PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Political science focuses on fundamental questions that go to the heart of the human experience. Political science students study critical issues such as war and peace, international affairs, environmental challenges, poverty and racism, and the struggles of oppressed peoples. Such study prepares students for various careers by building analytical and writing skills while encouraging independent thought, respect, and interest in current affairs. Graduates commonly work in fields such as law and government, nonprofit organizations, teaching, journalism, international organizations, business, and election campaigns.

The Political Science department prepares students for informed and creative activism by providing them an opportunity to develop analytical skills. The program incorporates historical, quantitative, experimental, ethnographic, psychological, and creative methodologies while aiming to sensitize students to the essential questions of politics and life. Many of our graduates are community organizers, attorneys or public servants in local, state or federal government. We have become nationally known for our programs in indigenous politics, international human rights, and inner-city community development. Students will find ample opportunity to explore the innovative community engagement programs while receiving real-world experience in a variety of professional and community settings.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) supports students to graduation using a dual-advising system. CLAS students have two academic advisors with whom they should meet regularly to discuss academic and degree progress: a CLAS Academic Advisor and a major/faculty advisor.

For questions related to CU Denver Core Curriculum, CLAS, general graduation requirements, university/college academic policies, or campus resources contact:

CLAS Academic Advising
clas_advising@ucdenver.edu
Find your CLAS Advisor here
North Classroom (NC) Building 1030
303-315-7100

For questions related to major requirements, major course prerequisites, or evaluation of transfer coursework in your major contact:

Lucy McGuffey
lucy.mcguffey@ucdenver.edu
Visit the department website here
Student Commons Building Room 3212
303-315-1761

GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

All CU Denver CLAS students are required to complete the following minimum general graduation requirements to be eligible to apply for graduation:

1. Complete a minimum of 120 semester hours passed
2. Achieve a minimum 2.0 CU cumulative grade point average (GPA)
3. Complete a minimum of 45 upper-division (3000- to 4000-level) semester hours
4. Complete all college and major requirements
5. Residency: complete a minimum of 30 CLAS hours at CU Denver

Credits exceeding the following maximum hour restrictions will not be applied toward the minimum 120 hours required for graduation:

- 56 semester hours in major department/prefix courses
- 16 semester hours Pass/Fail
- 12 semester hours of Independent Study
- 9 semester hours of internship credit
- 8 semester hours of physical education credit

CAREER RESOURCES

Political science graduates gain the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) sought by governmental, nongovernmental, and corporate organizations worldwide. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), the following are among the top 10 KSAs sought by employers:
1. Ability to make decisions and solve problems; 2. Ability to communicate verbally with people inside and outside an organization; 3. Ability to obtain and process information; 4. Ability to analyze quantitative data; 5. Ability to create and/or edit written reports; 6. Ability to persuade and influence others; 7. Ability to reflect upon the substantive ethical and political issues.

The Political Science B.A. degree prepares students for careers and occupations across diverse public and private sectors including government, communication, human services, and business. Political Science students develop [include here a brief overview/explanation of relevant and unique skills and how they may prepare students for any number of careers/occupations]. Related occupations for Political Science graduates include:

- City Manager
- Congressional
- Lawyer
- Political Analyst
- Education/Professor
- News Reporter
- Public Official
- FBI/CIA Agent
- Non-profit manager
- Urban Planner

Some careers and occupations require additional training or education. Interested in learning more about career and occupational options for this major? Visit the CU Denver Career Center located in the Tivoli Student Union (TV) Suite 267 to speak with a career counselor. The Career Center also provides Career Briefs, overviews of careers related to specific CU Denver majors, which include related links and resources to the particular field and show potential jobs related to the major. Access Career Briefs here.
Students are responsible for meeting with the major/faculty advisor in the department to confirm major requirements. Students completing the Political Science B.A. Degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Complete a minimum of 39 semester hours in Political Science with a grade of C (2.0) or better in each course.
2. Complete at least 15 of the 39 semester hours with CU Denver faculty.
3. A minimum GPA of 2.0 or better is required for all PSCI courses taken at CU Denver.
4. Adhere to the following course requirements:

Courses | Credits | Notes
---|---|---
**Required Courses** | 9 | |
PSCI 1001 Introduction to Political Science: The Quest for Freedom & Justice | 3 | Fulfills CORE Social Sciences
PSCI 1101 American Political System | 3 | Fulfills CLAS Social Sciences
PSCI 2011 Logic of Political Inquiry | 3 | Students must complete this within first 24 hours of the program

Complete Two Political Theory Courses | 6 | *See department list

4000-Level American Politics Course | 3 | *See department list
4000-Level Comparative Politics Course | 3 | *See department list
4000-Level International Politics Course | 3 | *See department list

PSCI Elective Courses | 9 | |

Experiential Learning Course
PSCI 3914 The Urban Citizen, 3939 Internship, 4934 CU at the Capitol, 4934 CU in the City or 4995 Travel Study | 3 | An exception to this requirement may be made by the department. See PSCI advisor for more information.
PSCI4960 Capstone Course | 3 | *See department list

Total Program Hours: 39 | 21 semester hours must be upper-division

**SAMPLE ACADEMIC PLAN OF STUDY**

The following academic plan is a sample pathway to completing degree requirements for this major. Students should tailor this plan based on previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit), course availability, and individual preferences related to course load, schedules, or add-on programs such as minors or double-majors.

### Milestones

#### Year One
- Meet your advisors
- Introduce yourself to faculty in your department
- Create an academic plan and check your Degree Audit with your advisors
- Visit campus resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I</td>
<td>ENGL 2020 – Core Composition II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CU Core Mathematics</td>
<td>CU Core Humanities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 1001</td>
<td>PSCI 1101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CU Core Arts</td>
<td>CU Core Science with lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Elective</td>
<td>PSCI2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Year Two
- Meet with your advisors to complete a 60-hour check
- Join a student club or organization
- Begin to research internships
- Visit the Career Center
- Explore additional major(s) or minors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLAS Communicative Skills</td>
<td>CU Core Science with lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CU Core Behavioral Science</td>
<td>CU Core Cultural Diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAS Science without lab</td>
<td>PSCI Political Theory Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAS Humanities</td>
<td>PSCI American Politics Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAS Behavioral Science</td>
<td>General Upper-Division Elective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Year Three
- Explore research opportunities in your major
- Apply for internships
- Begin to research professional or graduate programs
- Consider study abroad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CU Core International Perspectives</td>
<td>PSCI Comparative Politics Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAS Foreign Language Semester I</td>
<td>PSCI Elective Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI Political Theory Course</td>
<td>CLAS Foreign Language Semester II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Upper-Division Elective</td>
<td>General Upper-Division Elective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Year Four
- See advisors for a grad check the semester before you plan to graduate
- Explore independent studies in your major
- Submit professional or graduate program applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSCI International Politics Course</td>
<td>PSCI Experiential Learning Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI Elective Course</td>
<td>PSCI 4960 Capstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Elective Course</td>
<td>PSCI Elective Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Upper-Division Elective</td>
<td>General Upper-Division Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Upper-Division Elective</td>
<td>General Upper-Division Elective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

M Major Course Available  Prerequisite Enforced  Prerequisite Recommended