

# POLITICAL SCIENCE, B.S.

**Begin Campus:** Any Penn State Campus

**End Campus:** University Park, World Campus

## Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

| Requirement                | Credits |
|----------------------------|---------|
| General Education          | 45      |
| Electives                  | 13-14   |
| Requirements for the Major | 67-68   |

6 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 6 credits of GQ courses.

### Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44>).

| Code   | Title   | Credits |
|--|---|---------|
| <b>Prescribed Courses</b>  |   |         |
| <i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of B or better</i>                |   |         |
| PLSC 309   | Quantitative Political Analysis   | 3       |
| <i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>                |   |         |
| PLSC 10  | Scientific Study of Politics  | 3       |
| <b>Additional Courses</b>  |   |         |
| <i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>                |   |         |
| MATH 110<br>or MATH 140  | Techniques of Calculus I<br>Calculus With Analytic Geometry I                     | 4       |
| PLSC 308<br>or PLSC 300  | Introduction to Political Research<br>Introduction to Independent Thesis Research | 3       |
| Select 9 credits from the following: 9                                   |   |         |
| PLSC 1   | American Politics: Principles, Processes and Powers                               |         |
| PLSC 3   | Comparing Politics around the Globe   |         |
| PLSC 7N  | Contemporary Political Ideologies   |         |
| PLSC 14  | International Relations   |         |
| PLSC 17N   | Introduction to Political Theory  |         |
| Select 3-4 credits from the following: 3-4                               |   |         |
| CMPSC 101  | Introduction to Programming   |         |
| CMPSC 121  | Introduction to Programming Techniques  |         |
| CMPSC 203  | Introduction to Spreadsheets and Databases  |         |
| Select 9 credits of data intensive PLSC courses from a department list 9 |   |         |
| Select 9 credits of any 400-level PLSC course 9                          |   |         |
| Select 9 credits of methodology from the following: 9                    |   |         |
| GEOG 363   | Geographic Information Systems  |         |
| GEOG 364   | Spatial Analysis  |         |
| PLSC 410   | Strategy and Politics   |         |

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| STAT 380                                     | Data Science Through Statistical Reasoning and Computation |   |
| STAT 461                                     | Analysis of Variance                                       |   |
| STAT 462                                     | Applied Regression Analysis                                |   |
| STAT 463                                     | Applied Time Series Analysis                               |   |
| STAT 466                                     | Survey Sampling  |   |
| Courses from a department approved list      |  |   |
| Select 3 credits from the following:         |  | 3 |
| LA 495                                       | Undergraduate Field Experience or Practicum                |   |
| PLSC 494                                     | Research Project   |   |
| PLSC 496                                     | Independent Studies  |   |
| Data intensive course from a department list |  |   |

### Supporting Courses and Related Areas

*Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better*

Select 12 credits from department approved list of courses in the arts, humanities, languages, social and behavioral sciences, natural sciences, and related fields. Students can take a range of courses across disciplines or concentrate their selection to complete a minor in a supporting field. 12

### General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

### Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

### Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

### Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

### Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

## **University Degree Requirements**

### **First Year Engagement**

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

### **Cultures Requirement**

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

### **Writing Across the Curriculum**

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

### **Total Minimum Credits**

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

### **Quality of Work**

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

### **Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition**

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.