

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 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.

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

Visit the CLAS Advising website [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 department website [here](#)

Student Commons Building (SCB) 3212

303-315-1770

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 45 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 credit hours from approved courses.
2. Students must complete a minimum of 21 upper division (3000-level and above) credit hours from approved courses.
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.
5. Exceptions to the Experiential Learning Requirement:
 - In lieu of taking one of the identified courses, students may complete a substantial learning project in a different PSCI class. The course instructor must certify with a written submission to the departmental undergraduate advisor that the experiential learning project in that course fulfills the departmental experiential learning requirement.
 - Students with significant pre-existing political or civic engagement experience in the community (i.e., community and civic leadership work, or work with government agencies, on political campaigns, or in non-governmental organizations) or for whom the experiential-learning requirement poses a hardship may petition the undergraduate advisor to waive the requirement.
 - In either of these cases, 39 total credit hours for Political Science are still required for graduation.

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
* Course prerequisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for prerequisite information. *		
CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements	34 - 40	CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements
CLAS Graduation Requirements	15 - 29	CLAS Graduation Requirements
PSCI Major Requirements	39	21 credit hours must be upper-division
PSCI Required Courses		
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
Complete One Political Theory Courses	3	*See department list. Check individual courses for prerequisites.
Complete One American Politics Course	3	*See department list. Check individual courses for prerequisites.
Complete One Comparative Politics Course	3	*See department list. Check individual courses for prerequisites.
Complete One International Politics Course	3	*See department list. Check individual courses for prerequisites.
PSCI Major Electives	12	
Experiential Learning Course 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.
PSCI Capstone Experience PSCI 4960 Capstone in Political Science	3	*See PSCI advisor for approval. Students must have completed 27 Political Science (PSCI) credits with a C- or higher in order to register.
Estimated General Electives	12 - 32	General Elective credits will vary based on Core & CLAS Requirements. Consult with CLAS Advisor.
Total Minimum Credit Hours:	120	45 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.

Year One	Fall	CRS	Year One	Spring	CRS
	ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	3		ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II	3
	CU Denver Core Mathematics – MATH 2830 <i>recommended</i>	3		PSCI 1101 ^c	3
	PSCI 1001 ^c	3		PSCI 2011	3
	CU Denver Core Humanities	3		CU Denver Core Arts	3
	General Elective / First-Year Seminar	3		CU Denver Core Nat/Phys Science with lab	4
	Total Credit Hours	15		Total Credit Hours	16
Year Two	Fall	CRS	Year Two	Spring	CRS
	PSCI Elective Course	3		PSCI Elective Course	3
	CU Denver Core Behavioral Science	3		CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity ^M	3
	CU Denver Core Nat/Phys Science without lab	3		CLAS Humanities	3
	CLAS Communicative Skills	3		CLAS Nat/Phys Science with lab	4
	CLAS Behavioral Science	3		General Upper-Division Elective	3
	Total Credit Hours	15		Total Credit Hours	16
Year Three	Fall	CRS	Year Three	Spring	CRS
	PSCI Political Theory Course	3		PSCI Comparative Politics Course	3
	CU Denver Core International Perspectives ^M	3		PSCI American Politics Course	3
	CLAS Second Language Semester I	5		CLAS Second Language Semester II	5
	General Upper-Division Elective	3		General Upper-Division Elective	3
	Total Credit Hours	14		Total Credit Hours	14
Year Four	Fall	CRS	Year Four	Spring	CRS
	PSCI Elective Course	3		PSCI Elective Course	3
	PSCI International Politics Course	3		PSCI Capstone Experience	3
	General Upper-Division Elective	3		PSCI Experiential Learning Course	3
	General Upper-Division Elective	3		General Upper-Division Elective	3
	General Upper-Division Elective	3		General Upper-Division Elective	3
	Total Credit Hours	15		Total Credit Hours	15

^M Major Course Available ^c CU Denver Core Course ^{PE} Prerequisite Enforced ^{PR} Prerequisite Recommended