



Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Why major in political science at Cal State Fullerton?

Are you interested in American politics? International affairs? Critical issues such as health, the environment, civil rights? Ideas about the ideal government and how power and resources are allocated in society? Do you want to study these subjects and pursue a career based on your interest? If so, you should consider studying political science.

Political science students enjoy a versatility of skills and a wide range of exciting career possibilities in federal, state and local governments; law; business; international organizations; nonprofit associations and organizations; campaign management and polling; journalism; pre-collegiate education; electoral politics; research; and university and college teaching.

Outstanding faculty and staff - Our faculty members include former diplomats, elected officials, community leaders and researchers and scholars. Our staff members have won university awards for their willingness to assist students.

Flexibility - The degree may be completed during day and/or evening classes. In addition, we offer some classes at the Cal State Fullerton Irvine campus, and we have many courses cross-listed with other departments to ease your academic planning.

What does the major look like?

Political science is ordinarily divided into six sub-fields:

Political philosophy - deals with normative questions about how power should be used and distributed, rights and obligations, and the nature of justice and the ideal state.

American politics - is concerned with campaigns and elections, political parties, elected executives, legislative processes and public policy.

Public administration - deals with the role played by public employees in policy-making, planning, personnel management, taxation and finance, and to the needs and problems of communities and the nation.

Public law - is concerned with the judicial process, civil rights and liberties, and the significance of such terms as “equal opportunity” and “due process.”

Comparative government - raises questions of politics, administration and law about other countries and moves toward conclusions based on comparisons between them.

International Politics - is concerned with relations between states and other international actors, such as multinational corporations and the United Nations; and with the underlying realities of power based on resources, wealth, military preparedness and national security.

What types of career opportunities are available?

Because of its emphasis on the processes of governments, many political science students seek careers in the public sector and in law. Our program has an excellent history of preparing students who go on to law schools, including the major programs at Harvard, Columbia and the University of California. Our graduates are city managers throughout California and are employed at every level of government. They also teach, do research, and enjoy careers in the Foreign Service, military, journalism, public relations and business.

What are the requirements for the major?

The major in political science consists of 48 units: 39 units in political science and 9 upper-division units in related disciplines such as American studies, anthropology, criminal justice, economics, geography, history, philosophy, psychology, sociology and statistics. Not more than 12 units total may be in lower-division course work.

Political Science 100, a graduation requirement for all students, is not part of the major, but is a prerequisite to further work in political science.

Introductory Requirements (3 units)

Political Science 200 Introduction to the Study of Politics

OR Political Science 201 Skills & Methods in Political Science

Political Philosophy Requirement (3 units)

Political Science 340 Political Philosophy

Breadth Requirements (12 units)

Choose four of the following:

Political Science 310 Political Behavior and Motivation (3)

OR Political Science 315 Politics and Policy Making in America (3)

Political Science 320 Introduction to Public Management & Policy (3)

Political Science 330 Politics in Nation-States (3)

Political Science 350 World Politics in the 21st Century (3)

OR Political Science 352 American Foreign Policy (3)

Political Science 375 Law, Politics & Society (3)

Research Methods Requirement (3 units)

All majors must acquire a knowledge of research methods and approaches by taking one of the following:

Political Science 321 Research in Public Management (3)

Political Science 376 Legal Tools for Political Research (3)

Political Science 407 Polls, Statistics and Political Interpretation (3)

Related Fields (9 upper-division units)

Students complete nine adviser-approved units in related disciplines.

Elective for the Major (18 units)

Students choose six other courses in political science sufficient to achieve a total of 39 units. The upper-division writing requirement is normally fulfilled by choosing appropriate electives.

Minors in Political Science

There are three minors available: political science; law, politics and society; and international politics. Each minor requires 18 units.

Teaching Credential

If you are interested in teaching at the high school level, you are strongly advised to see the credential advisor early in your academic career. For more information, visit our Division Office in University Hall 511 or call (714) 278-3521.

What courses will transfer from my community college?

The department accepts community college transfer units for Political Science 100 and 200 and up to six additional units taken at the lower-division level (e.g., courses numbered in the 100s and 200s).

What's special at Cal State Fullerton for political scientists?

Internships

The department offers a variety of internships, including a summer internship in Washington D.C., as well as local internships. Each one involves students working in an agency or political organization in meeting in an on-campus seminar to discuss their experiences.

The Social Science Research Center

The department participates in the Social Science Research Center through use of the Center's facilities in several classes and participation in the Center's student research program.

The Model United Nations

The Model United Nations aids students' understanding of international organizations through study and participation in a simulated General Assembly. Members are assigned a country and research its politics and policy positions. They attend the sessions as the representatives of that country and take part in the simulated proceedings.

**How can students
get involved?**

Independent Study

Independent study credit is designed for students who have a genuine interest in studying subject matter that is not covered by the regular curriculum.

Model United Nations Club

The Model United Nations Club's major activity is to prepare CSUF's delegates for the national Model United Nations Conference in New York. The Club publicizes the work of the UN among the campus community and trains student delegates.

Political Science Students Association

The Political Science Students Association (PSSA) is an organization for students with an interest in politics and public policy. The organization's major goal is to increase the political knowledge and awareness of students.

Prelaw Society

The Prelaw Society was established to satisfy not only the various serious needs shared by aspiring law students but also to bring to the student body as a whole the values involved in the advocacy of equal justice before the law for all.

Guest speakers representing the Judiciary, law firms, law schools, public interest law corporations and law enforcement agencies provide a window to the world of law.

Pi Sigma Alpha

Outstanding political science undergraduates are eligible to join the Epsilon chapter of the national honorary society, Pi Sigma Alpha. To qualify, students must have an overall GPA of 3.0 and a GPA of 3.25 in the political science major.

How do I get advisement?

Two full-time faculty members offer advisement for undergraduate students. Advisement may be done on a "drop-in" basis but most students prefer to make appointments by calling (714) 278-3521.

**Where is additional
information available?**

Many questions may be answered by clicking on to our Web page at <http://hss.fullerton.edu/polisci/default2.htm>. But the best way to get the information you need is to visit our Division Office, University Hall 511, and talk to our faculty and staff members and other students. Check out our bulletin boards and spend a little time getting to know us. We're here to help!