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.

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

POLITICAL SCIENCE
Bachelor of Arts

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.

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.

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.

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.
**POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Bachelor of Arts

**First Year**
- Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plans.
- Familiarize yourself with major and college requirements.
- Explore subfields within the major and start taking Political Science major requirements.

**Second Year**
- Complete the introductory course requirement (two of the following: PS 1, PS 2, PS 4, PS 8) no later than the first semester of your sophomore year and declare the major.
- 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 your 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.

**Explore your major**
- Get a minor.
- Explore subfields within the major and start taking Political Science major requirements.

**Connect and build community**
- Join a student organization such as the Undergraduate Political Science Association.
- Sign up for the Political Science email list and start attending department events.
- Get to know professors and graduate student instructors during their office hours.

**Discover your passions**
- Assist in faculty and graduate student research throughURAP and SURF-SMART.
- Explore new interests with a certificate, course thread, or summer minor.
- Explore new career paths with the Career Center.

**Engage locally and globally**
- Attend the Calapalooza fair and get involved with a student organization.
- Find service opportunities at the Public Service Center.
- Explore opportunities abroad with Berkeley Study Abroad.
- Check out events at the Commonwealth Club.

**Reflect and plan your future**
- Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library.
- Check out the Career Center Yearly Planner.
- Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail.
- Explore career fields in the Career Connections Networking Series or a winter externship.

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

**Jobs and Employers**
- Auditor Evaluator, California State Auditor
- 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
- Teacher, 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.**

**Updated Last: 08.12.22**