



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 Public Policy track was designed for students who specifically desire to pursue careers in public policy and/or public administration in the public or nonprofit sectors. This track emphasizes the specifically political aspects of public policy processes, settings and is grounded in basic political science theory and familiarity with American, Comparative and International politics. Courses will emphasize key policy issues confronting U.S. local, state and national decision makers and citizens. A focus on politics and the policy-making process will prepare students conceptually and methodologically to move beyond partisan politics to address how leaders can best mobilize resources to achieve constituent goals consistent with the public interest.

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.

For questions related to CU Denver Core Curriculum, CLAS, general graduation requirements, university/college academic policies, or campus resources contact:

CLAS Academic Advising

clas_advising@ucdenver.edu

Find your CLAS Advisor [here](#)

North Classroom (NC) Building 1030
303-315-7100

For questions related to major requirements, major course prerequisites, or evaluation of transfer coursework in your major contact:

Lucy McGuffey

lucy.mcguffey@ucdenver.edu

Visit the department website [here](#)

Student Commons Building Room 3212
303-315-1761

GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

All CU Denver CLAS students are required to complete the following minimum general graduation requirements to be eligible to apply 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 at CU Denver

Credits exceeding the following maximum hour restrictions will not be applied toward the minimum 120 hours required for graduation:

- 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

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 | • Congressman | • Education/Professor | • FBI/CIA Agent |
| • Journalist | • Lawyer | • News Reporter | • Parole/Probation Office |
| • 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](#).

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, Public Policy Track 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.

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	15	
PSCI 1001 Introduction to Political Science: The Quest for Freedom & Justice	3	Fulfills CORE Social Sciences
PSCI 1101 American Political System	3	Fulfills CLAS Social Sciences
PSCI 2011 Logic of Political Inquiry	3	Students must complete this within first 24 hours of the program
Complete Two Political Theory Courses	6	
4000-Level American Politics Course	3	*See department list
4000-Level Comparative Politics or International Relations Course	3	*See department list
4000-Level Public Policy and Administration Course	3	*See department list
PSCI Elective Courses	9	*Two courses must be from American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations or Public Policy and Administration categories.
Experiential Learning Course PSCI 3939 Internship or 4934 CU at the Capitol	3	An exception to this requirement may be made by the department. See PSCI advisor for more information.
Cognate Courses	6	*ECON 2012 and 2022
Total Program Hours:	42	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.

Year One	Milestones	Fall	CRS	Grade	✓	Spring	CRS	Grade	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	3		
		PSCI 1001	3			PSCI 1101	3		
		CU Core Arts	3			CU Core Science with lab	4		
		General Elective	3			General Elective	3		
Year Two	Milestones	Fall	CRS	Grade	✓	Spring	CRS	Grade	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	PSCI2011	3			Major Cognate Course	3		
		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			CLAS Humanities	3		
		General Elective	3			CLAS Behavioral Science	3		
Year Three	Milestones	Fall	CRS	Grade	✓	Spring	CRS	Grade	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore research opportunities in your major Apply for internships Begin to research professional or graduate programs 	Major Cognate Course	3			PSCI Political Theory Course	3		
		CU Core International Perspectives ^M	3			PSCI COMP Politics or INTL Relations Course	3		
		CLAS Foreign Language Semester I	5			CLAS Foreign Language Semester II	5		
		PSCI American Politics Course	3			General Upper-Division Elective	3		
Year Four	Milestones	Fall	CRS	Grade	✓	Spring	CRS	Grade	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	PSCI Public Policy and Admin Course	3			PSCI Experiential Learning Course	3		
		PSCI Political Theory Course	3			PSCI Upper-Division Elective Course	3		
		PSCI Upper-Division Elective Course	3			PSCI Upper-Division Elective Course	3		
		General Upper-Division Elective	3			General Upper-Division Elective	3		
		General Upper-Division Elective	3			General Upper-Division Elective	3		