

# POLITICAL SCIENCE

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*\*Faculty Early Retirement Program*

## Programs Offered

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Bachelor of Arts in Political Science  
Master's in Public Administration  
Minor in Political Science  
Teaching Credential Preparation  
Certificate Program in the Administration of Nonprofit Agencies

The political science program at Sonoma State University offers excellent opportunities for the study of government and politics. More than 40 courses cover all the major aspects of the discipline. Students develop an understanding of human behavior as it relates to politics. They learn to discuss and analyze critically the many current public policy issues facing the United States and the world. They are taught how to analyze and understand world affairs and comparative politics. They are trained in appropriate research techniques for the study of political processes.

The political science major is a relatively open major, allowing students to choose from a wide range of courses and subjects within a general framework. A common core of courses studies the relationship between values, ideology, and politics (POLS 201); fundamental issues in American politics (POLS 202); the logic of research in political science (POLS 302); comparative approaches

and politics (POLS 303); analysis of international politics (POLS 304); and a senior research seminar (POLS 498). Beyond this common core, as part of the additional 20 units required for the major, each student must complete at least one upper-division course in each of the four major fields of political science: political theory, international relations, comparative government, and American government and politics. Since politics and economics are so closely tied together, the department recommends each student complete a basic course in economics. In addition, the department encourages international study for political science students and will arrange for appropriate credits for courses of study at international universities.

A 20-unit minor in political science also is available. Although the minor most often is used in conjunction with such majors as communications, history, economics, and sociology, it can be paired with almost any major offered at the University.

## Features

The political science faculty is an interesting and diverse group of scholars. Several are involved actively in their own research projects and regularly offer the opportunity for students to participate in these projects, often in paid positions. Most of the faculty have also traveled extensively, both in this country and abroad.

Political science majors run an active student club that sponsors talks by leading political figures, candidate debates, and social events throughout the year. In addition, those students enrolled in Model United Nations (POLS 345) travel each spring to another university in the United States or Canada or to the United Nations in New York City for a simulation of the United Nations General Assembly.

## Internships

The department offers several programs through which students may gain practical experience while earning academic credit. A political science internship involves working in the office of a public official or, when possible, in an election campaign. Prior interns have served in responsible positions with state assembly members, state senators, and members of Congress, and in a number of campaigns for local, state, and national office. The comparable program in public administration places students in positions, often paid, with local government offices and agencies where they may be involved with city planning and zoning issues, public relations efforts, special research topics, or budget preparation, to mention several possibilities. In addition, the department regularly sends selected students to the state Capitol to participate in the Sacramento Semester Program under which they work with members of the Legislature, officers of the executive branch, or lobbyists to gain a fuller understanding of the political process firsthand. Finally, special arrangements also may be made for some students to serve as staff to members of Congress in Washington, D.C., for a semester.

## Academic Advising

The department expects students to seek faculty advice every semester when planning their programs. They may ask any faculty member to advise them. As they develop specific interests within the discipline, they are encouraged to select a faculty advisor who shares these interests.

## Preparation

Students are encouraged to take English composition and social science courses, including civics, economics, and history. Experience in journalism and debating activities also can be helpful. A foreign language is highly recommended but not required for the degree. Students who plan further study at the graduate level are strongly encouraged to take courses in an appropriate foreign language, since proficiency in two foreign languages is often required in doctoral programs.

Community college transfer students should contact their counseling office or the Sonoma State University Political Science Office to identify appropriate lower-division major/minor preparatory courses. Typically, these would include a basic course in American political institutions, which would fulfill the state code requirements for U.S. Constitution and California state and local government. Other lower-division courses introducing students to the discipline of political science, the study of international relations, and the study of comparative politics also are highly recommended.

## Teaching Credential Preparation

The Political Science Department participates in a teacher preparation program that certifies the subject matter competence in social sciences required for entry into a teaching credential program and exempts the student from taking the Praxis II Subject Assessment Examination in the social sciences. Political science majors interested in seeking a general elementary credential may demonstrate subject matter competence by passing the Praxis II Multiple Subject Assessment for Teachers. For further information, contact the department office, or Miriam Hutchins, School of Social Sciences, (707) 664-2409.

