

POLITICAL SCIENCE, B.A. (LIBERAL ARTS)

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park, World Campus

Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2026-27 academic year. To access previous years' suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/>) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition.

Political Science, B.A. at University Park Campus

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
PLSC 1 (US)*	3 PLSC 14 (IL)*	3
LA 83	1.5 World Language Level 2	4
World Language Level 1	4 General Education Course	3
General Education Course (GQ) [†]	3 General Education Course	3
FYS/General Education Course	3 CAS 100, CAS 100A, CAS 100B, CAS 100C, CAS 138T, or ENGL 138T (GWS) [†]	3
ENGL 15, 30H, 137H, CAS 137H, or ESL 15 (GWS) [†]	3	
	17.5	16

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
PLSC 3, 20, or 22*	3 PLSC 7N, 10, or 17N*	3
World Language Level 3	4 LA 283	1.5
General Education Course (GQ) [†]	3 PLSC 400-Level*	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
	BA Fields	3
	16	16.5

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
PLSC 400-Level*	3 PLSC 400-Level*	3
Related Course in Consultation with Adviser*	3 Related Course in Consultation with Adviser*	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3

ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D (GWS) [†]	3 BA Fields	3
BA Fields	3 Elective (WAC)	3
	15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
PLSC 400-Level*	3 PLSC 400-Level*	3
Related Course in Consultation with Adviser*	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective (OC)	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 General Education Course (GHW)	3
	15	15

Total Credits 126

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and satisfy a portion of that General Education requirement. If the student's program prescribes GWS these courses will replace both ENGL 15/ENGL 30H and CAS 100A/CAS 100B/CAS 100C. Each course is 3 credits.

Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/>) of this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in World Cultures.

See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as World Cultures courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-world-cultures/>).

Advising Notes:

- 24 credits within the major must be completed at University Park (policy 83-80). Talk with your academic adviser for additional details.

Political Science, B.A. at Commonwealth Campuses

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
PLSC 1 (US)*	3 PLSC 14 (IL)*	3
World Language Level 1	4 World Language Level 2	4
General Education Course (GQ)†	3 General Education Course	3
FYS/General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
ENGL 15, 30H, or ESL 15 (GWS)‡	3 CAS 100, CAS 100A, CAS 100B, or CAS 100C (GWS)‡	3
	16	16

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
PLSC 3, 20, or 22*	3 General Education Course	3
World Language Level 3	4 General Education Course	3
General Education Course (GQ)†	3 General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course (GHW)	3
General Education Course	3 Elective (WAC)	3
	16	15

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
PLSC 7N, 10, or 17N*	3 PLSC 400-Level*	3
General Education Course	3 PLSC 400-Level*	3
ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D (GWS)‡	3 Related Course in Consultation with Adviser*	3
LA 283	1.5 BA Fields	3
BA Fields	3 Elective	3
Elective (OC)	3	
	16.5	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
PLSC 400-Level*	3 PLSC 400-Level*	3
PLSC 400-Level*	3 Related Course in Consultation with Adviser	3
Related Course in Consultation with Adviser*	3 Elective	3
BA Fields	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
	15	15

Total Credits 124.5

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/>) of this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in World Cultures. See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as World Cultures courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-world-cultures/>).

Advising Notes:

- 24 credits within the major must be completed at University Park (policy 83-80). Talk with your academic adviser for additional details.