

Political Science Department
Political Science Major
Curriculum Year: 2025-2026

*Your department has developed this road plan, taking into account prerequisites and schedule restrictions.
Students can deviate, but you should pay attention to these concerns when deviating from this plan.*

Year 1	Fall	Units	Spring	Units	Comment
	PLS 1011: Intro to Political Science Major Core	3	PLS 2020: Intro to Comparative Government Major Core & GE Area 4A	3	Students must complete GE Area 1A (English) and GE Area 2 (Math) in their first year with C- or better
	COM 1100 or 2204: Oral Communication GE Area 1C	3	PLS 2060 or PLS 2080: Choose only one Major Core (Public Administration or Race/Ethnicity)	3	
	PLS 2010: Intro to American Government GE Area 4B & American Institutions – Govt. (Part B)	3	PHL 2020 or ENG 2105: Critical Thinking GE Area 1B	3	GE Area 1B (Critical Thinking) and Area 1C (Oral Communication) must be completed with a C- or better
	ENG 1103 or 1100/1101: Composition GE Area 1A	3	HST 2201 or 2202: US History GE Area 4A & American Institutions – History (Part A)	3	
	Math & Quantitative Reasoning GE Area 2 (Choose – STA 1200 recommended)	3	Choose one of the other GEs* Any course in Area 3A, 3B, 5A, 5B, 5C, 6	3	By Year 3, one course should be completed in each of the GE areas 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, and 6. See https://bit.ly/25GEList for a list of courses
	Total Units	15	Total Units	15	
			Total Units for Year		30
			GE Area 5C is the laboratory course, to be paired with either GE Area 5A or 5B		

Year 2	Fall	Units	Spring	Units	Comment
	PLS 2030: Intro to International Relations Major Core & GE Area 4A	3	PLS 2040: Intro to Political Thought Major Core	3	By Year 3, one course should be completed in each of the GE areas 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, and 6. See https://bit.ly/25GEList for a list of courses
	PLS 2051: Intro to Research Methods Major Core	3	PLS 2070: Intro to Public Law Major Core	3	
	Choose one of the other GEs Any course in Area 3A, 3B, 5A, 5B, 5C, 6	3	PLS 3055/3055A: Advanced Methods Major Core	3	All major core and lower-division General Education are to be completed by the end of Year 2
	Choose one of the other GEs Any course in Area 3A, 3B, 5A, 5B, 5C, 6	3	American Government/Public Administration Upper-Division PLS Elective Course List	3	
	Choose one of the other GEs Any course in Area 3A, 3B, 5A, 5B, 5C, 6	3	Choose one of the other GEs Any course in Area 3A, 3B, 5A, 5B, 5C, 6	3	GE Area 4A (PLS 2020, PLS 2030), GE Area 4B (PLS 2010), and GE Area 6 (PLS 2080) can be completed within the major, to double-count
	Total Units	15	Total Units	15	
			Total Units for Year		30

Year 3	Fall	Units	Spring	Units	Comment
	GE Upper-Division Scientific Inquiry GE Area 5D	2/1	GE Upper-Division Arts or Humanities GE Area 3C	3	<p>For a list of upper-division PLS elective courses, see 2025-2026 Curriculum Sheet</p> <p>Before taking the GE upper-division courses (GE Area 3C, GE Area 4C, and GE Area 5D), all lower-division courses within that Area should be completed. See https://bit.ly/25GEList for a list of courses</p>
	American Government/Public Administration Upper-Division PLS Elective Course List	3	International Relations/Comparative Politics Upper-Division PLS Elective Course List	3	
	International Relations/Comparative Politics Upper-Division PLS Elective Course List	3	Public Law/Political Theory Upper-Division PLS Elective Course List	3	
	Public Law/Political Theory Upper-Division PLS Elective Course List	3	Political Science Elective Upper-Division PLS Elective Course List	3	
	Unrestricted Elective Choose any course for units	3	Unrestricted Elective Choose any course for units	3	
	Total Units	15	Total Units	15	
			Total Units for Year	30	

Year 4	Fall	Units	Spring	Units	Comment
	PLS 4411W or PLS 4610W Major Core – Senior Internship or Senior Thesis I	3	PLS 4412W or PLS 4620W Major Core – Senior Internship or Senior Thesis II	3	<p>The Senior Thesis (4610W/4620W) and the Senior Internship (4411W/4412W) are two-course sequences. Students take only one sequence and it must be taken in the student's final year</p> <p>This means that graduating seniors should be enrolled in either PLS 4610W or PLS 4411W in the fall semester of their senior year</p> <p>For GE Area 4C, students can double-count PLS 3821, PLS 4205, PLS 4800, PLS 4811, PLS 4815, CLS 4100, or CLS 4820</p>
	GE Upper-Division Social & Behavioral Sciences GE Area 5D	3	Unrestricted Elective Choose any course for units	3	
	Political Science Elective Upper-Division PLS Elective Course List	3	Unrestricted Elective Choose any course for units	3	
	Unrestricted Elective Choose any course for units	3	Unrestricted Elective Choose any course for units	3	
	Unrestricted Elective Choose any course for units	3	Unrestricted Elective Choose any course for units	3	
	Total Units	15	Total Units	15	
			Total Units for Year	30	

Total Units on Plan	120
Major & Option Core Units	57
General Education Units	43
Unrestricted Elective Units	14-29