

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Political science focuses on fundamental questions that go to the heart of the human experience. Political science students study critical issues such as war and peace, international affairs, environmental challenges, poverty and racism, and the struggles of oppressed peoples. Such study prepares students for various careers by building analytical and writing skills while encouraging independent thought, respect, and interest in current affairs. Graduates commonly work in fields such as law and government, nonprofit organizations, teaching, journalism, international organizations, business, and election campaigns.

The Political Science department prepares students for informed and creative activism by providing them an opportunity to develop analytical skills. The program incorporates historical, quantitative, experimental, ethnographic, psychological, and creative methodologies while aiming to sensitize students to the essential questions of politics and life. Many of our graduates are community organizers, attorneys or public servants in local, state or federal government. We have become nationally known for our programs in indigenous politics, international human rights, and inner-city community development. Students will find ample opportunity to explore the innovative community engagement programs while receiving real-world experience in a variety of professional and community settings.

The secondary licensure program is a partnership program between the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) and the School of Education & Human Development (SEHD). Secondary Education Licensure students choose a major within CLAS and complete all CORE, CLAS, major, and initial teacher education admission requirements before completing a final professional year of licensure coursework through the SEHD.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) supports students to graduation using a shared advising system. CLAS students have two academic advisors with whom they should meet regularly to discuss academic and degree progress: a CLAS Academic Advisor and a major advisor. Additionally, secondary education students work with an academic advisor in the School of Education & Human Development (SEHD) who support students through initial teacher education coursework, Professional (final) Year, and licensure requirements. SEHD secondary education students should meet regularly with the SEHD advisor.

For questions related to CU Denver Core Curriculum, CLAS, general graduation requirements, university/college academic policies, or campus resources contact:

CLAS Academic Advising
clas_advising@ucdenver.edu
Find your CLAS Advisor [here](#)
North Classroom (NC) 1030
303-315-7100

For questions related to major requirements, major course prerequisites, or evaluation of transfer coursework in your major contact:

Political Science Major Advising
[CLAS Major Advisor Contact Information](#)
Visit the department website [here](#)
Student Commons Building (SCB) 3212
303-315-1770

For questions related to initial admission requirements, professional year, and licensure requirements contact:

SEHD Academic Services
academicervices@ucdenver.edu
Lawrence Street Center (LSC) 701
303-315-6308

GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

All CU Denver CLAS students are required to complete the following minimum general graduation requirements to be eligible to apply for graduation:

1. Complete a minimum of 120 credit hours
2. Achieve a minimum 2.0 CU cumulative grade point average (GPA)
3. Complete a minimum of 45 upper-division (3000- to 4000-level) credit hours
4. Complete all CU Denver Core, CLAS, and major requirements
5. Complete a minimum of 30 CLAS credit hours with letter grades at CU Denver

*The following are **maximum** credit hours that can apply toward the minimum 120 hours required for graduation:*

- 16 credit hours Pass/Fail
- 12 credit hours of Independent Study/Directed Research
- 12 credit hours of internship credit
- 8 credit hours of physical education credit

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

Students are responsible for meeting with the major advisor to confirm major requirements. In addition to completing all CU Denver Core and CLAS requirements, students completing the Political Science B.A. Degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Students must complete a minimum of 39 credit hours from approved courses.
2. Students must complete a minimum of 21 PSCI upper division (3000-level and above) credit hours from approved courses.
3. Students must earn a minimum grade of C- (1.7) in all courses that apply to the major and must achieve a minimum cumulative major GPA of 2.0. Courses taken using P+/P/F or S/U grading cannot apply to program requirements.
4. Students must complete a minimum of 15 PSCI credit hours with CU Denver faculty.



SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (SEHD) REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

Students are responsible for meeting with the advisor in the SEHD to confirm teacher education and licensure requirements. In addition to completing all minimum program requirements above, SEHD secondary education students must complete the following minimum SEHD licensure requirements:

1. Complete the Education Declaration form and all subsequent processes and requirements, including a background check, prior to April 1st (for students intending to complete their clinical field experience in fall) or November 1st (for students intending to complete their clinical field experience in spring). Students must meet with the SEHD advisor for detailed information.
2. Students pursuing secondary education licensure must complete the following requirements to be admitted to the Professional (final) Year:
 - a. a minimum cumulative CU GPA of 3.0 or higher. Students with a lower GPA may be considered under certain conditions.
 - b. all CU Denver Core, CLAS, major, electives, and initial teacher education coursework requirements prior to the start of the Professional Year
 - c. the official application and interview process

Deadlines for Professional Year application are February 15th (for students intending to begin Professional Year in fall) or October 1st (for students intending to begin Professional Year in spring).

