Bachelor of Arts

INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

The Political Science major is concerned with the exercise of power in its myriad forms and consequences. Students explore central issues such as the ethical problems attendant to the exercise of power; the history of important political ideas; the impact of different forces on the operation of politics; the features of the US political system; and international interactions and the causes of war and peace.

The major is offered by the Charles and Louise Travers Department of Political Science in the College of Letters and Science.

ADVISING

Students can contact the advising office to schedule an appointment or ask questions at psadvice@berkeley.edu.

Advising Drop-In Hours
Monday - Friday, 9am-12pm, 1:30-4pm

THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

The undergraduate program is designed for a diverse population of students, including those with a broad but as yet unfocused interest in politics, those aiming to attend law school or business school, and those intending to pursue an advanced graduate degree in political science. Students receive a common substantive and analytical foundation in political science, and are able to pursue diverse interests at the upper division level, most notably through the specialization requirement. Finally, the most ambitious and high-achieving students have the opportunity to undertake advanced research under the close guidance of a faculty member through the junior seminars and senior honors program.

“Poli Sci develops analytical capacities to critically think about how to address social issues and articulate how to implement ideas about state-society relations.”

– Political Science Major

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

• Get involved with the Undergraduate Political Science Association.
• Pursue a research opportunity.
• Enroll in a junior seminar (PS 191), small, faculty-led seminars designed to develop research and writing skills.
• Attend the Travers Conference on Ethics and Accountability in Government.
• Participate in talks offered by the Institute of Governmental Studies.

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 polisci.berkeley.edu for news and updates.

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.

Visit ue.berkeley.edu/majormaps for the latest version of this major map.

POLITICAL SCIENCE