

Political Science

The Field of Political Science

Courses and programs offered by the Political Science Department are intended to help all students become more effective participants in a democratic society as makers of public policy and as individuals affected by those policies.

Within political science, students may elect to concentrate on American government and politics, international politics, comparative government, political theory, or public administration. A core program required of all majors provides students with a sampling of all these subjects, after which students may choose to study specific areas of interest.

The Department of Political Science

All faculty members bring to their classes extensive backgrounds that permit them to combine theories of political science with practical applications. For example, faculty who offer courses in Latin American, European, Soviet, or Far Eastern studies have lived, studied, taught, or done research in these areas.

Professors dealing with aspects of American government and administration either have held responsible positions in government or have acted as consultants to various office holders or agencies. Several have been

active in political campaigns and some have run for office themselves. Faculty-student interaction is enhanced by the individualized instruction and assistance available in most upper-division classes.

The department offers several internship programs through which students may gain practical experience while earning academic credit. Interns may work with state assemblymen, state senators, members of Congress, or in campaigns for local, state, and national offices. The department also sends students to the State Capitol to participate in the Sacramento Semester Program, in which they work with members of the Legislature, officers of the Executive branch, or lobbyists. Arrangements also may be made for selected students to serve for a semester as staff to members of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Careers in Political Science

Political science majors graduate prepared to enter a wide variety of careers. The skills gained in this program are highly valued in many areas, including business and banking. Graduates have found positions with government agencies or organizations that deal extensively with government. They also find work as reporters in print and electronic media. Careers with the State Department

and Foreign Service may prove rewarding for graduates with a special interest in international politics or comparative government. Graduates interested in a law career have found that a solid grounding in political science is valuable.

Future Education

Teaching at a community college generally requires an M.A. Teaching at the university level usually requires a Ph.D. Persons pursuing careers in government service may find it helpful to secure an M.A. or M.P.A. (Master of Public Administration) for professional advancement.

General Preparation

The basic skills needed for success in political science include the ability to read well, write clearly, and speak in an articulate fashion.

High School Preparation

Students should meet California State University's admission requirements in terms of college preparatory course requirements, grade point average, and test scores.

Students should consult the university's *General Catalog* for specific major and university requirements. Community college transfers should consult their catalogs to ensure that courses taken are CSU transferable (baccalaureate level).

California State
University, Fresno

Department of
Political Science
559.278.2988

B.A. in
Political Science

Master of Public
Administration
(M.P.A.)

Minor in Political
Science

Minor in Public
Administration

FRESNO STATE

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Political Science

General Education

Students should complete as many of the California State University, Fresno General Education requirements as possible during the freshman and sophomore years, whether they are attending Fresno State or a community college. Community colleges can certify up to 39 of the units required in Fresno State's General Education pattern.

A good background in the social sciences — particularly economics, history, sociology and anthropology — and in psychology, literature, philosophy, and composition is helpful.

Related Activities

To gain practical field experience, students are encouraged to participate in internships.

Course Requirements

Since program changes may occur, students should consult the *General Catalog* and a Fresno State adviser prior to registering for courses.

Lower Division

Freshman-Sophomore level courses
(may be taken at a community college)

Methods of Analysis of Quantitative Political Data (Fresno State PL SI 90)

Modern Politics (Fresno State PL SI 1)

Upper Division

Junior-Senior level courses
(to be taken at Fresno State)

Approaches to Comparative Politics

International Politics

Public Policy Making

Seminar in History of Political Thought

Approved Electives

American Foreign Affairs

Area Studies in Africa and Middle East

California Politics

Comparative Administration

Constitutional Law, the Federal Structure

Municipal Government

East Asian Politics

Latin American Politics

Political Opinion and Political Behavior

Presidential Politics

Congressional Politics

Environmental Politics

Public Administration

**For additional
information, write**

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Department of
Political Science**

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FRESNO
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PLEASE NOTE: This document is for general informational purposes only. The information is subject to change; consult the appropriate department or an academic adviser. Entering freshmen must follow the revised General Education program effective fall 1999 and thereafter. The university catalog and schedule of courses are available online at www.fresnostate.edu/ClassSchedule and www.fresnostate.edu/catalog.

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