## Careers in Political Science

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### Law and Paralegal Careers

Many political science majors plan to study and practice law as a career. Although it is advisable for pre-law students to have as wide a background as possible, the department offers a number of specialized courses in the field of constitutional law and civil liberties. Generally, it is advisable for the pre-law student to seek advice on appropriate courses from a faculty member.

### Public Administration Careers

Local, state, and federal governments employ one of every six American workers. A major in political science with a public administration or public policy emphasis can prepare students for

civil service careers at national, state, and local levels. While many of these careers require specialized skills (e.g., budgeting and accounting), many require general skills and understanding, with on-the-job training providing the required specialized knowledge.

Political science is also an appropriate major for students seeking training for positions in the overseas agencies of the U.S. government or in international organizations.

## Journalism Careers

A political science major, combined with an ability to analyze and understand current political events and the skills to put that analysis into lucid writing, can prepare the student for an attractive career in journalism. Practical experience offered by the University newspaper is highly recommended.

## Business Careers

A large number of political science graduates have found employment in the world of business. Preparation for this career involves a broad liberal arts background, combined with knowledge of governmental organization, public administration, finance, decision-making, organizational behavior, and the process by which political decisions about economic policy are made. Many businesses that recruit liberal arts graduates expect to provide them with special training programs.

## Other Careers

Other enterprising individuals develop unique and interesting careers for themselves in politics by developing skills in campaign management, speech writing, polling, public relations, lobbying, voting analysis, or fundraising. These opportunities result from the initiative of the individual combined with the practical experience gained largely through volunteer service with political campaigns.

## Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

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| Degree Requirements               | Units |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| General education                 | 51    |
| Major requirements                | 40    |
| General electives                 | 29    |
| Total units needed for graduation | 120   |

## Major Core Requirements

These courses should be taken in this order. Passage of POLS 302 with a grade of 'C' or better is a prerequisite for POLS 498.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| POLS 201 Ideas and Institutions                  | 4 |
| POLS 202 Issues in Modern American Politics      | 4 |
| POLS 302 Social Science Research Methods         | 4 |
| POLS 303 Introduction to Comparative Government  | 4 |
| POLS 304 Introduction to International Relations | 4 |
| POLS 498 Senior Seminar                          | 4 |

One course must be taken from each of the following areas: Political Theory, International Relations, Comparative Politics, and American Government and Politics

**Political Theory**

Choose one of the following six courses:

- POLS 310 Classical Political Thought (4)
- POLS 311 Development of Modern Political Thought since 1500 (4)
- POLS 312 American Political Thought (4)
- POLS 313 Critical Theory: Race and Gender (4)
- POLS 315 Democracy, Capitalism, and Socialism (4)
- POLS 415 Explorations in Political Theory (4)

**International Relations**

Choose one of the following three courses:

- POLS 345 Model United Nations (MUN) (4)
- POLS 444 United States Foreign Policy (4)
- POLS 445 International Organizations (4)
- POLS 446 International Relations of the Middle East, Israel, the Palestinians and the United States (4)
- POLS 447 Non-violent Strategies in International Relations (4)
- POLS 448 Political Violence, Terrorism, and Law (4)
- POLS 486 Selected Issues in International Politics (4)

**Comparative Politics**

Choose one of the following six courses:

- POLS 350 European Parliamentary Democracies (4)
- POLS 351 Politics of Russia (4)
- POLS 352 Politics of Eastern Europe (4)
- POLS 354 Comparative Political Parties (4)
- POLS 450 Politics of Asia (4)
- POLS 452 Third World Political Systems (4)
- POLS 453 Politics of Latin America (4)
- POLS 458 Comparative Social Policy (4)
- POLS 487 Selected Topics in Comparative Politics (4)

**American Government And Politics**

Choose one of the following sixteen courses:

- POLS 320 State, City, and County Government (4)
- POLS 330 Race, Ethnicity, and Politics (4)
- POLS 391 Gender and Politics (4)
- POLS 420 American Political Development (4)
- POLS 421 Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations (4)
- POLS 423 Intro to Constitutional Law (4)
- POLS 424 the Bill of Rights, Civil Liberties, and the Constitution (4)
- POLS 425 the American Party System (4)
- POLS 426 the Legislative Process (4)
- POLS 427 the American Presidency (4)
- POLS 428 Seminar in California Politics and Government (4)
- POLS 429 Interest Groups (4)
- POLS 430 Introduction to Public Administration (4)
- POLS 431 Politics and the Media (4)
- POLS 466 Political Psychology (4)
- POLS 475 Urban Politics and Policy (4)
- POLS 481 Politics of Regulation and Land Use (4)
- POLS 483 Politics of Wealth and Poverty (4)
- POLS 484 Elections and Voter Behavior (4)
- POLS 485 Political Power and Social Isolation (4)

Total units in the major core

36

**Major Electives**

To complete the total major requirement of 40 units, choose additional units from other upper-division political science courses.

Total units in major electives 4

Total units in the major 40

**Recommended Course**

ECON 201A or 201B is strongly recommended as a general elective to political science majors.

**Sample Four-year Program for Bachelor of Arts in Political Science**

**FRESHMAN YEAR:: 30 Units**

|                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Fall Semester (15 Units) | Spring Semester (15 Units) |
| GE (15)                  | GE (15)                    |

**SOPHOMORE YEAR:: 30 Units**

|                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Fall Semester (14 Units) | Spring Semester (16 Units) |
| GE (6)                   | GE (6)                     |
| POLS 201 (4)             | POLS 202 (4)               |
| POLS 303 or POLS 304 (4) | Electives (6)              |

**JUNIOR YEAR:: 29 Units**

|                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Fall Semester (15 Units) | Spring Semester (14 Units)  |
| GE (3)                   | GE (6)                      |
| POLS 302 (4)             | International Relations (4) |
| American Government (4)  | Comparative Politics (4)    |
| Elective (4)             |                             |

**SENIOR YEAR:: 31 Units**

|                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Fall Semester (16 Units) | Spring Semester (15 Units) |
| Political Theory (4)     | Senior Seminar (4)         |
| Electives (12)           | Electives (11)             |

**TOTAL UNITS:: 120**

Note: Nine units of the GE requisite must be filled with upper-division courses; 40 units are required for the political science major; 120 units are required for graduation.

## Minor in Political Science

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|   |       |
|---|-------|
| POLS 200 American Political System (3) or       |       |
| POLS 202 Issues in Modern American Politics (4) | 3-4   |
| POLS 201 Ideas and Institutions                 | 4     |
| Upper-division courses in political science     | 12-13 |
| Total units in the minor                        | 20    |

### Code Requirements

POLS 200, the American Political System or POLS 202, Issues in Modern American Politics fulfills state code requirements in U.S. Constitution and California state and local government. Upper-division courses may also be used to satisfy certain of these code requirements upon approval by the department chair.

## Master's in Public Administration ([www.sonoma.edu/polisci/mpa-home](http://www.sonoma.edu/polisci/mpa-home))

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Offered primarily as an evening program, the master's degree in Public Administration provides a rigorous 40-unit curriculum that emphasizes the education required to effectively analyze, formulate, and implement public policy in local, state, and national government, and to achieve similar goals in nonprofit agencies. The program recognizes the need for a strong combination of theoretical and practical learning. Students choose from two concentrations: public management or nonprofit agency management.

Each student is required to complete a 20-unit analytic core, a 16-unit concentration, and 4 units of graduate-level electives. Courses are based upon the professional curriculum established for public administration programs by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPA).

Concentrations include specialized courses oriented toward the operation and management of public and nonprofit agencies and typically include: fiscal management, personnel administration, legal issues, public policy, labor relations, marketing and resource development for nonprofits, and grants and contract management. Electives cover a wide range of important topics, including ethics, leadership, organizational computer usage, internships, and special studies.

Up to 9 units of comparable graduate course work may be transferred into this program, per CSU policy.

If at any time it is determined that the candidate has an English deficiency, extra courses in English will be required in addition to the regular course of study.

### Admission Requirements

Students apply to both the University and to the M.P.A. program.