3. Students must complete all initial teacher education and professional (final) year coursework with a minimum grade of B- or higher.
4. Students must pass the appropriate Praxis exam before the start of the second semester of the Professional Year. Minimum passing scores are outlined on the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) teacher Endorsement Requirements [website](#).

LYNXCONNECT RESOURCES

Are you interested in learning about internship, study abroad, career, and research opportunities for this major? Visit the CU Denver LynxConnect, located in Tivoli Student Union (TV) Suite 339, and browse the LynxConnect [website](#) for more information.

Degree Requirements	Credits	Notes
* Course prerequisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for prerequisite information. *		
CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements	34 - 40	CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements
CLAS Graduation Requirements	15 - 29	CLAS Graduation Requirements
PSCI Major Requirements	39	21 credit hours must be upper-division
PSCI Required Courses		
PSCI 1001 Intro to Political Science: The Quest for Freedom & Justice	3	Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Social Sciences
PSCI 1101 American Political System	3	Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Social Sciences
PSCI 2011 Logic of Political Inquiry	3	Students must complete this within first 24 hours of the program
Complete Two Political Theory Courses	6	*See department list. Check individual courses for prerequisites.
Complete One American Politics Course	3	*See department list. Check individual courses for prerequisites.
Complete One Comparative Politics Course	3	*See department list. Check individual courses for prerequisites.
Complete One International Politics Course	3	*See department list. Check individual courses for prerequisites.
PSCI Major Electives		
Experiential Learning Course PSCI 3000 Topics: Conference Participation, 3840/4840 Independent Study, 3914 The Urban Citizen, 3939 Internship, 4880 Directed Research, 4914 Community Organizing and Community Development, 4934 CU at the Capitol, or 4995 Global Study	3	An exception to this requirement may be made by the department. See PSCI advisor for more information.
PSCI Capstone Experience PSCI 4960 Capstone in Political Science	3	*See PSCI advisor for approval. Students can only enroll in the capstone course after they have completed at least 27 credit hours in the major
Secondary Social Studies Recommended Courses		
ANTH 1303 Introduction to Biological Anthropology	4	Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Natural/Physical Science with lab
ANTH 2102 Culture and the Human Experience	3	Course can fulfill CU Denver Core or CLAS Behavioral Sciences
ECON 2012 Principles of Economics: Macroeconomics	3	Course will count as a general elective
GEOG 1102 World Regions Global Context	3	Course will count as a general elective
GEOG 1202 Introduction to Physical Geography	3	Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Natural/Physical Science without lab
HIST 1361 U.S. History to 1876	3	Course can fulfill CU Denver Core or CLAS Humanities
HIST 1362 U.S. History Since 1876	3	Course can fulfill CU Denver Core or CLAS Humanities
PSCI 3022 Political Systems of the World or PSCI 3042 World Politics	3	Course will fulfill CU Denver Core International Perspectives
PSCI 3034 Race, Gender, Law and Public Policy or PSCI 3035 Political Movements: Race and Gender	3	Course will fulfill CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity
PSYC 1005 Introduction to Psychology II	3	Course will fulfill CU Denver Core or CLAS Behavioral Sciences
SEHD Licensure Coursework Requirements	37	† Education Licensure Course: requires minimum grade of B- or higher
Initial Teacher Education Coursework		
EDFN 4010 Social Foundations & Cultural Diversity in Urban Ed [†]	3	*Prerequisite: 27+ credit hours completed
CLDE 4020 Responsive Classroom Communities [†]	3	*Prerequisites: EDFN 4010, 40+ credit hours completed
Clinical Field Experience Block: Diverse Learners		
EDHD 3930 Diverse Learners Field Experience & Seminar ^{†‡}	3	‡ Clinical Field Experience Block All courses in a clinical field experience block must be taken together, in the same semester. Field experience paperwork deadlines: • Fall placement = 4/1 Priority deadline; 4/15 Final deadline • Spring placement = 11/1 Priority deadline; 11/15 Final deadline
SPED 4030 Understanding (dis)Ability in Contemporary Classrooms ^{†‡}	3	
Professional Year Courses		
LCRT 4100 Secondary Literacy Instruction and Assessment ^{†§}	3	§ Professional Year: Separate admission to Professional Year required • Requirements for admission to Professional Year include: ○ A minimum GPA of 3.0 in major coursework ○ Successful completion of all other coursework (including Core, major, and elective requirements) ○ Successful completion of the application and interview process ○ Taking the appropriate Praxis exam (students <i>must</i> pass the Praxis prior to beginning their final semester) • Professional Year application deadlines: ○ Fall start = 3/1 deadline ○ Spring start = 10/1 deadline
UEDU 4040 Planning for Learning ^{†§}	3	
UEDU 4465 Methods of Teaching History ^{†§}	3	
CLDE 4700 Social Studies for Multilingual Learners ^{†§}	3	
UEDU 4050 Capstone: Planning, Instruction & Assessment ^{†§}	3	
UEDU 4931 Internship and Learning Community I ^{†§}	2	
UEDU 4932 Internship and Learning Community II ^{†§}	2	
UEDU 4933 Internship and Learning Community III ^{†§}	6	
Estimated General Electives	0 - 6	General Elective credits will vary based on Core & CLAS Requirements. Consult with CLAS Advisor.
Total Minimum Credit Hours:	120	45 credit hours must be upper-division

