DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FIRST YEAR ORIENTATION
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September 16 & 21, 2021
Overview:

- Introductions
- General Information
- Department Opportunities
- Campus Opportunities
- Careers and Graduate School
- Excellence in And Out of The Classroom
- Student Involvement and Support
- Advising Structure
- Connecting with Peers
How do you plan to be successful as a Political Science student at UC San Diego?

“Study, balance social life and academics, have fun, focus on mental health and stability, have a good routine for myself and surround myself with positive influences and people that inspire me and I aspire to be more like.”

“Taking classes seriously and properly pacing my studying should help me be academically successful. I hope to take advantage of many of the opportunities that are available to me at UCSD, whether that be events, jobs, internships, or anything else.”

“I want to seek opportunities to push myself forward and learn through things such as internships, research projects, and student organizations.”

“I plan to make connections with my professors and TAs so I do not feel afraid to ask questions or look for additional help when I am struggling.”

“I am planning to manage my time well, and ensure that I put great effort and time into the subject. I will also try to be as engaging as possible to be able to learn both in and outside of the classroom. Furthermore, I will continue what I have already done which is to keep myself updated in regards to what is happening around us, and the world.”

“I plan to use campus resources and reach out when I need help.”

“I plan to actively take part in any arising opportunities (i.e. volunteer work, internships, joining a club/org in relations to political science, etc.) that would give me more experience in the field. In turn, my experience in the field would theoretically help me to be successful at UCSD.”
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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>American Politics</strong></td>
<td>National, state, and local politics in the United States – Congress, elections, race, and gender.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Comparative Politics</strong></td>
<td>Politics in other countries-democracies and autocracies, elections and revolutions.</td>
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<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>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Political Theory</strong></td>
<td>Foundations of political thought from Plato and Aristotle to contemporary philosophers.</td>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Public Policy</strong></td>
<td>Analysis of policy in specific areas such as the environment, health, urban renewal.</td>
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**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

Nine 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.)
- Political Science/Race, Ethnicity, and Politics (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.
POLITICAL SCIENCE – INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (BA)/MASTER IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (MIA)

- Joint BA/MIA Program between the Department of Political Science and School of Global Policy and Strategy

- Began in Fall 2020; first cohort applied for a Fall 2021 start into the program in Spring 2021

  - Must be a currently enrolled UCSD Political Science student who meets the eligibility requirements

  - Students would begin to take graduate level courses in their senior year at UCSD and pay undergraduate fees

  - Following year: Complete graduate level courses and earn both a BA and MIA degree from UC San Diego

Informational page and videos are on our Department website
UCSD GENERAL CATALOG

- The General Catalog is the official resource to verify policies and your college and major requirements: 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 2021-2022 catalog throughout your tenure at UCSD. This is your catalog year and it will not change even if you change your major.

UC San Diego General Catalog 2021–22

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in the UC San Diego General Catalog. All courses, course descriptions, faculty listings, curricular and degree requirements, deadlines, and fees described herein are subject to change or deletion without notice.

The Official Catalog of Record is an archival document of record and does not reflect interim updates that may take place during the period between official publications. UC San Diego may publish interim updates to the catalog for information and advising purposes only.

Note: The departmental websites referenced in the catalog may not necessarily reflect approved curricular and course information.
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. Student 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?
DEGREE AUDIT

- 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 for 2021-2022 can be found on our website

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
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.

- **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 – Major pages with requirements & 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.

- Other – Can create your own via Excel, Google Sheets, etc.

- Websites: [https://polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/academic-advising-information](https://polisci.ucsd.edu/undergrad/academic-advising-information) & [http://plans.ucsd.edu/](http://plans.ucsd.edu/)
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 an Election” and “Science, Technology, and the Law.”

Undergraduate Professional Development Workshops

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
ALUMNI MENTOR PROGRAM

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

**Available Fields:**
- Education
- Entrepreneurship
- Foreign Service
- Government (local, state, or federal)
- Healthcare
- Law
- Non-profit
- Politics
- Private Sector
- Urban Planning
- & More!
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 3.0 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
Participants will **earn 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 (POLI 194SD) and an Internship Seminar course (POLI 197SD) 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.
CAMPUS OPPORTUNITIES
FOR MAJOR REQUIREMENTS
UCDC & UC CENTER SACRAMENTO

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.

PROGRAM TYPES

UCEAP
- UC’s study abroad program
- Earn UC with abroad
- Top-ranked universities in over 40 countries
- Research/internship opportunities
- Summer/Quarter/Year options
- All financial aid travels with you

GLOBAL SEMINARS
- UCSD’s faculty-led program
- 5 week summer sessions abroad
- 2 UCSD courses for 8 units
- Taught by leading UCSD professor
- Small class sizes, courses in English
- Financial aid available

OAP
- Third party options offering unlimited choices
- Earn transfer units that can be used towards UCSD requirements
- Research/internship opportunities
- Summer/Quarter/Year options
- Great for out-of-state/ international students

CLASSES

SEARCH
Step 1: Search for courses offered by the university you wish to attend abroad
Step 2: Meet with your major/collage advisors to see if these courses can be applied to your UCSD requirements

DISCUSS
Step 2: Meet with your major/collage advisors to see if these courses can be applied to your UCSD requirements

PETITION
Step 2: When you return from abroad, petition your classes to count towards your UCSD requirements