- A bachelor's degree with a major from an accredited college or university with a grade point average of at least 3.00 for the last 60 units of college-level work attempted;
- To ensure adequate background, a candidate for admission should have experience or course preparation in the following areas:

- State and local government,
  - Federalism and intergovernmental relations,
  - Influences on domestic policy making.
- Recommended:** One year experience working in a non-profit organization or a course in introduction to nonprofit organizations (example: through Sonoma County Volunteer Center).

**Candidates without such experience or course preparation can be admitted to the program but must make up deficiencies during the first three semesters of study.**

Prerequisites do not count toward the 40-unit degree. Acceptability of experience or previous course work as prerequisites will be determined in consultation with the program's graduate coordinator.

- Completion of both University and departmental applications. Included in the departmental application are three letters of recommendation. Only three letters will be considered; and
- Recommendation of the program graduate coordinator for entrance to the program.

### Graduation Requirements for the Master's Degree

- A grade point average of at least 3.00;
- Satisfactory completion of required course work, including elective units. No courses for which a grade less than B is earned will be acceptable in meeting the 40-unit M.P.A. requirement. Students earning a B- or lower in a course will be required to repeat the course with a grade of B or better;
- Completion of a master's thesis and oral defense, or two comprehensive written examinations;
- Recommendation of the program graduate coordinator; and
- Successful completion of the WEPT (or its equivalent), or waiver by the University of this requirement. This waiver is granted by the program graduate coordinator.

### Course Work

Common Core Requirements - 20 Units

POLS 502 Organizational Theory and Analysis (4)

POLS 503 Budget and Fiscal Administration (2)

POLS 505 Research Methods (4)

POLS 539 Program Implementation (4)

POLS 550 Planning and Evaluation (4)

POLS 580 Nonprofit Dynamics: Politics and Community Environment (2)

Public Management Concentration Requirements - 16 Units

POLS 501 Administrative State (4)

POLS 503A Public Finance (2)

POLS 504A Human Resources for the Public Sector (2)

POLS 506 Public Policy Process (4)

POLS 511 Labor Relations (2)

POLS 538 Administrative Law (2)

#### Nonprofit Concentration Requirements - 16 Units

POLS 503B Fiscal Management NPs (2)

POLS 504B Personnel for NPs (2)

POLS 581 NP Governance and Legal Issues (2)

POLS 582 Planning and NP Agencies (2)

POLS 583 Resource Development (4)

POLS 585 Marketing and PR for NPs (2)

POLS 587 Grants/Contract Management (2)

#### Electives - 4 Units Total can include

POLS 507 Ethics in Administration (4)

POLS 508 Comparative Public Policy (4)

POLS 509 Politics of Health Care and Aging (4)

POLS 512 Organizational Development (4)

POLS 513 Leadership and Supervision (4)

POLS 537 Bargaining, Politics, and Administration (4)

POLS 551 Organizational Computer Usage (4)

POLS 560 Special Issues in Public Policy (4)

POLS 564 Aging Services Administration (4)

POLS 588 Issues in Nonprofit Administration (4)

POLS 597 Internship (max. 4 units) (4)

POLS 599 Thesis (4)

#### **Culminating Experience**

All students in the M.P.A. program are required to complete either a thesis or a comprehensive examination prior to award of the degree. Those opting for a thesis as their culminating experience are required to complete 40 units of coursework, exclusive of prerequisites, and can include 4 units of 599 (Thesis Prep) as their elective. Students electing to take the comprehensive exam must complete 40 units of total course work exclusive of prerequisites and POLS 596 (exam preparation).

## **Certificate Program in the Administration of Nonprofit Agencies**

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The Political Science Department also offers a graduate certificate program in the administration of nonprofit agencies. Oriented to the needs of staff and administrators, this integrated series of courses is grounded in the study of contemporary trends in nonprofit agency administration, development, and fiscal management, and offers intensive exposure to the practical managerial techniques necessary for successful agency operation.

### **Coursework for the Certificate Program in the Administration of NP Agencies**

The Certificate Program requires 24 units of coursework from the Nonprofit Concentration and Common Core, all of which may be later applied to the Master's degree in Public Administration. Students in the Certificate Program are encouraged to pursue the Master's degree, though there is no requirement to do so. Students enroll in the 16 units in the Nonprofit Concentration, and 8 units of electives chosen from common core courses in consultation with the M.P.A. Program Graduate Coordinator.