

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)

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.

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-GTCO1	3
ENGL 112	English Composition II-GTCO2	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

Global Politics

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 12

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
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

Suggested Course Plan

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, 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
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 II-GTC02	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 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 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.