

POLITICAL SCIENCE (BA)

Degree: Bachelor of Arts
Major: Political Science
Program Code: 3718

About This Major . . .

The Political Science program provides students with a working knowledge of the concepts, theories and approaches to the discipline of Political Science and their practical application to political and governmental systems within the state, national and international arenas.

Students majoring in Political Science are prepared for careers in government, law, criminal justice, and non-governmental organizations. Many graduates are currently employed as Congressional Staff members, Gubernatorial Staff, state agency officials, hold elective office or have successfully graduated from law school.

One attractive aspect of the program is the opportunity to intern in a variety of settings in Washington, D.C., Denver and Grand Junction. These internships allow students a chance to acquire practical experience while increasing the opportunity to network. Many of our student interns are now working in jobs they obtained directly as a result of their intern experience. CMU political science graduates have also been successful in gaining entrance to graduate and law schools. The Political Science program supports a Political Science Club and a local chapter of the national honor society Pi Sigma Alpha.

For more information on what you can do with this major, visit Career Services' [What to Do with a Major?](#) resource.

All CMU baccalaureate graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in specialized knowledge/applied learning, quantitative fluency, communication fluency, critical thinking, personal and social responsibility, and information literacy. In addition to these campus-wide student learning outcomes, graduates of this major will be able to:

- Critically analyze the theories and concepts relevant to political science (Specialized Knowledge);
- Defend a political argument using established methods (empirical and normative) in the field of political science (Intellectual Skills, Communication Fluency, Quantitative Fluency);
- Articulate diverse perspective surrounding a political issue (Critical Thinking, Information Literacy);
- Devise a strategy to promote civic involvement within the broader community for themselves and others (Civic Engagement)

Requirements

Each section below contains details about the requirements for this program. Select a header to expand the information/requirements for that particular section of the program's requirements.

To print or save an overview of this program's information, including the program description, learning outcomes, requirements, suggested course sequencing (if applicable), and advising and graduation information, scroll to the bottom of the left-hand navigation menu and select "Print Options." This will give you the options to either "Send Page to Printer" or "Download PDF of This Page." The "Download PDF of This Page" option prepares a much more concise presentation of all program information. The PDF is also printable and may be preferable due to its brevity.

Institutional Degree Requirements

The following institutional degree requirements apply to all CMU baccalaureate degrees. Specific programs may have different requirements that must be met in addition to institutional requirements.

- 120 semester hours minimum.
- Students must complete a minimum of 30 of the last 60 hours of credit at CMU, with at least 15 semester hours in major discipline courses numbered 300 or higher.
- 40 upper-division credits (an alternative credit limit applies to the Bachelor of Applied Science degree).
- 2.00 cumulative GPA or higher in all CMU coursework.
- A course may only be used to fulfill one requirement for each degree/certificate.
- No more than six semester hours of independent study courses can be used toward the degree.
- Non-traditional credit, such as advanced placement, credit by examination, credit for prior learning, cooperative education and internships, cannot exceed 30 semester credit hours for a baccalaureate degree. A maximum of 15 of the 30 credits may be for cooperative education, internships, and practica.
- Pre-collegiate courses (usually numbered below 100) cannot be used for graduation.
- Capstone exit assessment/projects (e.g., Major Field Achievement Test) requirements are identified under Program-Specific Degree Requirements.
- The Catalog Year determines which program sheet and degree requirements a student must fulfill in order to graduate. Visit with your advisor or academic department to determine which catalog year and program requirements you should follow.
- See "Requirements for Undergraduate Degrees and Certificates" in the catalog for a complete list of graduation requirements.

Specific to this program:

- Experiential learning component is required for this degree. Please see your advisor for details specific to your plan of study.

Essential Learning Requirements

(31 semester hours)

See the current catalog for a list of courses that fulfill the requirements below. If a course is an Essential Learning option and a requirement for your major, you must use it to fulfill the major requirement and make a different selection for the Essential Learning requirement.

Code	Title	Semester Credit Hours
English ¹		
ENGL 111	English Composition I-GTC01	3
ENGL 112	English Composition II-GTC02	3
Mathematics ¹		
MATH 110	Mathematical Investigations-GTMA1	3
History		
Select one History course		3
Humanities		
Select one Humanities course		3

Social and Behavioral Sciences	
Select one Social and Behavioral Sciences course	3
Select one Social and Behavioral Sciences course	3
Fine Arts	
Select one Fine Arts course	3
Natural Sciences ²	
Select one Natural Sciences course	3
Select one Natural Sciences course with a lab	4
Total Semester Credit Hours	31

¹ Must receive a grade of "C" or better and must be completed by the time the student has 60 semester hours.

