Subfields in the Department

- American Politics
  (POLI 10 and POLI 100-109)
- Comparative Politics
  (POLI 11 and POLI 120-139)
- International Relations
  (POLI 12 and POLI 140-159)
- Political Theory
  (POLI 13 and POLI 110-119)
- Public Law
  (POLI 104 Series)
- Public Policy
  (POLI 160-169)
- Research Methods/Data Analytics
  (POLI 170-189)

Our website lists faculty by each subfield
### Subfields in the Department

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subfield</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>American Politics</strong></td>
<td>National, state, and local politics in the United States – Congress, elections, race, and gender.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Comparative Politics</strong></td>
<td>Politics in other countries-democracies and autocracies, elections and revolutions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data Analytics</strong></td>
<td>Rigorous training in the study of probability, data collection, hypothesis testing, computation, and visual display of data as it applies to political and social science problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>International Relations</strong></td>
<td>The study of the nation-state and its relationships. Conflict and cooperation among countries - war and peace, global economics and climate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Political Theory</strong></td>
<td>Foundations of political thought from Plato and Aristotle to contemporary philosophers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Law</strong></td>
<td>Constitutional and statutory laws that define our rights and regulate our lives. <em>We have added several courses that enrich the student’s ability to write and argue legal briefs, and learn the basics of legal research and reasoning.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Policy</strong></td>
<td>Analysis of policy in specific areas such as the environment, health, urban renewal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Public Policy vs. Public Law:**

Policies are *objectives* that a government sets for itself to achieve in a given period of time, and laws are the *tools* that help a government achieve these objectives.
# Political Science Major Options

**Eight Majors:**

- General Political Science (B.A.)
- Political Science/American Politics (B.A.)
- Political Science/Data Analytics (B.S.)
- Political Science/Comparative Politics (B.A.)
- Political Science/International Relations (B.A.)
- Political Science/Political Theory (B.A.)
- Political Science/Public Law (B.A.)
- Political Science/Public Policy (B.A.)

**Requirements:**

- **16 Political Science courses**
  - 4 lower-division and 12 upper division
- **Have an Area of Concentration?**
  - 5 of the 12 upper division courses must be fulfilled in the concentration
- **ALL courses for the major must be political science courses**
- **ALL courses must be taken all for a letter grade**
  - This applies to transfer courses as well!
- You may change your major online with the change of major tool once you are enrolled in your fall courses.
Newest Political Science major, began in Fall 2018!

Only Bachelor of Science Political Science major in the UC system

16 Political Science courses

- 4 lower-division: POLI 5(D), POLI 30(D), and two of the following: POLI 10(D), 11(D), 12(D), 13(D)

- 12 upper division:
  - Five in the area of concentration: POLI 100F, 100X, 112A, 118, 137, 168, 170A, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, or 179
  - Seven additional courses from POLI 100 – 199

Reminder:

- ALL courses for the major must be political science courses
- ALL courses must be taken all for a letter grade (including transfer courses)
The General Catalog is the official resource to verify policies and your college and major requirements: [http://www.ucsd.edu/catalog/](http://www.ucsd.edu/catalog/).

Course descriptions are in the catalog; use it to learn about courses and to choose your electives.

Refer to the 2019-2020 catalog throughout your tenure at UCSD. This is your catalog year and it will not change even if you change your major.
MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Locate your major requirements on the Department page:
https://polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/major-and-minor-requirements/index.html

The Political Science Major and Minor

Political science addresses some of the fundamental problems facing human society. Questions concerning world peace, government policies aimed at achieving economic stability and growth, the management of environmental quality, control over political competition, the possibility of using law to affect social and political change, and the gap between the rich and poor in the U.S. and abroad are all on the research agenda of contemporary political scientists. The general purpose of the major is to address these and other issues systematically, and, simultaneously, to raise the broad theoretical questions which can help students relate today’s political debates to those debates about politics which have kept a theoretical tradition alive for over 2,000 years.

Students may major in political science as a general program of study, or they may concentrate in one of seven areas: (1) American politics, (2) comparative politics, (3) data analytics, (4) international relations (5) political theory, (6) public law, and (7) public policy. All majors, besides the data analytics concentration, in political science must satisfy the following sixteen courses: PS 30 (Political Inquiry), three of the following four lower-division courses (Political Science 10, 11, 12 and 13) and twelve upper-division courses. Students pursuing the Political Science-Data Analytics (B.S.) major must satisfy the following sixteen courses: PS 5 (Data Analytics for the Social Sciences), PS 30 (Political Inquiry), two of the following four lower-division courses (Political Science 10, 11, 12 and 13), and twelve upper-division courses.

