



Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Why major in political science at Cal State Fullerton?

Whether your goal is to become an informed citizen, a community leader, or a player on the political scene, the major in political science will provide you with life-long skills well suited for a variety of career paths. Political scientists learn to apply sound reasoning and develop insightful critical thinking skills; they learn to do research and write intelligently about their findings; they develop the skills to work in collaborative groups and practice oral presentations. When our students leave Cal State Fullerton, they are prepared to excel in any field that seeks a well-rounded person with relevant, marketable skills.

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 Mission Viejo 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 relations - 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?

Political Science 100, Introduction to American Government, is a graduation requirement for all students.

The major in political science consists of 39 units in political science: Political Science 200, plus 36 other units. Not more than twelve units total (Political Science 200 plus nine other units) may be in lower-division courses. In addition, nine upper-division units are required in related disciplines such as American studies, anthropology, criminal justice, communications, economics, geography, philosophy, psychology, sociology and statistics.

Students who began college at any institution, including a community college, prior to fall 1997 may complete the major with 36 units of political science, at least 30 of which must be at the upper-division level, plus 12 upper-division units taken in related disciplines (as above). Such students are not required to complete Political Science 200, but they are encouraged to do so.

Breadth requirements

Political science majors, with the exception of those choosing the public administration concentration are required to take Political Science 340 (Political Philosophy) and an introductory course in four of the five remaining subfields:

- Political Science 310 Political Behavior and Motivation (3)
OR Political Science 315 American Policy-Making Processes (3)
- Political Science 320 Introduction to Public Management and 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 and Society (3)

Research methods requirement (3 units)

All majors, with the exception of those choosing the public administration concentration, must acquire a knowledge of research methods and approaches by taking either Political Science 407, Polls, Statistics and Political Interpretation, or one of the following research proseminars: Political Science 321, 351 or 376.

Minors in Political Science - There are three minors available. Each—political science, public administration and international politics—requires 15 units, plus a basic course in American government.

Concentration in Public Administration – The major in political science with a concentration in public administration consists of 39 units of political science course work. Please refer to the University Catalog for a detailed course listing.

Teaching Credential - The field of political science falls under the Social Science Waiver program for the secondary school 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, contact Professor Sandra Sutphen (University Hall 542) at (714) 278-3468.

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. 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.

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.

**How can students
get involved?**

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!