

POLITICAL SCIENCE (BS)

Justice and Security

Overview

Political scientists inquire how government can best fulfill the diverse needs of humanity as individuals, as well as in various groups. The study of politics deals with the ways in which humanity shares and distributes such fundamental values as security and prosperity and seeks self-determination. In the tradition of the liberal arts, this program prepares students to make sound decisions and creates a foundation for lifetime intellectual and spiritual growth. This includes such specific skills as the collection and evaluation of valid data, the systematic analysis of problems, and the clarification of values.

Degree Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
Major Requirements		
PO 1025	American Government	4
PO 1025	American Government	4
PO 1060	PO 1060: Politics in Action	4
PO 2025	Public Administration (DICO)	4
PO 3065	Political Analysis and Policy (TECO,WRCO)	4
American Politics		
Complete one course from the following:		4
PO 3070	The Presidency and Congress	
PO 3125	Political Parties, Elections, and Interest Groups (TECO)	
PO 3635	Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties	
PO 3655	American Foreign Policy	
International Relations/Comparative Politics		
Complete one course from the following:		4
PO 2050	Comparative Politics and Government	
PO 3005	Politics and Conflict in the Middle East (GACO)	
PO 3085	Model United Nations (GACO)	
PO 3305	Latin American Politics (GACO,WRCO)	
PO 3750	War and Conflict	
Quantitative Reasoning in the Discipline Connection		
MA 2300	Statistics I (QRCO)	3
or SS 3705	Social Statistics (QRCO)	
General Education (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/)		
EN 1400	Composition	4
IS 1115	Tackling a Wicked Problem	4
MA (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#MATH)	Mathematics Foundations	3-4
CTDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#CTDI)	Creative Thought Direction	3-4

PPDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#PPDI)	Past and Present Direction	3-4
SSDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SSDI)	Self and Society Direction	3-4
Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SIDI) (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/) ¹		4-8
INCP (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#INCP)	Integrated Capstone	3-4
WECO (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#WECO)	Wellness Connection	3-4
Electives		31-34
GACO (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#GACO)	Global Awareness Connection ²	6-8
PO 3000/4000 level Political Science electives		12
Total Credits		120

¹ Directions should total 16-17 credits because SSDI is waived for BA Political Science.

² The foreign language requirement for all BA degrees calls for 0-8 credits: One Year of language (6-8 credits); or one 3000/4000 level world language course (3 credits); or being a native speaker of a language other than English (zero credit). American Sign Language I and II fulfill this requirement; however, American Sign Language does not satisfy the Global Awareness Connection.

A 2.50 grade point average in PO courses taken for the degree is required.

Recommended Course Sequence

Check all course descriptions for prerequisites before planning course schedule. Course sequence is suggested but not required.

To complete the bachelor's degree in 4 years, you must successfully complete a minimum of 15 credits each semester or have a plan to make up credits over the course of the 4 years. For example, if you take 14 credits one semester, you need to take 16 credits in another semester. Credits completed must count toward your program requirements (major, option, minor, certificate, general education or free electives).

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
EN 1400	Composition	4
IS 1115	Tackling a Wicked Problem	4

MA (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#MATH)	Mathematics Foundations	3-4
PO 1025	American Government	4
PO 1035	World Politics (GACO)	4
PO 1060	PO 1060: Politics in Action	4
CTDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#CTDI)	Creative Thought Direction	3-4
GACO (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#GACO)	Foreign Language	6
Elective		3-5

Credits **35-39**

Year Two

PO 2025	Public Administration (DICO)	4
PPDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#PPDI)	Past and Present Direction	3-4
SIDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SIDI)	Scientific Inquiry Direction	3-4
Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SIDI) (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/) ¹		4-8
Quantitative Reasoning in the Discipline Connection Course:		
MA 2300 or SS 3705	Statistics I (QRCO) or Social Statistics (QRCO)	3-4
WECO (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#WECO)	Wellness Connection	3-4
Electives		6

Credits **26-34**

Year Three

Complete one American Politics Course from the following:		4
PO 3070	The Presidency and Congress	
PO 3125	Political Parties, Elections, and Interest Groups (TECO)	
PO 3635	Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties	
PO 3655	American Foreign Policy	
Complete one International Relations/Comparative Politics Course from the following:		4
PO 2050	Comparative Politics and Government	
PO 3005	Politics and Conflict in the Middle East (GACO)	
PO 3065	Political Analysis and Policy (TECO,WRCO)	
PO 3085	Model United Nations (GACO)	
PO 3305	Latin American Politics (GACO,WRCO)	
PO 3750	War and Conflict	
PO 3815	Political Thought	

Electives **14**

Credits **22**

Year Four

PO	3000/4000 level Political Science electives (not PODI)	12
INCP (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#INCP)	Integrated Capstone	3-4
Electives		14-15

Credits **29-31**

Total Credits **120**

Learning Outcomes

- Communicate effectively and clearly
- Cultural sensitivity and civic engagement
- Conduct Research using PO Methodology
- Understand/apply political philosophies, theories and concepts
- Understand political institutions, patterns and processes
- Understand/apply emerging technologies to political science

Career Pathways

Government Employee, Campaign Manager/Political Consultant, Intelligence Analyst, Police Officer, Public Relations, Law, Academia, Community Organizing, Diplomatic Service, Law Clerk, Lobbying, Market Research, Program Administration, Teaching