² One course must include a lab.

Other Lower Division Requirements

Code	Title	Semester Credit Hours
Wellness Requirement		
KINE 100	Health and Wellness	1
Select one Activity course		1
Essential Learning Capstone ¹		
ESSL 290	Maverick Milestone	3
ESSL 200	Essential Speech	1
Total Semester Credit Hours		6

¹ Essential Learning Capstone must be taken after completion of the Essential Learning English and Mathematics requirements, and when a student has earned between 45 and 75 hours.

Foundation Courses

(6 semester hours, must pass all courses with a grade of "C" or higher)

Code	Title	Semester Credit Hours
Two consecutive classes in the same foreign language		6
Total Semester Credit Hours		6

Program Specific Degree Requirements

(48-49 semester hours, must pass all courses with a grade of "C" or higher and maintain a 2.00 cumulative GPA or higher in coursework in this area.)

Code	Title	Semester Credit Hours
Political Science Core		
POLS 101	American Government-GTSS1	3
POLS 151	Introduction to Political Ideas	3
POLS 201	Introduction to Political Inquiry	2
POLS 236	State and Local Government	3
POLS 261	Comparative Politics-GTSS1	3
POLS 270	World Politics	3

POLS 324	United States Congress ¹	3
or POLS 325	The American Presidency	
POLS 342	Public Administration ²	3
or POLS 462	Public Policy: Theory and Practice	
POLS 351	Public and Elite Political Behavior	3
POLS 452	Political Theory: Classical and Medieval ³	3
or POLS 453	Political Theory: Modern	
POLS 471	International Organizations and Law ⁴	3
or POLS 482	International Relations Theory	
POLS 493	Senior Capstone	1

Political Science Electives

Select four of the following (for a total of 12 credits, 9 credits must be 12 upper-division):

POLS 324	United States Congress ¹	
POLS 325	The American Presidency ¹	
POLS 328	The American Court System	
POLS 333	Rural Politics and Civic Engagement ⁵	
POLS 342	Public Administration ²	
POLS 353	Politics of Human and Natural Resources	
POLS 352	Religion and Politics	
POLS 354	Political Geography	
POLS 356	Indigenous Politics	
POLS 366	Government and Politics of Asia	
POLS 372	Peace and Conflict Studies	
POLS 373	Global Politics of Women and Gender	
POLS 395	Independent Study	
POLS 396	Topics	
POLS 412	Constitutional Law	
POLS 452	Political Theory: Classical and Medieval ³	
POLS 453	Political Theory: Modern ³	
POLS 462	Public Policy: Theory and Practice ²	
POLS 471	International Organizations and Law ⁴	
POLS 472	International Political Economy	
POLS 475	American Foreign and National Security Policy	
POLS 482	International Relations Theory ⁴	
POLS 484	Environmental Political Theory	
POLS 488	Environmental Politics and Policy	
POLS 495	Independent Study	
POLS 496	Topics	
PADM 315	Public Management	
PADM 350	Ethics in Public Administration	
PADM 442	Public Budgeting	
EMDP 211	Introduction to Emergency Management	
EMDP 321	Hazard Preparedness and Mitigation	
EMDP 331	Disaster Response and Recovery	
INTS 101	Introduction to International Studies	

Career Preparation

Select one of the following:		3-4
STAT 215	Statistics for Social and Behavioral Sciences	
SPCH 308	Argumentation	
POLS 386	Study Away: Off-Campus Learning Experience ⁵	
POLS 399	Internship ^{5,6}	

POLS 499 Internship ^{5,6}

Experiential Learning

Must complete one of the following courses or non-course options. If choosing a non-course option, it must be approved by your faculty advisor.

ASG Leadership
Capital Conference
Non-Credit Internship
Semester Study Abroad
Volunteer Community Service with Portfolio Documentation
POLS 333 Rural Politics and Civic Engagement ⁵
POLS 386 Study Away: Off-Campus Learning Experience
POLS 399 Internship ^{5,6}
POLS 499 Internship ^{5,6}

Total Semester Credit Hours 48-49

- ¹ Student takes either POLS 324 or POLS 325 as their core class. The one not selected as a core class can be taken as a political science elective.
- ² Student takes either POLS 342 or POLS 462 as their core class. The one not selected as a core class can be taken as a political science elective.
- ³ Student takes either POLS 452 or POLS 453 as their core class. The one not selected as a core class can be taken as a political science elective.
- ⁴ Student takes either POLS 471 or POLS 482 as their core class. The one not selected as a core class can be taken as a political science elective.
- ⁵ Course fulfills the experiential learning requirement.
- ⁶ Must total a minimum of 3 credits.

