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.

AMYPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

• Get involved with a student organization like the Undergraduate Political Science Association.
• Pursue a research opportunity in Political Science.
• For highly motivated students, enroll in a junior seminar (PS 191), which are small, faculty-led seminars designed to develop research and writing skills.
• Attend department events such as

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.

"This is a quote, usually from a student or an alumnus, that encapsulates the experience of learning here."

– Oski Bear, Class of 3019

ADVISING

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

Advising Drop-In Hours

Monday - Friday, 9am-12pm, 1:30-4pm
**Politics and Government**

**FIRST YEAR**
- Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plan.
- Familiarize yourself with major and college requirements.
- Explore subfields within the major and start on Political Science course requirements.

**SECOND YEAR**
- Declare the major after you have completed the introductory course requirement.
- Complete breadth and American Cultures requirements, and lower division electives.
- Review major guidelines for study abroad and look into Political Science programs.

**THIRD YEAR**
- Focus on upper division requirements and electives. Complete the distribution and subfield requirements by the end of junior year.
- Review your degree progress with your major and college advisor.
- Ask your advisor about Junior Seminars and the Honors Program in Political Science.

**FOURTH YEAR**
- Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
- Complete any “bucket list” courses and remaining major, college, and campus requirements.
- Participate in the Political Science Commencement Ceremony with your peers.

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

- Jobs and Employers
  - Auditor, EY
  - Case Manager, Kerosy Purves & Bogue Consultant, PwC
  - Data Analyst, Blue Labs
  - Legal Assistant, Google
  - Paralegal, US Dept. of Justice
  - Research Analyst, National Research Group
  - Staff Analyst, Ernst and Young LLP
  - Staff Assistant, House of Representatives
  - Teachers, Fort Bend ISD

- Graduate Programs
  - Education, MA
  - International Relations & Affairs, MA
  - Journalism, MA
  - Law, JD
  - Philosophy, MA
  - Political Science, PhD
  - Public Policy Analysis, MA
  - Public Administration, MA

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