If a Special topic course is offered, see the department for details regarding applying this course toward an area of concentration (i.e., PS 154 is the special topic course for International Relations and, depending on the topic, may be applied to one of the International Relations area of concentration categories). Upon notification from the student that a particular course should be counted in their area of concentration (based on review/approval in the department), a form is included in the student’s file reflecting this information on the transcript.
Check your Academic History on TritonLink: http://tritonlink.ucsd.edu

Are the courses you took listed?

Are the UCSD equivalent courses listed?
The Degree Audit checks your progress for degree

- **Green** indicates completed requirements (T-indicates transfer course).
- **Blue** indicates in-progress for completion
- **Red** indicates missing/incomplete requirements.
Course Offerings 2019-2020 can be found on our website at: 
http://polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/courses/index.html

The schedules posted on our website are tentative and subject to change.

To get specific information on faculty and days and times courses will be offered, visit the Schedule of Classes on TritonLink once the schedule for any given quarter goes live.
The online schedule allows you to search for courses by:
- Subject
- Department
- Course Number (code)
- Professor or Course Title

It also allows you to sort by:
- Day of the week
- Time of lecture
- Upper/Lower division only
- Classes with open seats
FALL 2019 ENROLLMENT

- The estimated date for all (or most) transcript evaluation by Admissions is **August 15th**.

- We will release seats for transfer students on **August 16th**. Seats will be saved for lower-division courses and some upper-division courses.

- Transfer enrollment appointments begin **August 26th**.
  - Your College should have already notified you of your specific enrollment time (or will soon).

- First day of classes is **September 26th**.

- Know your deadlines! Enrollment calendar:

  [http://blink.ucsd.edu/instructors/courses/enrollment/calendars/index.html](http://blink.ucsd.edu/instructors/courses/enrollment/calendars/index.html)
COURSE PREAUTHORIZATION

Some courses may have prerequisites or restrictions. If you are interested in taking a POLI course but do not meet the prerequisites, you can request pre-authorization using the Enrollment Authorization System (EASy).

Steps:

• Step 1: If the class you wish to enroll in has prerequisites or restrictions, access the Preauthorization System:

  • https://academicaffairs.ucsd.edu/Modules/Students/PreAuth/SubmitRequest.aspx

• Step 2: Submit the request.

• Step 3: You will receive an email notification that your request has been approved or denied.

• Step 4: If your request is approved, enroll via WebReg.
WAITLISTS AND ENROLLMENTS

- To add a class that is **full**, use WebReg to waitlist the course.
- **Waitlists** are automated and used by ALL departments. They run nightly until midnight on Thursday of second week.
  - The waitlist sequence is **first-come, first-served**. Departments cannot override the waitlist sequence.
- You will receive an email to your UCSD account if you have been added to the course. If you have not met the prerequisite, WebReg will drop you from the waitlist.

  *The Political Science Department does not allow late adds*

- **Enrollment Information:**
  - You must adhere to all add and drop deadlines. Enrollment calendar: [http://blink.ucsd.edu/instructors/courses/enrollment/calendars/index.html](http://blink.ucsd.edu/instructors/courses/enrollment/calendars/index.html)
  - **Incoming students:** **Before** the quarter begins, you may be enrolled in and wait-listed for a total of 19.5 units. **After** the quarter commences, you may be enrolled in and wait-listed for a total of 22 units.
  - Continuing students have a 2 Pass Enrollment system: Later, as a continuing student, you will enroll in 11.5 units during your first pass and up to 19.5 during your second pass.
MAJOR AND COURSE PLANNING

- Quarter by Quarter plans help you plan out your Political Science major and remaining courses effectively.

- Political Science Website – Fillable PDFs; students are more than welcome to fill out a plan and have it verified by the Undergraduate Advisor.

- College – Also has Quarter by Quarter plans.

