Political Science

Faculty Office Bldg. (47), Room 14-A
Phone: 805.756.2984
http://www.politicalscience.calpoly.edu/
Department Chair: Elizabeth Lowham

Academic Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program name</th>
<th>Program type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global Politics</td>
<td>Minor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law and Society</td>
<td>Minor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>Minor, BA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Policy</td>
<td>MPP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Political Science Department offers instruction leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a Master of Public Policy degree. Through the required and elective courses, the department prepares students to become informed, active citizens. Undergraduate and graduate programs emphasize the comprehension of political thinking and the application of communication and analytical skills, and prepare students for careers in research and survey analysis, administration, teaching, business, graduate studies, or leadership positions in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

In addition to the undergraduate major and the graduate program, the department offers minors in Political Science, Global Politics and Law and Society. General Education courses in the department expose students to political thought, the fundamentals of U.S. politics, global issues, and the politics of foreign countries. The department supports internship opportunities in local, state, and federal agencies in federal agencies, applied public policy research, law, and non-profit agencies.

Undergraduate Programs

BA Political Science

The major provides students with insights into the behavior of countries, individuals, and groups as they pursue their political and economic interests. Students considering work in related fields such as law, education, administration, government, and business gain basic knowledge of principles and practices in those areas. Additionally, students who are planning graduate work can establish a sound foundation for advanced studies in political science, law, public administration, business administration, urban planning, and other related fields.

Concentrations

American Politics

Study of American governmental institutions, campaigns and elections, parties, public policy, and social movements. Provides students with a broad knowledge of the American political system that can prepare them for careers in government employment at the local, state, or national level, campaign advising, policy analysis, urban and regional planning, or leadership positions in advocacy groups.

Global Politics

Study of international and comparative politics, politics of developing areas, and U.S. foreign policy. Prepares students for careers in the diplomatic corps, foreign policy analysis, transnational nongovernmental organizations, intelligence analysis, or international business.

Pre-Law

Study of American constitutional law, civil liberties, civil rights, jurisprudence and judicial process. Prepares students for careers in law. Some students may apply to law school to continue their preparation for the legal profession. Others may seek careers in law-related professions such as law enforcement, judicial administration and legal assistance.

Individualized Course of Study

As an alternative option to one of the concentrations, students may pursue a course of study that meets their individual needs and interests.

Global Politics Minor

The minor consists of required coursework and approved electives. Details are available from the Political Science Department.

Law and Society Minor

The minor consists of required coursework and approved electives. Details are available from the Political Science Department.

Political Science Minor

The minor consists of required coursework and approved electives. Details are available from the Political Science Department.

Master of Public Policy

General Characteristics

The Master of Public Policy degree program (MPP) is professionally oriented, and open to students who wish to pursue analytic careers in government, nonprofit organizations, consulting, advocacy and related policy occupations. The program is structured to prepare graduates with competence and creativity to excel in careers in the ever-changing world of public policy. The core courses cover public policy, public policy analysis, economic and regulatory policy, research design, quantitative methods, leadership, policy internships, and graduate seminar.

The MPP program is designed to meet the needs of those who have earned baccalaureate degrees in a variety of disciplines, including, but not limited to, economics, history, political science, social sciences, psychology, city and regional planning, business administration, education, environmental studies, and natural resource management.

The program is two years in duration for students taking 8 or more units per term. It consists of 60 approved units (not including courses necessary to compensate for deficiencies). Because of the sequencing of courses, students admitted to the program are expected to begin study in the fall quarter. In their second year, students undertake the development, presentation, and discussion of individual research projects in a two-term seminar (POLS 590). After the completion of POLS 590, students are required to pass a comprehensive exam.

The program offers students opportunities to develop close working relationships with faculty. Self-directed study, tailored to student interest and needs, is encouraged.
Prerequisites
Students entering the program are expected to bring with them backgrounds in certain basic subject areas or to make up deficiencies in these areas after admission. These include the following Cal Poly course or its equivalent: STAT 217 Introduction to Statistical Concepts and Methods.

Admission Requirements
1. Possession of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university;
2. A grade point average of not less than 3.00 in all undergraduate coursework;
3. Related undergraduate coursework or work experience;
4. The quality of previous educational and professional experiences measured by:
   a. Biographical and career data (resumes, examples of reports, letters of recommendation, etc.).
   b. Professional training in fields such as budgeting, management, and supervision in the public, health, or nonprofit sectors, and
   c. A personal statement describing a student’s experience and reasons for applying to the program
   d. GRE scores are recommended, but not required, for admission.
5. For applicants whose preparatory education is principally in a language other than English, a TOEFL score of 550 or higher (or 213 on the new conversation scale for the computer-based TOEFL exam).

Program of Study
Graduate students must file a formal study plan with their major professor, graduate committee, department, college and university graduate studies office no later than the end of the quarter in which the twelfth unit of approved courses is completed. The formal program of study must include a minimum of 60 units. All courses on the formal study plan must be taken on a graded basis unless specified in the course catalog as credit/no credit (CR/NC).