SAMPLE ACADEMIC PLAN OF STUDY

The following academic plan is a *sample* pathway to completing degree requirements for this major. Students should tailor this plan based on previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit), course availability, and individual preferences related to course load, schedules, or add-on programs such as minors or double-majors. Secondary education students are encouraged to meet with an SEHD advisor to create an individualized graduation plan.

Note: this sample academic plan assumes secondary education students have completed the CLAS Second Language proficiency requirement. Students who have not already completed the CLAS Second Language proficiency requirement must consult with their CLAS Advisor.

Year One	Fall	CRS	Spring	CRS
	ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	3	ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II	3
	CU Denver Core Mathematics – MATH 2830 <i>recommended</i>	3	CU Denver Core Arts	3
	PSCI 1001 ^C	3	PSCI 1101 ^C	3
	CU Denver Core Humanities (HIST 1361 or 1362 ^C)/ First-Year Seminar	3	CU Denver Core Nat/Phys Science with lab - ANTH 1303	4
	CU Denver Core Behavioral Science – ANTH 2102	3	PSCI 2011	3
Total Credit Hours	15	Total Credit Hours	16	

Year Two	Fall	CRS	Spring	CRS
	PSCI American Politics/CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity - PSCI 3034/3035	3	PSCI Political Theory Course	3
	PSCI Elective Course	3	PSCI Comparative Politics/CU Denver Core Intl Perspectives - PSCI 3022/3042	3
	CU Denver Core Science without lab - GEOG 1202	3	CLAS Nat/Phys Science with lab	4
	CLAS Humanities - HIST 1361 or 1362 ^C	3	ECON 2012	3
	CLAS Behavioral Science – PSYC 1005	3	EDFN 4010 [†]	3
Total Credit Hours	15	Total Credit Hours	16	

Year Three	Fall	CRS	Spring	CRS
	PSCI Political Theory Course	3	PSCI Capstone Experience	3
	PSCI Experiential Learning Course	3	PSCI International Politics Course	3
	PSCI Elective Course	3	PSCI Elective Course	3
	GEOG 1102	3	EDHD 3930 ^{†‡}	3
	CLAS Communicative Skills	3	SPED 4030 ^{†‡}	3
CLDE 4020 [†]	3			
Total Credit Hours	18	Total Credit Hours	15	

In first semester of year three, take the appropriate Praxis exam. Students *must* pass the Praxis prior to beginning their final semester. In second semester of year three, apply for admission to Professional Year. Deadlines for Professional Year application are 3/1 for Fall start and 10/1 for Spring start.

Year Four	Fall	CRS	Spring	CRS
	LCRT 4100 ^{†§}	3	UEDU 4933 ^{†§}	6
	UEDU 4040 ^{†§}	3	CLDE 4700 ^{†§}	3
	UEDU 4465 ^{†§}	3	UEDU 4050 ^{†§}	3
	UEDU 4931 ^{†§}	2		
	UEDU 4932 ^{†§}	2		
Total Credit Hours	13	Total Credit Hours	12	

After graduation, apply for a teaching license through the Colorado Department of Education.

^M Major Course Available ^C CU Denver Core Course ^{PE} Prerequisite Enforced ^{PR} Prerequisite Recommended