[Image: Quarter by Quarter Plan for Political Science Majors Two Year Plan]
DEPARTMENT OPPORTUNITIES
COURSES AND CONNECTIONS

Exciting and Relevant Courses
- Courses that range from “Insurgency and Terrorism” to “The Voting Rights Act: 50 Years Later,” to “International Politics and Drugs” to “Bending the Curve: Climate Change” to “Democracy and its Critics.”
- The Department also brings in practitioners who channel their real-world experiences into courses like “How to Win or Lose and Election” and “Science, Technology, and the Law.”

Lunch with the Director of Undergraduate Studies
- Have lunch with Maureen Feeley! Lunch is open to all Political Science majors and is held once or twice a quarter.
  - **Examples:**
    - Workshops on resumes, cover letters, networking, job search strategies, and Political Science career paths
    - Internship Panel
    - Study Abroad opportunities, programs, and scholarships + application to Political Science Major
    - Graduate school opportunities, applications, and deadlines
    - Future program and event planning
Launched in the Fall 2017 Quarter

- Two tracks in the program: **Career Track** and **Exploratory Track**
  - **Career Track**: Students are matched with a mentor in one of his/her top three fields
    - Connect with the mentor via: 1) a career conversation; 2) a resume critique; and 3) a possible mock interview
  - **Exploratory Track**: Students are matched with a mentor outside of his/her top three fields
    - Connect with the mentor via one required “career conversation”

- Successful applicants will have: 1) A minimum 3.5 major GPA; and 2) Earned at least 90 units

The first 30* eligible students are admitted to the program. Others will be placed on a waitlist.

* Number varies based on available mentors

**Available Fields:**
- Education
- Entrepreneurship
- Foreign Service
- Government (local, state, or federal)
- Healthcare
- Law
- Non-profit
- Politics
- Private Sector
- Urban Planning
RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Research Apprenticeship Program

- Work directly with a departmental mentor for the winter and spring quarters. Each student will collaborate with a doctoral candidate on the mentor’s own research project.
  - Winter and Spring Quarter: Commitment to 12 hours/week as a research assistant; earn major credit (POLI 198RA)
  - Spring Quarter: Additional participation in a weekly research seminar (POLI 199); write a seminar paper of approximately 20 pages under guidance of graduate student mentor

Eligibility:

- Majors in Political Science
- Recommended major GPA of 3.5 or higher

Independent Research (POLI 199)

- Independent research project with faculty
- Elective credit can be earned for the completion of two POLI 199s with 4 units each
SENIOR HONORS PROGRAM

Two quarter senior thesis project designed for highest achieving students

- Completion of POLI 191A/B and honor’s thesis may qualify you for honors
- POLI 191A/B are allowable for major credit toward the upper-division elective category
- Eligibility: Senior standing, minimum 3.6 major GPA in order to be eligible, completed all lower division courses for your major, and completed a minimum of five UD POLI courses

A great opportunity for students, especially those interested in pursuing graduate studies in political science!

- You can view all the honors theses that have earned honors since 2012 on our website at our “Departmental Honors” page
LOCAL INTERNSHIP RESEARCH PROGRAM

Participants will receive advanced training in research methodologies and academic credit while working at a local internship.

Internships are relevant to Political Science and have professional quality engagement.

Courses:
- Enrollment in both a Research Seminar course and an Internship Seminar course for 4 units each
  - Completion of a 20 page paper for the Research Seminar
  - The Research Seminar is allowable for the major, but the Internship Seminar is not allowable

Eligible Applicants:
- passed at least 90 units;
- a 2.5 minimum cumulative GPA overall;
- a GPA of 3.0 or higher in political science;
- taken POLI 30(D); and
- taken at least two upper-division political science courses.
Examples of recent internships include:

- U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein's District Office
- U.S. House Representative Duncan Hunter's District Office
- U.S. House Representative Scott Peters' District Office
- California State Senator Joel Anderson's Office
- Sarah Boot for City Council Campaign
- Allen Theweny for El Cajon Mayoral Campaign
- San Diego County Taxpayers' Association
- United Nations Association of San Diego
- United States Attorney's Office-Southern California District
- San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
CAMPUS OPPORTUNITIES
FOR MAJOR REQUIREMENTS
Live and Work in Washington or Sacramento for a quarter!

- Intern for one quarter in Washington, DC or Sacramento and receive UCSD course credit for an internship, major credit for a research seminar, and an optional elective course.
- Gain firsthand exposure to professional environments, and develop the skills you need for your future career.
- Establish and expand your professional network.
- Referrals and recommendations have long been proven to have a major impact in the job search.

