |  |  |
| General Elective | 3 |  |  | Major Cognate Course | 3 |  |  |

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| Year Two | Milestones | Fall | CRS | Grade | √ | Spring | CRS | Grade | √ |
| * Meet with your advisors to complete a 60-hour check * Join a student club or organization * Begin to research internships * Visit the Career Center * Explore additional major(s) or minors | CLAS Communicative Skills | 3 |  |  | CU Core Science with lab | 4 |  |  |
| CU Core Behavioral Science | 3 |  |  | CU Core Cultural Diversity M | 3 |  |  |
| CLAS Science without lab | 3 |  |  | PSCI Political Theory Course | 3 |  |  |
| CLAS Humanities M | 3 |  |  | Major Cognate Course | 3 |  |  |
| CLAS Behavioral Science | 3 |  |  | General Upper-Division Elective | 3 |  |  |

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| Year Three | Milestones | Fall | CRS | Grade | √ | Spring | CRS | Grade | √ |
| * Explore research opportunities in your major * Apply for internships * Begin to research professional or graduate programs * Consider study abroad | PSCI 3011 | 3 |  |  | PSCI Political Theory Course | 3 |  |  |
| CU Core International Perspectives M | 3 |  |  | PSCI 4000-Level Course | 3 |  |  |
| CLAS Foreign Language Semester I | 5 |  |  | CLAS Foreign Language Semester II | 5 |  |  |
| PSCI 4000-Level Course | 3 |  |  | General Upper-Division Elective | 3 |  |  |
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| Year Four | Milestones | Fall | CRS | Grade | √ | Spring | CRS | Grade | √ |
| * See advisors for a grad check the semester before you plan to graduate * Explore independent studies in your major * Submit professional or graduate program applications * Apply for graduation | PSCI 4000-Level Course | 3 |  |  | PSCI Experiential Learning Course | 3 |  |  |
| PSCI Elective Course | 3 |  |  | PSCI Elective Course | 3 |  |  |
| PSCI Elective Course | 3 |  |  | General Upper-Division Elective | 3 |  |  |
| General Upper-Division Elective | 3 |  |  | General Upper-Division Elective | 3 |  |  |
| General Upper-Division Elective | 3 |  |  | General Upper-Division Elective | 3 |  |  |

M *Major Course Available* PE *Prerequisite Enforced* PR *Prerequisite Recommended*