WHY GO ABROAD?
- Study abroad can help you compete in a global workforce
- Gain international experience, independence, responsibility, self-confidence, Problem solving, Language & Cross-cultural skills

WHEN YOU RETURN
- Work with the Career Center to update your resume and learn how to discuss your global experience in an interview

FINANCIAL AID
- Use your financial aid abroad
- Our advisors can help you find programs that work with your aid
- We have many different programs with varying costs

SCHOLARSHIPS
- UCSD students receive over $300,000 in scholarships annually
- There are many different scholarship pools available
- Study Abroad UC San Diego offers scholarship preparation workshops

CONNECT
Connect with the network of other study abroad returnees and prospective students at UCSD and throughout the world

CONTINUE
Seek out more international experiences both at UCSD, at home, and abroad
GLOBAL CONCENTRATION IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Global Concentration in Political Science capitalizes on students’ study abroad experience, language skills, and UCSD Global Content courses. This is a transcripted concentration, meaning it will reflect on your transcript, but not on your final diploma. This is not a major in Political Science, but rather a concentration that any Political Science major may formally declare once all of the requirements have been met.

Requirements:

1. Minimum of eight units earned through study abroad, of which a minimum of four units would count toward the major. This can include study, research, and internship experiences provided they are transcripted.

2. Demonstration of proficiency in a second language through the fourth quarter of university-level instruction. Contact your college with questions about this requirement.

3. Minimum of two courses with department- or program-identified global content (courses which focus on non-US cultures, countries, or policies). Political science courses POLI 11(D), POLI 12(D), and any POLI course numbered 120-159 taken at UCSD will satisfy 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 transferable 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
Undergraduate Professional Development Series (2 – 3/quarter)

▪ Graduate Student Panel: Pros + Cons of Pursuing Graduate School
▪ Library Resources for Political Science Students
▪ Alumni 101 Panels
▪ Financing Your UCDC Experience; Importance of UCDC Internships
▪ Transfer Triton Hub Information Session
▪ Capital Fellows Program
▪ Studying Abroad as a Political Science Major; Study Abroad Scholarships
▪ Information sessions for Department’s new Political Science – Race, Ethnicity, and Politics major and joint BA/MIA program with GPS

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

▪ What I Wish I Knew Before Attending Law School
▪ Securing and Excelling in Your Legal Internships
▪ Law School Launch
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.
- 10+ Pre-Law, seminar-style classes.
- Internship page updated frequently.
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.

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

- **LinkedIn page**: “Department of Political Science - UC San Diego”

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

*For additional career advising, visit the Career Center, connect with faculty in the Political Science Department, or send an inquiry via the Virtual Advising Center.*
EXCELLENCE IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM
Cutting Edge Research - Faculty

**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.

https://polisci.ucsd.edu/people/faculty/faculty-directory/currently-active-faculty/index.html
STUDENT INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT
Department OSD Liaison: Joanna Peralta

Procedures can be found on our website; these will be updated as we “Return to Learn”

Things to keep in mind:
- Must meet with OSD Specialist to receive an Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) Letter
- You do not have to wait until classes begin to start the process
- You will be contacted, expect an email during Week 1 of the quarter
- Set up and appointment if applicable

By the end of your appointment your questions should be answered, exams scheduled (if applicable) and any follow-ups will be scheduled.
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.

- **Analytical Writing Program**
  - Designed to help students master the critical thinking, reading, and writing skills that will enable success at the university and in students’ professional lives.

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

- **OASIS**
  - OASIS provides free tutoring, mentoring and counseling to UCSD undergraduates.

- **Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD)**
  - Register in person at 202 University Center (Gilman Dr. & Myers Dr.) or online.

- **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)**
  - CAPS provides FREE, confidential, psychological counseling and crisis services for registered UCSD students.

- **Office for the Prevention of Harassment & Discrimination (OPHD)**
  - Educate the UC San Diego community about issues of bias, harassment and discrimination and to assist with the prevention and resolution of these issues in a fair and responsible manner.
ADVISING STRUCTURE
MULTI-TIERED ADVISEMENT

Department advisors are your resource for any questions regarding your Political Science major requirements

- 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, University requirements, overall unit issues, etc.

**Current Advising Availability**

**Monday – Friday:**
Answering questions via the Virtual Advising Center between 8:00 – 4:30pm
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?

   After you sign up for Fall classes; Major/Minor Tool

• Can I double major and graduate on time?

   Yes! Know both major requirements + submit petition

• Do political science classes fill up fast despite it being a non-impacted major?

   Depends → After Fall, Strategize 1st vs 2nd pass
RSVP Q&A CONTINUED

• How will classes be conducted this upcoming year due to COVID-19?
  
  **Fall = Mostly In-Person; Winter & Spring are unknown for now, but expected to be more in-person**

• How will I be able to participate in activities/programs if they are remote?
  
  **Participate remotely → Workshops, meetings, activities, etc.**

• How do I know I am doing all the necessary steps, because I feel as though I am missing things I am not aware of (documents/enrollment procedures). Is everything through email?
  
  **Check Email, TritonLink, Canvas, Financial Aid, VAC, etc.**

• What are the most effective ways for Political Science students to take advantage of UCSD's resources during their time here?
  
  **Do your research, read websites, attend information sessions, explore opportunities, and think about what **YOU** want to do**
Connecting with Peers