Internships are available in all types of settings and industries, and are a great way to polish your resume.
STUDY ABROAD IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Travel almost anywhere in the world while taking Political Science courses and receiving credit for the major.

Up to 6 courses may be transferred to the major from outside UCSD!
GLOBAL CONCENTRATION IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Requirements:

- At least eight units earned during study abroad; at least four units must count toward the major
- Proficiency in a second language through the fourth quarter of university-level instruction
- A minimum of two courses with department or program-identified global content.
  - Political Science courses POLI 11(D), POLI 12(D), and any POLI course numbered 120-159 taken at UCSD satisfies this requirement.
CAREERS AND GRADUATE SCHOOL
WHAT EMPLOYERS ARE SEEKING

Your major is not boxing you into a particular career

- Political Science equips you with transferrable skills that will make you valuable in a variety of settings. Use these skills to market your academic knowledge and professional attributes.

The attributes employers most seek on a candidate’s resume:

- 1. Leadership
- 2. Ability to work in a team
- 3. Written communication skills
- 4. Verbal communication skills
- 5. Problem solving and critical thinking skills
- 6. Strong work ethic

Transferable skills inside the classroom: ability to communicate, methods and research (interpret and analyze data); analytical abilities (analyze and solve problems systemically and strategically); planning and development (conceptualize problems and demonstrate leadership); group skills (ability to work in a team) *Source: APSA Careers and the Study of Political Science
RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

- **Political Science Alumni Mentor Program**

- **Board of Pre-law Advisors**: Attorneys currently enrolled in the doctoral program in political science at UCSD. They are available for individual appointments to discuss careers in law, selection of appropriate law schools, the application and admissions processes, and other questions. Visit: [https://polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/careers-and-graduate-school/index.html](https://polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/careers-and-graduate-school/index.html)

- **APSA Careers in Political Science Handbook**

- **UCSD Career Services Center**: Excellent pre-law, career, and graduate school advising.

- **Facebook page**: “UCSD Department of Political Science”

- **Department of Political Science Website**: See “Career and Graduate School” page under “Our Undergraduate Program” headline.

For additional career advising, visit the Career Center, Political Science Department, or send an inquiry via the Virtual Advising Center.
ADDITIONAL CAREER INFORMATION

- The median annual wages of college-educated workers with political science majors (ages 25-29) is $64,000. This is higher than the median income of all social science majors ($60,000); and higher than BA holders, all majors ($61,000).
- The top 25% of political science majors earn nearly $100,000 annually.
- 55% of all political scientists work for the federal government, most of whom work in the executive branch.

Resources on UCSD’s Career Services Center website includes information on:

- Career Roadmaps, Assessments, and the Triton Career Guide
- Job Opportunities and Exploration
- Interview Tips
- “What Can I Do With My Political Science Major?” Sheet
- Alumni Advisor Network
- Career Readiness
- Career Options for Political Science Majors

Sources: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau; Bureau of Labor Statistics
The Initiative creates a premier pre-law experience that matches the ambitions and talents of UC San Diego's students. This experience includes student instruction, a partnership with the University of San Diego School of Law, and rich community engagement.

- Law school faculty, practicing attorneys, and judges teach classes that give students the skills necessary for success in law school and the legal profession.
- Provides students, regardless of their financial need, with support to take part in internships in Washington, D.C., Sacramento, and San Diego.
- Director: Dr. Matthew Bergman
- 10+ Pre-Law, seminar-style classes
- Internship page updated frequently
DEPARTMENT WORKSHOPS & EVENTS: 2018 - 2019

Undergraduate Professional Development Series
(2 – 3/quarter)
- “Resumes, Cover Letters, and Career Paths” – Collaboration with UCSD Career Services Center
- “Job Search Strategies and Networking” – Collaboration with UCSD Career Services Center
- Professional Internship Panel
- Capital Fellows Program
- Welcome Back & Reflection Lunch
- Studying Abroad as a Political Science Major (x2) – Collaboration with UCSD Study Abroad Office

Based on input from our current majors, we plan to implement more events focused on:
- Preparing for Graduate School and Law School
- Careers and Internships for Political Science Majors
- Research Opportunities
- Student Involvement Opportunities
- Networking with Graduate Students, Faculty, and Alumni

Krinsk-Houston Law and Politics Initiative Events
- Managing the Transition to Law School
- Life as a Public Policy Professional
- Building a Successful Law School Application

