
Degree Guide

B.A./B.S. in Political Science

Political Science: Program Overview

At OSU-Cascades, students can pursue a Political Science major with a combination of in-person and online (OSU E-campus) classes.

Political Science is the systematic study of politics wherever it takes place—in governmental institutions, the international arena, and civil society. Political science majors at Oregon State may choose the general political science major, or one of the three options that focus on law and politics, international affairs, or environmental and energy politics. All political science majors learn to think critically, write clearly and speak persuasively. They learn the ideas of great political thinkers, learn the political fundamentals behind the headlines, and have engaging discussions from all points of view with other students and professors.

To complete a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Political Science students must complete the following degree requirements:

- OSU Graduation Requirements
 - Baccalaureate Core
 - College of Liberal Arts Core
 - BA or BS Requirements
 - Political Science Major Requirements
 - Select one specialization option: General, Environmental and Energy Politics; International Affairs; or Law and Politics
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OSU Graduation Requirements:

Students pursuing a degree at OSU must meet the following requirements in addition to program and college requirements. catalog.oregonstate.edu/regulations/#text

- ☐ 180 minimum = total number of credits required to graduate
- ☐ 60 minimum = number of upper division credits required
- ☐ 45 of last 75 credits must be OSU credits
- ☐ Max 135 credits transferred to OSU
- ☐ Max 18 W grades (withdraw)
- ☐ Max 11 credits PAC



Baccalaureate Core Requirements (Bacc Core)

DOUBLE COUNTING: A course can double count in Bacc Core, CLA Core or Major. However, a single course cannot count for three requirements.

Requirement	Course	Grade/Term
Skills (16)		
Fitness: HHS 231 (2 cr)		
Fitness: Physical Activity Course PAC (1cr)		
Math (4cr)		
Writing 121Z (4cr)		
Writing II (3-4cr)		
Speech (4cr)		
Perspectives (24-32 cr)	**No more than two courses from any one department**	
Cultural Diversity (3-4cr)		
Literature & Arts (3-4cr)		
Social Process & Inst. (3-4cr)	PS 201 or PS 205	Completed in major
Western Culture (3-4cr)		
Physical Science (4-5cr)		
Bio Science (4-5cr)		
1 additional Bio or Phys. Sci. (4-5cr)		
Difference Power & Discrimination (3-4cr)		
Synthesis (6cr)	**Synthesis course must be from 2 different departments**	
Contemporary Global Issues (CGI)		
Science Tech and Society (STS)		

College of Liberal Arts Core (CLA Core)

CLA Core Requirement	Select on course for each requirement (more may be approved)	Course/grade
Fine Arts (3-4 cr) FA	ART 101, ART 115, ART 131, ART 121, ART 263, ART 222 (others may be approved)	
Non-West. Culture (3-4 cr) NWC	ART 208, ENG 212, ANTH 315, ENG 360	
Humanities (3-4 cr) HUM	Completed in major	PS 206 in major
Social Science (3-4 cr) SS	Completed in major	PS in major
Additional CLA Core course (3-4cr)	An additional class from any category above	

BA or BS Requirements

Courses used to satisfy the B.S. cannot double count to satisfy baccalaureate core requirements.

B.A. Requirements		Course/Grade
Language - Second year proficiency, college level with C- grade or better.		
B.S. Requirements		
Any computer science course approved by the student's advisor	ART 121, CS 391, CS 101 online	
Any course from the College of Science except math or statistics (3-4 credits) <i>NO double counting with Bacc Core</i>	Sample courses: BB 332, MB 330, CH 121	
Two math or statistics courses (6-8 credits): any course at the 200-level or above or above taught by MTH or ST.	<i>NO double counting with Bacc Core: Math allowed</i>	

**All catalog and course selection information is subject to change pending catalog declaration year.*

2024-2025 catalog year

Political Science Undergraduate Major - 52 credits

Majors are required to maintain a minimum cumulative 2.00 grade-point average for all political science course work.

Majors must earn a C– grade or better in PS 300.

