

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 CU Denver Core, 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

Are you interested in learning 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.** In addition to completing all CU Denver Core and CLAS 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 39 semester hours in PSCI coursework.
2. 21 credits must be upper-division level.
3. Complete at least 15 of the 39 credits with CU Denver faculty.
4. A minimum GPA of 2.0 or better is required for all PSCI courses taken at CU Denver.
5. A minimum grade of C- is required for all PSCI courses applied toward the major.

Degree Requirements	Credits	Notes
<b>* Course prerequisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for prerequisite information. *</b>		
CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements	34 - 40	<a href="#">CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements</a>
CLAS Graduation Requirements	15 - 29	<a href="#">CLAS Graduation Requirements</a>
PSCI Major Requirements	39	21 semester hours must be upper-division
<b>PSCI Required Courses</b>		
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
<b>Complete Two Political Theory Courses</b>	6	*See department list
<b>Complete One 4000-Level American Politics Course</b>	3	*See department list
<b>Complete One 4000-Level Comparative Politics or International Relations Course</b>	3	*See department list
<b>Complete One 4000-Level Public Policy and Administration Course</b>	3	*See department list, especially extended studies offerings
<b>PSCI Major Electives</b>	9	*Two courses must be from American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations or Public Policy and Administration categories.
<b>Experiential Learning Course</b> 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.
<b>PSCI Capstone Experience</b> PSCI 4002 Topics in Political Science, 4840 Independent Study, or 4880 Directed Research	3	*See major advisor for approval Students can only enroll in the capstone course after they have completed at least 27 credit hours in the major
<b>Estimated General Electives</b>	12 - 32	General Elective credits will vary based on Core & CLAS Requirements. Consult with CLAS Advisor.
<b>Total Minimum Program Hours:</b>	<b>120</b>	45 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.

<b>Year One</b>	<b>Fall</b>	CRS	<b>Spring</b>	CRS	
	ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	3		ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II	3
	CU Denver Core Mathematics – MATH 2830 <i>recommended</i>	3		CU Denver Core Humanities	3
	PSCI 1001	3		PSCI 1101	3
	CU Denver Core Arts	3		CU Denver Core Biol/Phys Science with lab	4
	General Elective	3		PSCI 2011	3
	<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Fall</b>	CRS	<b>Spring</b>	CRS	
	CLAS Communicative Skills	3		CU Denver Core Biol/Phys Science with lab	4
	CU Denver Core Behavioral Science	3		CU Core Denver Cultural Diversity <sup>M</sup>	3
	CLAS Biol/Phys Science without lab	3		CLAS Humanities	3
	General Elective	3		CLAS Behavioral Science	3
	General Elective	3		General Elective	3
	<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Fall</b>	CRS	<b>Spring</b>	CRS	
	CU Denver Core International Perspectives <sup>M</sup>	3		PSCI Political Theory Course	3
	PSCI American Politics Course	3		PSCI Comparative Politics or International Relations Course	3
	CLAS Foreign Language Semester I	5		CLAS Foreign Language Semester II	5
	General Elective	3		General Upper-Division Elective	3
	<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Fall</b>	CRS	<b>Spring</b>	CRS	
	PSCI Public Policy and Administration Course	3		PSCI Experiential Learning Course	3
	PSCI Political Theory Course	3		PSCI Capstone Experience	3
	PSCI Upper-Division Elective Course	3		PSCI Upper-Division Elective Course	3
	General Upper-Division Elective	3		PSCI Upper-Division Elective Course	3
	General Upper-Division Elective	3		General Upper-Division Elective	3
	<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>