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 Public Policy track was designed for students who specifically desire to pursue careers in public policy and/or public administration in the public or nonprofit sectors. This track emphasizes the specifically political aspects of public policy processes, settings and is grounded in basic political science theory and familiarity with American, Comparative and International politics. Courses will emphasize key policy issues confronting U.S. local, state and national decision makers and citizens. A focus on politics and the policy-making process will prepare students conceptually and methodologically to move beyond partisan politics to address how leaders can best mobilize resources to achieve constituent goals consistent with the public interest.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) supports students to graduation using a shared 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:

Karen Breslin
karen.breslin@ucdenver.edu
Visit the department website here
Student Commons Building (SCB) 3226
303-315-1751 (email is best)

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
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 CU Denver Core, CLAS, and major requirements
5. Complete a minimum of 30 CLAS hours at CU Denver

The following are maximum semester hours that can apply 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
- 12 semester hours of internship credit
- 8 semester hours of physical education credit

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

Students are responsible for meeting with the major/faculty advisor in the department to confirm major requirements. In addition to completing all CU Denver Core and CLAS requirements, students completing the Political Science, Public Policy Track B.A. Degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Students must complete a minimum of 39 PSCI credit hours.
2. Students must complete a minimum of 21 upper division (3000-level and above) PSCI credit hours.
3. Students must achieve a minimum GPA of 2.0 for all courses applied to major requirements.
4. Students must complete all major courses, taken at CU Denver and all transfer courses applying to major requirements with a minimum grade of C-(1.7). Students cannot complete major or ancillary course requirements as pass/fail.
5. Students must complete a minimum of 15 PSCI credit hours with CU Denver faculty.

CAREER RESOURCES

Are you interested in learning 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 or browse the Career Center website for career and job information related to this major.
### Degree Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements</td>
<td>34-40</td>
<td><strong>CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements</strong></td>
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<td>CLAS Graduation Requirements</td>
<td>15-29</td>
<td><strong>CLAS Graduation Requirements</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI Major Requirements</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>21 semester hours must be upper-division</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI Required Courses</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSCI 1001 Intro to Political Science: The Quest for Freedom &amp; Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 1101 American Political System</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 211 Logic of Political Inquiry</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Students must complete this within first 24 hours of the program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Two Political Theory Courses</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>*See department list. Check individual courses for prerequisites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete One 4000-Level American Politics Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>*See department list. Check individual courses for prerequisites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete One 4000-Level Comparative Politics or International Relations Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>*See department list. Check individual courses for prerequisites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete One 4000-Level Public Policy and Administration Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>*See department list, especially extended studies offerings. Check individual courses for prerequisites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI Major Electives</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Two courses must be from American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations or Public Policy and Administration categories.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiential Learning Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>An exception to this requirement may be made by the department. See PSCI advisor for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 3914 The Urban Citizen, 3939 Internship, 4934 CU at the Capitol, or 4995 Global Study</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI Capstone Experience</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>*See major advisor for approval. Students can only enroll in the capstone course after they have completed at least 27 credit hours in the major.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated General Electives</td>
<td>12-32</td>
<td>General Elective credits will vary based on Core &amp; CLAS Requirements. Consult with CLAS Advisor.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Minimum Program Hours:** 120

45 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.

#### Year One

**Fall**
- ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I: 3
- CU Denver Core Mathematics – MATH 2830 recommended: 3
- PSCI 1001: 3
- CU Denver Core Arts / First-Year Seminar: 3
- General Elective: 3
- **Total Credit Hours:** 15

**Spring**
- ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II: 3
- CU Denver Core Humanities: 3
- PSCI 1101: 3
- CU Denver Core Nat/Phys Science with lab: 4
- PSCI 211: 3
- **Total Credit Hours:** 16

#### Year Two

**Fall**
- CLAS Communicative Skills: 3
- CU Denver Core Behavioral Science: 3
- CLAS Bio/Phys Science without lab: 3
- General Elective: 3
- General Elective: 3
- **Total Credit Hours:** 15

**Spring**
- CU Denver Core Nat/Phys Science with lab: 4
- CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity: 3
- CLAS Humanities: 3
- CLAS Behavioral Science: 3
- General Elective: 3
- **Total Credit Hours:** 16

#### Year Three

**Fall**
- CU Denver Core International Perspectives: 3
- PSCI American Politics Course: 3
- CLAS Foreign Language Semester I: 5
- General Elective: 3
- **Total Credit Hours:** 14

**Spring**
- PSCI Political Theory Course: 3
- PSCI Comparative Politics or International Relations Course: 3
- CLAS Foreign Language Semester II: 5
- General Upper-Division Elective: 3
- **Total Credit Hours:** 14

#### Year Four

**Fall**
- PSCI Public Policy and Administration Course: 3
- PSCI Political Theory Course: 3
- PSCI Upper-Division Elective Course: 3
- General Upper-Division Elective: 3
- General Upper-Division Elective: 3
- **Total Credit Hours:** 15

**Spring**
- PSCI Experiential Learning Course: 3
- PSCI Capstone Experience: 3
- PSCI Upper-Division Elective Course: 3
- PSCI Upper-Division Elective Course: 3
- General Upper-Division Elective: 3
- **Total Credit Hours:** 15

*Major Course Available * CU Denver Core Course *Prerequisite Enforced* Prerequisite Recommended