

## 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.

The secondary licensure program is a partnership program between the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) and the School of Education & Human Development (SEHD). Secondary Education Licensure students choose a major within CLAS and complete all CORE, CLAS, major, and initial teacher education admission requirements before completing a final professional year of licensure coursework through the SEHD.

## 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 advisor. Additionally, secondary education students work with an academic advisor in the School of Education & Human Development (SEHD) who support students through initial teacher education coursework, Professional (final) Year, and licensure requirements. SEHD secondary education students should meet regularly with the SEHD 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](mailto:clas.advising@ucdenver.edu)

Find your CLAS Advisor [here](#)

North Classroom (NC) 1030

303-315-7100

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

### Political Science Major Advising

[CLAS Major Advisor Contact Information](#)

Visit the program website [here](#)

Student Commons Building (SCB) 3212

303-315-1770

*For questions related to initial admission requirements, professional year, and licensure requirements contact:*

### SEHD Advising

[SEHD.Advising@ucdenver.edu](mailto:SEHD.Advising@ucdenver.edu)

Lawrence Street Center (LSC) 701

303-315-6308

## 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 credit hours
2. Achieve a minimum 2.0 CU cumulative grade point average (GPA)
3. Complete a minimum of 30 upper-division (3000- to 4000-level) credit hours
4. Complete all CU Denver Core, CLAS, and major requirements
5. Complete a minimum of 30 CLAS credit hours with letter grades at CU Denver

*The following are **maximum** credit hours that can apply toward the minimum 120 hours required for graduation:*

- 16 credit hours Pass/Fail
- 12 credit hours of Independent Study/Directed Research
- 12 credit hours of internship credit
- 8 credit hours of physical education credit

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

**Students are responsible for meeting with the major advisor to confirm major requirements.** In addition to completing all CU Denver Core and CLAS requirements, students completing the Political Science 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 earn a minimum grade of C- (1.7) in all courses that apply to the major and must achieve a minimum cumulative major GPA of 2.0. Courses taken using P+/P/F or S/U grading cannot apply to program requirements.
4. Students must complete a minimum of 15 PSCI credit hours with CU Denver faculty.



### SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (SEHD) REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

**Students are responsible for meeting with the advisor in the SEHD to confirm teacher education and licensure requirements.** In addition to completing all minimum program requirements above, SEHD secondary education students must complete the following minimum SEHD licensure requirements:

1. Complete the Education Declaration form and all subsequent processes and requirements, including a background check, prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> (for students intending to complete their clinical field experience in fall) or November 1<sup>st</sup> (for students intending to complete their clinical field experience in spring). Students must meet with the SEHD advisor for detailed information.
2. Students pursuing secondary education licensure must complete the following requirements to be admitted to the Professional (final) Year:
  - a. a minimum cumulative CU GPA of 3.0 or higher. Students with a lower GPA may be considered under certain conditions (see SEHD Advisor).
  - b. all CU Denver Core, CLAS, major, electives, and initial teacher education coursework requirements prior to the start of the Professional Year
  - c. the official application and interview process

Deadlines for Professional Year application are February 15<sup>th</sup> (for students intending to begin Professional Year in fall) or October 1<sup>st</sup> (for students intending to begin Professional Year in spring).

3. Students must complete all initial teacher education and professional (final) year coursework with a minimum grade of B- or higher.

### LYNXCONNECT RESOURCES

Are you interested in learning about internship, study abroad, career, and research opportunities for this major? Visit the CU Denver LynxConnect, located in Tivoli Student Union (TV) Suite 339, and browse the LynxConnect [website](#) for more information.

