



# Political Science Department

Name:

Plan:

Min. Units Required:

Graduation Date:

Political Science, B.A.

120 units

2025-2026 University Catalog  
Degree Curriculum Sheet

## Political Science Requirements 57 units

### Major Required Core 27 units

PLS 1011 – Introduction to Political Science (3) (Fall semesters only)  
PLS 2010 – Introduction to American Government (3) (GE Area 4B)  
PLS 2020 – Introduction to Comparative Government (3) (GE Area 4A)  
PLS 2030 – Introduction to International Relations (3) (GE Area 4A)  
PLS 2040 – Introduction to Political Thought (3)  
PLS 2051 – Introduction to Research Methods (3)  
PLS 2060 – Introduction to Public Administration (3) **OR**  
PLS 2080 – Introduction to Race and Ethnic Politics (3) (GE Area 6)  
PLS 2070 – Introduction to Public Law (3)  
PLS 3055/A – Advanced Research Methods (2/1)

### Major Required Senior Capstone 6 units

In the *last* fall semester at Cal Poly Pomona, choose either capstone program:

PLS 4411W – Senior Internship in Political Science I (3) (Fall) **AND**  
PLS 4412W – Senior Internship in Political Science II (3) (Spring)  
**OR**  
PLS 4610W – Senior Thesis in Political Science I (3) (Fall) **AND**  
PLS 4620W – Senior Thesis in Political Science II (3) (Spring)

Students must pass one semester of capstone with a grade of C or higher to satisfy the University Writing Requirement (UWR).

### Major Elective Core/Upper Division Courses 24 units

Students must complete 24 units of electives in upper-division courses of political science. See back for our course listings.

American Government and Public Administration (6)  
PLS \_\_\_\_\_  
PLS \_\_\_\_\_

International Relations and Comparative Politics (6)  
PLS \_\_\_\_\_  
PLS \_\_\_\_\_

Public Law and Political Theory (6)  
PLS \_\_\_\_\_  
PLS \_\_\_\_\_

Two additional elective/upper division courses in any area (6)  
PLS \_\_\_\_\_  
PLS \_\_\_\_\_

## General Education Requirements 43 units

Students should consult the university catalog for current information regarding this requirement. Unless specific courses are required, please refer to the list of approved courses under General Education Requirements, Areas 1 through 6: <http://bit.ly/25GEList>.

### Area 1. English Communication

1A\*. English Composition – ENG 1100 or ENG 1103 – First Year Composition (3)  
1B\*. Critical Thinking – ENG 2105 or PHL 2020 (3)  
1C\*. Oral Communication – COM 1100 or COM 2204 (3)

### Area 2. Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning (3 units)\*

Students can take College Algebra, Trigonometry, Calculus or Statistics. The department strongly recommends students take Statistics.

### Area 3. Arts and Humanities

3A\*. Arts (3)  
3B\*. Humanities (3)  
3C. Upper-Division Arts or Humanities (3)

### Area 4. Social and Behavioral Sciences

4A\*. Social and Behavioral Sciences (3)  
4B\*. Social and Behavioral Sciences – American Institutions Requirement - Government -- PLS 2010 (3)  
4C. Upper Division Social and Behavioral Sciences (3) - The department offers multiple GE Area 4C courses

### Area 5. Physical and Biological Sciences

5A\*. Physical Science (3)  
5B\*. Biological Science (3)  
5C\*. Laboratory (1) – Should be taken with either GE Area 5A or GE Area 5B  
5D. Upper Division Scientific Inquiry or Quantitative Reasoning (3)

### Area 6. Ethnic Studies (3 units)\* - Political science majors can opt to take PLS 2080 as part of their major core.

\*Eligible to be completed at any of the California Community Colleges – Visit <https://www.assist.org/>

If you started Fall 2025 or later, you follow the new GE pattern. This new pattern uses codes that start with numbers, like Area 4B. Ignore the older GE pattern, which uses codes that start with letters, like Area D2.

## American Institutions Requirement Could add 3 additional units

All CSU students must demonstrate proficiency and understanding of American History, the Constitution, and American Government. GE Area 4B satisfies the American Government portion: PLS 2010. However, students also must demonstrate proficiency in American History: HST 2201 (4A), HST 2202 (4A), or HST 3340 (4C).

## University Writing Requirement (UWR)

Political science majors complete writing-intensive coursework, receiving a grade of C or better in at least 3 units. Students have two opportunities to pass the University Writing Requirement, either in the fall or spring semester of Senior Capstone (Senior Internship or Senior Thesis).