General Electives

All college level courses appearing on your final transcript, not listed above that will bring your total semester hours to 120 hours, including 40 hours of upper division credits. 28-29 semester hours, including 9-15 semester hours of upper division may be needed.

Code	Title	Semester Credit Hours
Select electives		28-29
Total Semester Credit Hours		28-29

Suggested Course Plan

While the sequencing below culminates in at a total of 119-120 semester credit hours, students must complete a minimum of 120 semester credit hours as required for completion of the degree, including satisfactory completion of all required courses. The number of General Electives hours taken by a student can be adjusted to meet this minimum.

First Year		Semester Credit Hours
Fall Semester		
ENGL 111	English Composition I-GTC01	3
MATH 110	Mathematical Investigations-GTMA1	3
Essential Learning - History		3
Essential Learning - Natural Science		3

POLS 101	American Government-GTSS1	3
Semester Credit Hours		15

Spring Semester		Semester Credit Hours
ENGL 112	English Composition II-GTC02	
Essential Learning - Humanities		3
Essential Learning - Social and Behavioral Sciences		3
POLS 151	Introduction to Political Ideas	3
POLS 270	World Politics	3
Semester Credit Hours		15

Second Year		Semester Credit Hours
Fall Semester		
Essential Learning - Fine Arts		3
Essential Learning - Natural Science with Lab		4
Foundation Course - Foreign Language		3
KINE 100	Health and Wellness	1
POLS 201	Introduction to Political Inquiry	2
POLS 236	State and Local Government	3
Semester Credit Hours		16

Spring Semester		Semester Credit Hours
Essential Learning - Social and Behavioral Sciences		
Foundation Course - Foreign Language		3
ESSL 290	Maverick Milestone	3
ESSL 200	Essential Speech	1
POLS 261	Comparative Politics-GTSS1	3
General Elective		3
Semester Credit Hours		16

Third Year		Semester Credit Hours
Fall Semester		
KINA Activity		1
POLS 324 or POLS 325	United States Congress ¹ or The American Presidency	3
POLS 452 or POLS 453	Political Theory: Classical and Medieval or Political Theory: Modern	3
Political Science Elective		3
Career Preparation Course		3-4
General Elective		3
Semester Credit Hours		16-17

Spring Semester		Semester Credit Hours
POLS 351	Public and Elite Political Behavior	
POLS 342 or POLS 462	Public Administration or Public Policy: Theory and Practice	3
POLS 471 or POLS 482	International Organizations and Law or International Relations Theory	3
General Elective		3
General Elective		3
Semester Credit Hours		15

Fourth Year		Semester Credit Hours
Fall Semester		
POLS 493	Senior Capstone	1
Political Science Elective		3
Political Science Elective		3
General Elective		3
General Elective		3
Semester Credit Hours		13

Spring Semester		Semester Credit Hours
Political Science Elective		
General Elective		3
General Elective		3
General Elective		3

General Elective	1
Semester Credit Hours	13
Total Semester Credit Hours	119-120

¹ POLS 324 is offered in the Spring Semester. See your major advisor to adjust your suggested course sequencing.

Advising and Graduation

Advising Process and DegreeWorks

Documentation on the pages related to this program is intended for informational purposes to help determine what courses and associated requirements are needed to earn a degree. The suggested course sequencing outlines how students could finish degree requirements. Some courses are critical to complete in specific semesters, while others may be moved around. Meeting with an academic advisor is essential in planning courses and altering the suggested course sequencing. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to understand and fulfill the requirements for their intended degree(s).

DegreeWorks is an online degree audit tool available in MAVzone. It is the official record used by the Registrar's Office to evaluate progress towards a degree and determine eligibility for graduation. Students are responsible for reviewing their DegreeWorks audit on a regular basis and should discuss questions or concerns with their advisor or academic department head. Discrepancies in requirements should be reported to the Registrar's Office.

Graduation Process

Students must complete the following in the first two months of the semester prior to completing their degree requirements:

- Review their DegreeWorks audit and create a plan that outlines how unmet requirements will be met in the final semester.
- Meet with their advisor and modify their plan as needed. The advisor must approve the final plan.
- Submit the "Intent to Graduate" form to the Registrar's Office to officially declare the intended graduation date and commencement ceremony plans.
- Register for all needed courses and complete all requirements for each degree sought.

Submission deadlines and commencement details can be found at <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/registrar/graduation.html>.

If a student's petition for graduation is denied, it will be their responsibility to consult the Registrar's Office regarding next steps.