Degree Requirements	Credits	Notes
<b>* Course prerequisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for prerequisite information. *</b>		
<b>CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements</b>	<b>34 - 40</b>	<a href="#">CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements</a>
<b>CLAS Graduation Requirements</b>		<a href="#">CLAS Graduation Requirements</a>
<b>PSCI Major Requirements</b>	<b>39</b>	21 credit hours must be upper-division
<b>PSCI Required Courses</b>		
PSCI 1001 Intro to Political Science: The Quest for Freedom & Justice	3	Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Social Sciences
PSCI 1101 American Political System	3	Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Social Sciences
PSCI 2011 Logic of Political Inquiry	3	Students must complete this within first 24 hours of the program
<b>Complete Two Political Theory Courses</b>	6	*See department list. Check individual courses for prerequisites.
<b>Complete One American Politics Course</b>	3	*See department list. Check individual courses for prerequisites.
<b>Complete One Comparative Politics Course</b>	3	*See department list. Check individual courses for prerequisites.
<b>Complete One International Politics Course</b>	3	*See department list. Check individual courses for prerequisites.
<b>PSCI Major Electives</b>	9	
<b>Experiential Learning Course</b> PSCI 3000 Topics: Conference Participation, 3840/4840 Independent Study, 3914 The Urban Citizen, 3939 Internship, 4880 Directed Research, 4914 Community Organizing and Community Development, 4934 CU at the Capitol, or 4995 Global Study Topics	3	An exception to this requirement may be made by the department. See PSCI advisor for more information.
<b>PSCI Capstone Course</b> PSCI 4960 Capstone in Political Science	3	*See PSCI advisor for approval. Students can only enroll in the capstone course after they have completed at least 27 credit hours in the major
<b>Secondary Social Studies Recommended Courses</b>		
ANTH 1303 Introduction to Biological Anthropology	4	Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Natural/Physical Science with lab
ANTH 2102 Culture and the Human Experience	3	Course can fulfill CU Denver Core or CLAS Behavioral Sciences
ECON 2012 Principles of Economics: Macroeconomics	3	Course will count as a general elective
GEOG 1102 World Regions Global Context	3	Course will count as a general elective
GEOG 1202 Introduction to Physical Geography	3	Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Natural/Physical Science without lab
HIST 1361 U.S. History to 1876	3	Course can fulfill CU Denver Core or CLAS Humanities
HIST 1362 U.S. History Since 1876	3	Course can fulfill CU Denver Core or CLAS Humanities
PSCI 3022 Political Systems of the World or PSCI 3042 World Politics	3	Course will fulfill CU Denver Core International Perspectives
PSCI 3034 Race, Gender, Law and Public Policy or PSCI 3035 Political Movements: Race and Gender	3	Course will fulfill CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity
PSYC 1005 Introduction to Psychology II	3	Course will fulfill CU Denver Core or CLAS Behavioral Sciences
<b>SEHD Licensure Coursework Requirements</b>	<b>37</b>	† <b>Education Licensure Course:</b> requires minimum grade of B- or higher
<b>Initial Teacher Education Coursework</b>		
EDFN 4010 Social Foundations & Cultural Diversity in Urban Ed <sup>†</sup>	3	*Prerequisite: 27+ credit hours completed
CLDE 4020 Responsive Classroom Communities <sup>†</sup>	3	*Prerequisites: EDFN 4010 and 27+ credit hours completed
<b>Clinical Field Experience Block: Diverse Learners</b>		‡ <b>Clinical Field Experience Block</b>
EDHD 3930 Diverse Learners Field Experience & Seminar <sup>†‡</sup>	3	All courses in a clinical field experience block must be taken together, in the same semester. Field experience paperwork deadlines: • Fall placement = 4/1 Priority deadline; 4/15 Final deadline • Spring placement = 11/1 Priority deadline; 11/15 Final deadline
SPED 4030 Understanding (dis)Ability in Contemporary Classrooms <sup>†‡</sup>	3	
<b>Professional Year Courses</b>		§ <b>Professional Year:</b> Separate admission to Professional Year required
LCRT 4100 Secondary Literacy Instruction and Assessment <sup>†§</sup>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requirements for admission to Professional Year include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o A minimum GPA of 3.0 in major coursework</li> <li>o Successful completion of all other coursework (including Core, major, and elective requirements)</li> <li>o Successful completion of the application and interview process</li> </ul> </li> <li>Professional Year application deadlines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Fall start = 3/1 deadline</li> <li>o Spring start = 10/1 deadline</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
UEDU 4040 Planning for Learning <sup>†§</sup>	3	
EDFN 4464 Methods of Teaching Social Studies <sup>†§</sup>	3	
CLDE 4700 Social Studies for Multilingual Learners <sup>†§</sup>	3	
UEDU 4050 Capstone: Planning, Instruction & Assessment <sup>†§</sup>	3	
UEDU 4931 Internship and Learning Community I <sup>†§</sup>	2	
UEDU 4932 Internship and Learning Community II <sup>†§</sup>	2	
UEDU 4933 Internship and Learning Community III <sup>†§</sup>	6	
<b>Estimated General Electives</b>	<b>4 - 10</b>	General Elective credit hours will vary. Students are highly encouraged to explore and complete additional programs including certificates, minors, double-majors, and dual-degrees. Consult with CLAS Academic Advisor.
<b>Total Minimum Credit Hours:</b>	<b>120</b>	30 credit 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 certificates, minors, double-majors, or dual-degrees. Secondary education students are encouraged to meet with an SEHD advisor to create an individualized graduation plan.

