

POLITICAL SCIENCE, B.S.

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

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	13-14
Requirements for the Major	67-68

6 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 6 credits of GQ courses.

Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of B or better</i>		
PLSC 309	Quantitative Political Analysis	3
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
PLSC 10	Scientific Study of Politics	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
MATH 110 or MATH 140	Techniques of Calculus I Calculus With Analytic Geometry I	4
PLSC 308 or PLSC 300	Introduction to Political Research Introduction to Independent Thesis Research	3
Select 9 credits from the following:		9
PLSC 1	American Politics: Principles, Processes and Powers	
PLSC 3	Comparing Politics around the Globe	
PLSC 7N	Contemporary Political Ideologies	
PLSC 14	International Relations	
PLSC 17N	Introduction to Political Theory	
Select 3-4 credits from the following:		3-4
CMPSC 101	Introduction to Programming	
CMPSC 121	Introduction to Programming Techniques	
CMPSC 203	Introduction to Spreadsheets and Databases	
Select 9 credits of data intensive PLSC courses from a department list		9
Select 9 credits of any 400-level PLSC course		9
Select 9 credits of methodology from the following:		9

GEOG 363	Geographic Information Systems
GEOG 364	Spatial Analysis
PLSC 410	Strategy and Politics
STAT 380	Data Science Through Statistical Reasoning and Computation
STAT 461	Analysis of Variance
STAT 462	Applied Regression Analysis
STAT 463	Applied Time Series Analysis
STAT 466	Survey Sampling
Courses from a department approved list	
Select 3 credits from the following:	
LA 495	Undergraduate Field Experience or Practicum
PLSC 494	Research Project
PLSC 496	Independent Studies
Data intensive course from a department list	

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better

Select 12 credits from department approved list of courses in the arts, humanities, languages, social and behavioral sciences, natural sciences, and related fields. Students can take a range of courses across disciplines or concentrate their selection to complete a minor in a supporting field. 12

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses**. This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.