S/U grading (satisfactory/unsatisfactory) in major courses is not allowed

Select one specialization option: General, Environmental and Energy Politics; International Affairs; or Law and Politics

[Course Listing: osucascades.edu/political-science/course-listing](https://osucascades.edu/political-science/course-listing)

Political Science: GENERAL OPTION – 52 Credits

Progress	Requirements	CR	Bacc Core/CLA Core & pre-reqs	Course Planning osucascades.edu/political-science/course-listing
	Select 3 Foundational courses: PS 201 -Introduction to US Government and Politics PS 204 - Introduction to Comparative Politics + PS 205 - Introduction to International Relations PS 206 - Introduction to Political Thought	12cr	BC: SPI & CLA:SS BC: SPI & CLA:SS BC: SPI & CLA:SS BC: WC & CLA:HUM	Fall Online Spring Winter
	Required Research Course: PS 300 Research Methods + WIC	4cr	WIC	online
Select 1 course from at least 3 of the four following subfields:		12cr		
	<u>American national govt. and politics:</u> PS 312 – Presidential Politics + PS 315 – The Politics of Media + PS 331- State and Local Politics + PS 371 – Public Policy Problems + PS 374 – Sustainable Living: Practices & Policies + PS 381 – Constitutional Law: Govt. Powers and Constraints + PS 382- Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties PS 383 - Constitutional Law: Civil Rights + Spring 2025 PS 384 – Constitutional Law: Rights of the Accused + PS 455 – The Politics of Climate Change + PS 475- Environmental Politics and Policy + Spring 2025 PS 476 – Science & Politics +			
	<u>Comparative Politics:</u> PS 341 – EU Politics + PS 344 – Latin American Politics + PS 345 – Politics of Developing Nations +			
	<u>International Relations:</u> PS 351 – American Foreign Policy+ PS 354: International Org. and Global Politics Winter 2025 PS 454 – International Law and Organization + PS 455 – The Politics of Climate Change + PS 470 – Global Food Politics and Policy + PS 477 – International Environmental Politics and Policy+			
	<u>Political Philosophy:</u> PS 361 –Classical Political Thought + PS 362- Modern Political Thought Fall 2024 PS 363 – Gender and Race in American Political Thought + PS 413 – Ethics in Public Policy +			
	24 credits in PS upper division electives: 300-400 level PS courses			24cr

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2024-2025 catalog year

Political Science: Specialization Options

Students may choose a general political science major or may choose from one of three transcript-visible options:

1. Environmental and Energy Politics
2. International Affairs
3. Law and Politics

Environmental and Energy Politics Option (52 credits)

The Environmental and Energy Politics option under the Political Science major provides students with the opportunity to focus their undergraduate studies on topics involving:

- Historical and contemporary environmental problems
- Governmental and non-governmental efforts to address problems at the local, state, federal and international levels
- Interactions between key actors and institutions involved in environmental policymaking in the United States and internationally

Progress	Requirement	BC/CLA Core, Pre-Reqs:	Course planning
	Required Foundational courses: PS 201 - Introduction to United States Government and Politics PS 205 - Introduction to International Relations	BC: SPI & CLA:SS BC: SPI & CLA:SS	Fall Spring
	Select 1 course: PS 204 -Introduction to Comparative Politics or PS 206 - Introduction to Political Thought	BC: SPI & CLA:SS BC: WC & CLA: HUM	online Winter
	Required Research course: PS 300 Research Methods +	WIC	online
	Select 24 Credits from the courses listed here: Select at least 16 cr from this list PS 331 – State and Local Government PS 371 – Public Policy Problems + PS 372- Public Administration PS 374 – Sustainable Living: Practices & Policies + PS 455 – The Politics of Climate Change + PS 470- Global Food Politics and Policy PS 473- US Energy Policy PS 475 – Environmental Politics and Policy SP 25 PS 477 – International Environmental Politics and Policy+ PS 478 – Renewable Energy	Select up to 8 credits: AEC/ECON 352 – Environmental Econ and Policy (prereq Econ 201) Winter 25 ECON 466- Economics of Traditional and Renewable Energy (prepeq ECON 201) SOC 381- Social Dimensions of Sustainability+ SOC 475 – Rural Sociology+ SOC 480 – Environmental Sociology Fall 24 SOC 481 – Society & NR +	
	12 credits of any Political Science courses: At least 8 credits must be upper division		

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2024-2025 catalog year

International Affairs Option (52 credits)

The International Affairs option provides students with the opportunity to focus their undergraduate studies on topics involving:

- The political systems and dynamics of different countries and regions around the world
- Relations among countries and non-state actor
- Global issues, problems, and institutions

Course Planning Link: osucascades.edu/political-science/course-listing

Progress	Requirement	BC/CLA Core, Pre-Reqs:	Course planning
	Required Foundational classes: PS 204 - Introduction to Comparative Politics + PS 205 - Introduction to International Relations	BC: SPI & CLA:SS BC: SPI & CLA:SS	online Spring
	Select 1 course: PS 201 -Introduction to US Government and Politics or PS 206 - Introduction to Political Thought	BC: SPI & CLA:SS BC: WC & CLA: HUM	Fall Winter
	Required Research course: PS 300 Research Methods	WIC	online
	Select 24 Credits from the courses listed here:	Select up to 8 credits: ECON 340 – International Economics + [Prereq: ECON 201 & 202] SOC 360 – Social Trends and Policy + SOC 460 – The Sociology of Globalization+ <i>Other courses as approved by the department.</i>	
	Select at least 16 credits here:		
	PS 341 – EU Politics +		
	PS 344 – Latin American Politics +		
	PS 345 – Politics of Developing Nations +		
	PS 351 – American Foreign Policy +		
	PS 354 – International Org. Global Politics		
	PS 455 – The Politics of Climate Change +		
	PS 470 – Global Food Politics and Policy +		
	PS 477 – International Environmental Politics and Policy+		
	12 credits of any Political Science courses:		
	At least 8 credits must be upper division		

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2024-2025 catalog year

Law & Politics Option (52 credits)

The Law and Politics option offers students the opportunity to focus their undergraduate studies on topics involving:

- Constitutional principles and interpretation
- Judicial politics and how it shapes the law
- Relationships between the various branches and levels of government in the United States
- Normative arguments regarding justice and equality in theory and in practice

Course planning link: <https://osucascades.edu/political-science/course-listing>

Progress	Requirements	BC/CLA Core, Pre-Reqs:	Course planning
	Required Foundational classes: PS 201 -Introduction to US Government and Politics PS 206 - Introduction to Political Thought	BC: SPI & CLA:SS BC: WC & CLA: HUM	online Winter
	Select 1 course: PS 205 - Introduction to International Relations + or PS 204 - Introduction to Comparative Politics +	BC: SPI & CLA:SS BC: SPI & CLA:SS	Spring online
	Required Research course: PS 300 Research Methods +	WIC	online
	Completed 24 credits Upper Division courses: <u>Select at least 16 cr from this list:</u> PS 312 – Presidential Politics + PS 331 – State and Local Politics PS 354 – International Organizations and Global Politics PS 361- Classical Political Thought + PS 362- Modern Political Thought PS 363 – Gender and Race in American Political Thought + PS 371 – Public Policy Problems + PS 372 – Public Administration + PS 381- Constitutional Law: Government Powers & Constraints+ PS 382 – Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties PS 383 – Constitutional Law: Civil Rights+ PS 384 – Constitutional Law: Rights of the Accused+	Select up to 8 cr from this list ECON 461 – Law, Economics and Regulation + (Prereq: ECON 201 & 202) SOC 340 – Deviant Behavior and Social Control + SOC 440 – Juvenile Delinquency + SOC 441 – Criminology and Penology + SOC 442 – Soc. of Drug Use and Abuse + SOC 448 – Law and Society	
	12 credits of any Political Science courses: At least 8 credits must be upper division		

Potential for Learning Outside the Classroom

Political science majors are strongly encouraged to pursue experiential learning and other educational opportunities outside of the classroom, and these experiences can be used to fulfill some political science graduation requirements. Such experiences can include research, projects, practicum or internship. Credits will be placed in the appropriate PS 401–PS 410 designator.

A maximum of 8 credits from any combination of PS 401–PS 410 may be applied to the major, although additional credits from courses in this range may be applied to general graduation requirements.

Additional experiential learning opportunities include "field schools" and study abroad. Student should discuss all of these opportunities with the political science undergraduate advisor and the Coordinator of Experiential Learning.

RESOURCES:

liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/spp/polisci/programs/undergraduate-major

catalog.oregonstate.edu/college-departments/liberal-arts/school-public-policy/political-science-ba-bs-hba-hbs/

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