Bachelor of Arts

INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

The Political Economy major studies the relationship between government, society, and the economy in a holistic manner from a multi-disciplinary perspective. Political Economy majors investigate how real-world market systems are embedded in both politics and society. Students graduate with a mastery of a broad range of contemporary analyses as well as a deep understanding of classic works of political economy.

The major’s unique characteristic is the concentration; each student selects a series of four courses that directly addresses a question that they would like to investigate. The program has both pre-designed concentrations as well as the possibility for a self-designed one.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

• Study and intern in Washington D.C. with UCDC or Cal in the Capital.
• Engage with political economy issues firsthand through study abroad.
• Complete a major paper or capstone project as part of an optional Senior Thesis.
• Apply to the year-long Honors Program.

PE MAJOR ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Political Economy major has two minimum requirements for entry. The first is an overall GPA of 2.7 at the time of application. The second is a B- grade in GLOBAL 45 on the first attempt at the class. We suggest taking GLOBAL 45 as early as possible in your college career as it is the single best predictor of how students will fare with the Political Economy major.

HOW TO USE THIS MAP

Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UC Berkeley, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone’s Berkeley experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.

To impact today’s world that’s undergoing rapid and tectonic shifts, the Political Economy degree provides exactly what’s needed: a deep and nuanced understanding of the multidimensional relationship between theory and practice, as well as ideology and impact.

Toby Frankenstein, Class of 2006

CONNECT WITH US

Cal Day
Come to UC Berkeley’s annual Open House in April for information sessions, campus tours, special talks, and more.

Golden Bear Orientation
Join your peers in the campus-wide UC Berkeley orientation program for all new students.

Events
Attend department events with students, faculty, and staff. Visit politicaleconomy.berkeley.edu for news and updates.

ADVISING

Students can schedule appointments with a Political Economy advisor by visiting the Meet with an Advisor webpage.

Students can also schedule appointments with Political Economy peer advisors to obtain a student perspective on the major. Email askpe@berkeley.edu to schedule an appointment with a peer advisor.

Visit vcue.berkeley.edu/majormaps for the latest version of this major map.
**FIRST YEAR**

- Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plans.
- Complete the Online Major Declaration Workshop for an overview of the PE major. Consult the Political Economy Handbook to learn about major requirements and policies.
- Enroll in ECON 1 or 2 and GLOBAL 45.
- Get started on the foreign language requirement.

**SECOND YEAR**

- Enroll in GLOBAL 45 if you did not take the course in your first year.
- Complete lower division prerequisites and declare the major.
- Continue with the foreign language requirement.
- Discuss potential concentrations with your major advisor and review major guidelines for study abroad.

**THIRD YEAR**

- Declare the Political Economy major
  - Focus on upper division requirements such as POLECON 100 and 101.
  - Review your Academic Progress Report in CalCentral to stay on track to graduate.
  - Ask your major advisor about the optional Honors Program or the optional Senior Thesis.

**FOURTH YEAR**

- Review your Academic Progress Report in CalCentral to ensure you are on track to graduate.
- Complete any “bucket list” courses and remaining major, college, and campus requirements.

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**WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?**

Political Economy students graduate with a broad-based liberal arts background as well as the intellectual skills appropriate for careers in the public or private sector or for graduate study.

**Jobs and Employers**

- Analyst, Dropbox
- Blockchain Ecosystem Manager, BASF
- Consultant Analyst, Accenture
- Digital Strategy Analyst, Adobe
- Fellow, California State Assembly
- Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley
- Founder, Blue Mercury
- Management Analyst, City of Richmond
- Paralegal, Hawkins Delfaf & Wood
- Policy Specialist, Google
- Public Sector Strategy Analyst, Deloitte
- Tax Associate, ACC CPA
- Teacher, Public and Private Schools

**Graduate Programs**

- Anthropology, PhD
- Environmental Studies, PhD
- Information Technology, Masters
- International Relations and Global Studies, MS/PhD
- Law, JD
- Management Information Systems, Masters
- Political Science, PhD
- Public Policy, MA
- Sociology, PhD

Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.