Attorney Networking Night with UCSD Pre-Law Fraternity in February
EXCELLENCE IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM
Tom Wong
His research focuses on the politics of immigration, citizenship, and migrant "illegality." As these issues have far-reaching implications, his work also explores the links between immigration, race and ethnicity, and the politics of identity. Last year he served as an advisor to the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI)

Molly Roberts
Her research interests lie in the intersection of political methodology and the politics of information, with a specific focus on methods of automated content analysis and the politics of censorship in China

Thad Kousser
He studies American state and national politics, government reform, direct democracy, interest group influence, and how politicians use social media

Marisa Abrajano
Her research is in the field of American politics, particularly in the areas of campaigns, mass electoral behavior, and race/ethnic politics.
STUDENT INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

- Political Science Student Association (PSSA)
  - Organization for students majoring in any of the Political Science majors
- Mock Trial
- Model UN
- Pi Sigma Alpha: National Political Science Honor Society
  - Eligibility:
    - Completed at least seven (7) political science courses, including at least three (3) upper division courses (transfer students must have completed at least two (2) of the three upper division courses at the University of California, San Diego);
    - Maintained no less than a 3.60 GPA in all political science courses
- Prospect Journal
  - Journal of International Affairs at UCSD

Go to: [http://studentorg.ucsd.edu/](http://studentorg.ucsd.edu/) for a full list of student organizations
TRANSITIONING TO UCSD

- **Student Success Coaching Program**
  - Students are connected to a success coach from their undergraduate college who is familiar with the resources and opportunities that exist for your success. Together, you and your coach will focus on the strengths and passions that you bring to UC San Diego to find high-impact practices that directly support your goals — such as research, mentorship, supplemental instruction, and more. Link: [https://students.ucsd.edu/sponsor/success/](https://students.ucsd.edu/sponsor/success/)

- **Analytical Writing Program**
  - This program is designed to help students master the critical thinking, reading, and writing skills that will enable you to succeed at the university and in your professional lives. Link: [http://awp.ucsd.edu](http://awp.ucsd.edu)

- **Academic Achievement Hub**
  - Content tutoring, supplemental instruction, and incorporating learning strategies

- **OASIS**
  - OASIS provides free tutoring, mentoring and counseling to UCSD undergraduates. Link: [http://oasis.ucsd.edu/](http://oasis.ucsd.edu/)

- **Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD)**
  - Register in person at 202 University Center (Gilman Dr. & Myers Dr.); for more information visit: [http://polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/osd-accommodation/index.html](http://polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/osd-accommodation/index.html)

- **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)**
  - CAPS provides FREE, confidential, psychological counseling and crisis services for registered UCSD students. Link: [http://caps.ucsd.edu/#students](http://caps.ucsd.edu/#students)
ADVISING STRUCTURE
DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

- UCSD has a multi-tiered advising system
  - Department advisors are your resource for any questions regarding your Political Science major requirements
  - As your major department, you should always contact us for questions concerning your major requirements
  - Questions might include: major requirements for any of the seven political science majors, double majors, course planning, enrollment issues in political science courses, honors programs, academic policy, etc.
- You will consult with your College about their specific requirements, overall unit issues, etc.

Academic Year Advising Hours:

* Monday - Friday
  * 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
* Please note the office is closed daily from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Summer Advising Hours:

* Monday - Thursday
  * 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
* Fridays
  * VAC Only*

*Hours may vary. Please note the office is closed daily from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.*

Have a question about your major, but don’t have time to come in for advising? Send an inquiry to the Virtual Advising Center (VAC).
RSVP Q&A

• Is it important to choose a specific subject in my major?
  *It is up to you!*

• Can a student be recognized for studying two kinds of Political Science (i.e. Public Law and Public Policy)?
  **No, but that is why the Elective category exists!**

• What is the process for declaring a minor?
  **Major/Minor Tool – find on TritonLink**

• When and how do I switch to a different Political Science major?
  **First day of classes; Major/Minor Tool**

• Can I double major?
  **Yes! Visit both Depts. & Submit petition between 90-135 units**

• Do political science classes fill up fast despite it being a non-impacted major?
  **Depends → After Fall, Strategize 1st vs 2nd pass**

• How do I make the most of my time/fit everything I want to accomplish in my last two years?
  **Early and frequent advising... communication is key!**