

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?* (<https://www.coloradomesa.edu/career/students/explore/major.html>) 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:

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

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.

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-GTC01	3
ENGL 112	English Composition-GTC02	3
Mathematics ¹		
MATH 110	College Mathematics-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 ¹		6
Total Semester Credit Hours		6

¹ FLAS 114 & FLAS 115 will not fulfill this requirement. Must receive a grade of "C" or higher.

Program Specific Degree Requirements

(60 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	3
POLS 236	State and Local Government	3
POLS 261	Comparative Politics-GTSS1	3
POLS 270	World Politics	3
POLS 351	Public and Elite Political Behavior	3
POLS 490	Senior Seminar for Political Science	3

Political Science Electives

Political Theory

Select one of the following:		3
POLS 452	Political Theory: Classical and Medieval	
POLS 453	Political Theory: Modern	
POLS 482	International Relations Theory	

American Politics

Select one of the following:		3
POLS 324	The Legislative Process	
POLS 325	The American Presidency	
POLS 328	The American Court System	

POLS 412	Constitutional Law	
<i>Global Politics</i>		
Select one of the following:		3
POLS 366	Government and Politics of Asia	
POLS 372	Peace and Conflict Studies	
POLS 373	Global Politics of Women and Gender	
POLS 471	Politics of Global Governance	
POLS 472	International Political Economy	
POLS 475	American Foreign and National Security Policy	

Political Issues

Select one of the following:		3
POLS 352	Religion and Politics	
POLS 353	Politics of Human and Natural Resources	
POLS 354	Political Geography	
POLS 356	Indigenous Politics	
POLS 462	Public Policy: Theory and Practice	
POLS 488	Environmental Politics and Policy	

Public Administration

Select one of the following:		3
PADM 315	Public Management	
PADM 350	Ethics in Public Administration	
PADM 442	Public Budgeting	
PADM 446	Public Personnel Management	
POLS 342	Public Administration	
EMDP 211	Introduction to Emergency Management	

Political Science Specialization

Select four additional courses from Political Theory, American Politics, Global Politics, Political Issues and/or Public Administration

Career Preparation

Select one of the following:		3
STAT 215	Statistics for Social and Behavioral Sciences	
SPCH 304	Communication and Conflict	
SPCH 305	Communication: Culture, Diversity and Gender	
SPCH 306	Communication and Leadership	
SPCH 308	Argumentation and Debate	
SOCI 470	Pre-Law in Practice	
POLS 395	Independent Study	
POLS 396	Topics	
POLS 495	Independent Study	
POLS 496	Topics	
POLS 499	Internship	

Total Semester Credit Hours 54

Code	Title	Semester Credit Hours
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Restricted Electives

Select 2 of the following Political Science related courses:		6
CRMJ 420	Criminal Law	
CRMJ 425	Trial, Evidence and Legal Advocacy	
EMDP 321	Hazard Preparedness and Mitigation	
EMDP 331	Disaster Response and Recovery	
HIST 303	History of Modern Germany	

HIST 315	American Indian History
HIST 320	The American West
HIST 333	The International History of the Cold War
HIST 342	The Early American Republic
HIST 346	The United States in the 1950's and 1960's
HIST 347	Global America: 1970-2000
HIST 371	20th Century United States Women's History
HIST 400	The Soviet Union and Eastern Europe
HIST 403	East Asia and the Modern World
HIST 406	History of the African Continent
HIST 410	Environmental History of the United States
HIST 425	History of Sexuality
PSYC 320	Social Psychology
SOCI 101	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies
SOCI 410	Death, Dying & Bereavement
SOCO 300	Political Sociology
SOCO 305	Environmental Sociology
SOCO 310	Sociology of Religion
SOCO 312	Social Movements and Political Activism
SOCO 314	Population
SOCO 316	Social Inequality
SOCO 325	Race and Ethnic Relations

Total Semester Credit Hours 6

General Electives

All college level courses appearing on your final transcript, not listed above that will bring your total semester hours to 120 hours. 16 semester hours; 7 hours of upper division may be needed

Code	Title	Semester Credit Hours
Select electives		16
Total Semester Credit Hours		16

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

Course	Title	Semester Credit Hours
First Year		
Fall Semester		
ENGL 111	English Composition-GTCO1	3
Essential Learning - History		3
MATH 110	College Mathematics-GTMA1	3
Essential Learning - Natural Science		3
POLS 101	American Government-GTSS1	3
KINE 100	Health and Wellness	1
Semester Credit Hours		16
Spring Semester		
ENGL 112	English Composition-GTCO2	3
Essential Learning - Humanities		3

Essential Learning - Social and Behavioral Sciences		3
POLS 151	Introduction to Political Ideas	3
POLS 270	World Politics	3
KINA Activity		1
Semester Credit Hours		16

Second Year		
Fall Semester		
Essential Learning - Fine Arts		3
Essential Learning - Social and Behavioral Sciences		3
Foundation Course - Foreign Language		3
POLS 201	Introduction to Political Inquiry	3
POLS 236	State and Local Government	3
Semester Credit Hours		15

Spring Semester		
Essential Learning - Natural Science with Lab		4
POLS 261	Comparative Politics-GTSS1	3
Foundation Course - Foreign Language		3
ESSL 290	Maverick Milestone	3
ESSL 200	Essential Speech	1
Semester Credit Hours		14

Third Year		
Fall Semester		
Political Theory Elective		3
American Politics Elective		3
Global Politics Elective		3
Restricted Elective		3
Elective		3
Semester Credit Hours		15

Spring Semester		
Occupational Preparation Course		3-4
POLS 351	Public and Elite Political Behavior	3
Political Issues Elective		3
Public Administration Elective		3
General Electives (1-2 courses)		4
Semester Credit Hours		16-17

Fourth Year		
Fall Semester		
POLS 490	Senior Seminar for Political Science	3
Political Science Specialization (2 courses)		6
Restricted Elective		3
General Elective		3
Semester Credit Hours		15

Spring Semester		
Political Science Specialization (2 courses)		6
General Electives (2 courses)		6
Semester Credit Hours		12
Total Semester Credit Hours		119-120

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 her/his 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 her/his responsibility to consult the Registrar's Office regarding next steps.