

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Program Description

Political Science as a social science discipline is the systematic analysis of political power. Informed by theory and the scientific method, political scientists examine a variety of social and political phenomena including but not limited to social and political behavior, public policy, and institutions. Major areas of specialization in the discipline include American politics, comparative politics, international relations, political theory, public policy, and political economy.

The value of a political science degree is recognized in both the public and private sectors as it demonstrates development of critical, analytical, and research skills demanded by higher education institutions and the labor market.

Learn more about the program on the [Political Science website](#).

Associate Degree for Transfer

This program also offers an Associate Degree for Transfer. Learn more and review the degree requirements on the [Political Science AA-T listing](#).

Program Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to demonstrate critical, analytical, research, and writing skills in political science and its sub-fields using basic scientific tools underlying modern social science.
- Students will be able to analyze the major theoretical formulations and concepts of political science and its sub-fields and the philosophical basis of those formulations.

Career Opportunities

A major in political science is excellent preparation for students who plan to enter the legal profession, government service, public office, business, the armed forces, and/or teaching. Graduate degrees are necessary for teaching at the college or university level and can prepare students for a variety of career options including but not limited to the foreign service.

Award Type(s)

- AA = Associate in Arts Degree

Units Required

- Major: 35

Additional Information

Note: Students having difficulty attaining an associate degree because of timing or availability of classes should consult with a counselor to submit a petition for course substitution.

Associate Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Units
English Proficiency		
Select one of the following:		
ENGL 1A	COMPOSITION & READING	5
ENGL 1AH	HONORS COMPOSITION & READING	5
ESLL 26	ADVANCED COMPOSITION & READING	5
or equivalent		

Ethnic Studies

Any course in the ETHN (Ethnic Studies) subject code, currently approved for Area F of CSU GE and Area 7 of IGETC

Mathematics Proficiency

College-level math course at or above the level of Intermediate Algebra

A minimum of 90 units is required¹ to include:

- Completion of one of the following general education patterns: Foothill General Education, CSU General Education Breadth Requirements or the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)
- Core courses (18 units)
- Support courses (17 units)

¹ Additional elective course work may be necessary to meet the 90-unit minimum requirement for the associate degree.

Note: All courses pertaining to the major must be taken for a letter grade. In addition, a grade of "C" or better is required for all core and support courses used for the degree.

Core and Support Courses

Code	Title	Units
Core Courses		
POLI 1	POLITICAL SCIENCE: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	5
POLI 2	COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	4
or POLI 2H	HONORS COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	
POLI 3	INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY/POLITICAL THEORY	5
or POLI 3H	HONORS INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY/POLITICAL THEORY	
POLI 15	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/WORLD POLITICS	4
or POLI 15H	HONORS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/WORLD POLITICS	
Support Courses		
Select nine units from the following:		9
ECON 1A	PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS	
HIST 17A	HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES TO 1815	
or HIST 17B	HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES FROM 1812 TO 1914	
or HIST 17C	HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES FROM 1914 TO THE PRESENT	
POLI 4	CALIFORNIA POLITICS & GOVERNMENT	
POLI 9	INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY	
or POLI 9H	HONORS INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY	
or ECON 9	INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY	
or ECON 9H	HONORS INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY	
SOSC 20	CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES FOR A MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY	
And eight units from the following: ¹		8
ECON 25	THE GLOBAL ECONOMY	
HIST 8	HISTORY OF LATIN AMERICA	

2 Political Science

HIST 18	INTRODUCTION TO MIDDLE EASTERN CIVILIZATION
HIST 20	HISTORY OF RUSSIA & THE SOVIET UNION
GIST 11	INTRODUCTION TO MAPPING & SPATIAL REASONING
or GEOG 11	INTRODUCTION TO MAPPING & SPATIAL REASONING
SOC 15	LAW & SOCIETY
Total Units	35

¹ Students may also use courses listed in the first section of support courses to fulfill the requirement for the second section of support courses.