Year 1 - Fall	CRS
ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	3
CU Denver Core Mathematics – MATH 2830 <i>recommended</i>	3
PSCI 1001 <sup>C</sup>	3
CU Denver Core Humanities HIST 1361/1362	3
CU Denver Core Behavioral Science - ANTH 2102	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

Year 1 - Spring	CRS
ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II	3
PSCI 1101 <sup>C</sup>	3
PSCI 2011	3
CU Denver Core Arts	3
CU Denver Core Nat/Phys Science with lab - ANTH 1303	4
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>16</b>

Year 2 - Fall	CRS
PSCI American Politics/CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity - PSCI 3034/3035	3
PSCI Elective Course	3
CU Denver Core Science without lab - GEOG 1202	3
HIST 1361/1362	3
PSYC 1005	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

Year 2 - Spring	CRS
PSCI Political Theory Course	3
PSCI Comparative Politics Course - PSCI 3022 <sup>C</sup> <i>recommended</i>	3
ECON 2012	3
EDFN 4010 <sup>†</sup>	3
General Elective	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

Year 3 - Fall	CRS
PSCI Political Theory Course	3
PSCI Experiential Learning Course	3
PSCI Elective Course	3
GEOG 1102	3
CLDE 4020 <sup>†</sup>	3
General Elective	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>18</b>

Year 3 - Spring	CRS
PSCI Capstone Course	3
PSCI International Politics Course – PSCI 3042 <sup>C</sup> <i>recommended</i>	3
PSCI Elective Course	3
EDHD 3930 <sup>†‡</sup>	3
SPED 4030 <sup>†‡</sup>	3
General Elective	1
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>16</b>

In second semester of year three, apply for admission to Professional Year. Deadlines for Professional Year application are 3/1 for Fall start and 10/1 for Spring start.

Year 4 - Fall	CRS
LCRT 4100 <sup>‡§</sup>	3
UEDU 4040 <sup>†§</sup>	3
EDFN 4464 <sup>†§</sup>	3
UEDU 4931 <sup>†§</sup>	2
UEDU 4932 <sup>†§</sup>	2
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>13</b>

Year 4 - Spring	CRS
UEDU 4933 <sup>†§</sup>	6
CLDE 4700 <sup>†§</sup>	3
UEDU 4050 <sup>†§</sup>	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>12</b>

After graduation, apply for a teaching license through the Colorado Department of Education.

<sup>M</sup> Major Course Available    <sup>C</sup> CU Denver Core Course    <sup>PE</sup> Prerequisite Enforced    <sup>PR</sup> Prerequisite Recommended