## Unrestricted Electives 14-29 units

Select a sufficient number of courses from any department so that the total number of units reaches 120.

**Political Science Elective Core/Upper Division Courses**  
Students must complete 24 units of electives in Political Science

**American Government and Public Administration**

Choose any two courses from this box

**American Politics**

PLS 3250 - The American Congress (3)  
PLS 3260 - The American Presidency (3)  
PLS 3270 - The American Judiciary (3)  
PLS 3275 - Asian American Politics (3) (GE Area 6)  
PLS 3285 - Race and Ethnic Politics in the United States (3)  
PLS 4205 - American Political Institutions and Behavior (3) (GE Area 4C)  
PLS 4211 - Voting and Elections in the United States (3)  
PLS 4245 - Public Opinion (3)  
PLS 4250 - Women and Politics in America (3)  
PLS 4265 - Political Communication and Media (3)  
PLS 4285 - Applied Advocacy and Policymaking in Sacramento (3)  
PLS 4811 - California Government (3) (GE Area 4C)  
PLS 4815 - Environmental Politics and Policy (3) (GE Area 4C)

**Public Administration**

PLS 3150 - Politics of Public Policy (3)  
PLS 3165 - Urban Administration, Politics and Policy (3)  
PLS 3175 - NGOs and Social Service Outreach (3)  
PLS 4160 - Public Organizations (3)  
PLS 4170 - Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation (2)  
PLS 4180S - Politics of Neighborhood Change: Service Learning (3)  
PLS 4190 - Social Capital: Theories and Applications (3)

**Public Law and Political Theory**

Choose any two courses from this box

**Public Law**

PLS 3011 - Constitutional Law: Governmental Powers (3)  
PLS 3021 - Constitutional Law: Rights and Liberties (3)  
PLS 3031 - Constitutional Law: Criminal Justice (3)  
PLS 3041 - The Criminal Justice System (3)  
PLS 4050 - Jurisprudence (3)  
PLS 4090 - Contemporary Issues in American Law (3)

**Political Theory**

PLS 3311 - Ancient and Medieval Political Thought (3)  
PLS 3321 - Modern Political Thought (3)  
PLS 3331 - American Political Thought (3)  
PLS 3345 - Feminist Political Theory (3)  
PLS 4341 - Advanced American Political Thought (3)  
PLS 4360 - Contemporary Political Theory (3)  
PLS 4375 - Coalitional Activism: Women of Color Feminist Interventions (3)  
PLS 4381 - Environmental Political Theory (3)

**International Relations and Comparative Politics**

Choose any two courses from this box

**International Relations**

PLS 3521 - US Foreign Policy (3)  
PLS 3541 - International Political Economy (3)  
PLS 3551 - International Conflict, War, and Peace (3)  
PLS 3561 - International Law (3)  
PLS 4521 - Environmental Security (3)  
PLS 4531 - Terrorism (3)  
PLS 4541 - Transnational Crime (3)

**Comparative Politics**

PLS 3410 - Comparative Democratization (3)  
PLS 3420 - Politics of Developing Areas (3)  
PLS 3431 - Ethnic Conflict (3)  
PLS 4430 - European Governments and Politics (3)  
PLS 4440 - Latin American Governments and Politics (3)  
PLS 4450 - Sub-Saharan African Governments and Politics (3)  
PLS 4460 - Middle Eastern Governments and Politics (3)  
PLS 4470 - Government and Politics of the Russian Federation (3)  
PLS 4480 - East Asian Governments and Politics (3)  
PLS 4490 - Southeast Asian Governments and Politics (3)

**Other Political Science Courses**

Students are NOT required to choose any course from this box. However, students *may* take up to 6 units from this box to fulfill the "additional elective/upper division courses".

PLS 3080/A - Mock Trial (2/1)  
PLS 3821 - Politics, Policies, Pop Culture (3) (GE Area 4C)  
PLS 4221/A - Political Campaign Management (2/1)  
PLS 4421/A - Political Science Internship (2/1)  
PLS 4800 - Policies of Need and Greed (3) (GE Area 4C)  
CLS 4100 - The United Nations and the World – Model UN (3) (GE Area 3C or GE Area 4C)  
CLS 4410/A - Judicial Internship (2/1)  
CLS 4820 - Study Abroad: International Fieldwork (3) (GE Area 3C or GE Area 4C)  
CLS 4990 - Study Away Trips (3)  
CLS 4990 - History of Modern Nation States – Model OAS (3)