

FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

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.

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.

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

Visit the CLAS Advising website [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 about admission requirements, transfer policies, applying, and the transfer process contact:

Office of Admissions

admissions@ucdenver.edu

Visit the Admissions website [here](#)

Student Commons Building (SCB) 1005
303-315-2601

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

The following program requirements are based on degree requirements for the current Catalog year at CU Denver and are subject to change. Students are responsible for completing degree requirements based on the Catalog year for which they are admitted.

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 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.
5. Exceptions to the Experiential Learning Requirement:
 - In lieu of taking one of the identified courses, students may complete a substantial learning project in a different PSCI class. The course instructor must certify with a written submission to the departmental undergraduate advisor that the experiential learning project in that course fulfills the departmental experiential learning requirement.
 - Students with significant pre-existing political or civic engagement experience in the community (i.e., community and civic leadership work, or work with government agencies, on political campaigns, or in non-governmental organizations), or for whom the experiential-learning requirement poses a hardship may petition the undergraduate advisor to waive the experiential-learning requirement.
 - In either of these cases, 39 total credit hours for Political Science are still required for graduation.

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COURSEWORK THAT CAN BE COMPLETED AT PREVIOUS INSTITUTION

The following is a “bucket” of requirements students can complete prior to transferring to CU Denver, including equivalent Colorado Community College System (CCCS) courses. To determine the equivalencies of courses to be completed at non-CU Denver institutions, students can visit www.transferology.com. **It is critical students connect with a CU Denver academic advisor to ensure planned courses will transfer and apply to CU Denver degree requirements.** All non-CU Denver coursework must be completed with a C- or better to be eligible for transfer.

Students interested in completing an Associate (A.A. or A.S.) Degree or a [Colorado Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement or Degree with Designation \(DWD\)](#) must work with their community/junior college academic advisor to create an academic plan that accounts for all degree or transfer articulation agreement requirements. Colorado Community College Students may also explore the option to complete [Reverse Transfer](#) at CU Denver.

| CU Denver Requirements | CU Denver Credits | CCCS Equivalent Courses & Notes | CCCS Credits |
|---|-------------------|--|--------------|
| CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements | 34 - 40 | | |
| ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I | 3 | ENG 1021 | |
| ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II | 3 | ENG 1022 | |
| Mathematics | 3 - 4 | MAT 1260 <i>recommended</i> or GT-MA1 | |
| Arts | 3 | GT-AH | |
| Humanities | 3 | GT-AH or GT-HI | |
| Behavioral Sciences | 3 - 4 | POS 2020 or GT-SS | |
| Social Sciences | 3 - 4 | POS 1011 or GT-SS or GT-HI* | |
| Natural/Physical Science with lab | 4 - 5 | GT-SC1 | |
| Natural/Physical Science without lab or Math | 3 - 5 | GT-SC2 or GT-MA1 (<i>except the course used for Core Math</i>) or GT-SC1 | |
| International Perspectives | 3 | Additional GT-AH, HI, SS* (<i>see note below</i>) | |
| Cultural Diversity | 3 | <i>To be completed at CU Denver. This requirement must be completed with an upper-division course and CCCS courses will not apply.</i> | |
| CLAS Graduation Requirements | 15 - 29 | | |
| CLAS Communicative Skills | 3 | COM 1150 or PHI 1013 | |
| CLAS Second Language | 0 - 10 | e.g., SPA 1012 or ASL 1122 Students have several options to fulfill this requirement. Please consult a CU Denver CLAS Academic Advisor. | |
| CLAS Humanities | 3 | Any transferrable LIT, HIS, HUM, or PHI course | |
| CLAS Behavioral Sciences | 3 - 4 | Any transferrable ANT, COM, or PSY course (<i>except GT-SC courses</i>) | |
| CLAS Social Sciences | 3 - 4 | Any transferrable ECO, ETH, GEO, PSC, or SOC course (<i>except GT-SC courses</i>) | |
| CLAS Natural/Physical Science with lab | 3 - 5 | GT-SC1 If students complete only one science course with a lab for the CU Denver Core Curriculum, this course must have an associated lab. | |
| PSCI Major Courses | 9 | | |
| PSCI 1001 Intro to Political Science: The Quest for Freedom & Justice | 3 | PSC 2020 <i>Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Behavioral Sciences</i> | |
| PSCI 1101 American Political System | 3 | PSC 1011 <i>Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Social Sciences</i> | |
| PSCI 3042 Introduction to International Relations or PSCI 3022 Political Systems of the World | 3 | PSC 2005 Note: CCCS courses are counted as lower-division credits at CU Denver | |
| Minimum Applicable Transfer Credits Recommended: | 60 | <i>Students completing less than 60 applicable transfer credits will have additional credits to complete at CU Denver. Students needing general elective credits should consult a CU Denver CLAS Academic Advisor.</i> | |

*The applicability of Guaranteed Transfer (GT Pathways) courses to specific CU Denver Core Curriculum requirements requires completion of a block of five courses: two GT-AH courses; one GT-HI course; one GT-SS course; and one additional GT-AH, GT-HI, or GT-SS course.

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SAMPLE PLAN – COURSEWORK TO BE COMPLETED AT CU DENVER

Based on successful completion of 60 applicable transfer credits and the complete “bucket” of requirements outlined above, students would have the following remaining to complete at CU Denver. At CU Denver, students must tailor this plan based on the evaluation of previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit), course availability, individual preferences related to course load, summer term courses, part-time or full-time student status, or add-on programs such as minors or double-majors.

Note: this plan assumes students have completed the CLAS Second Language proficiency requirement. Students must demonstrate second language proficiency through a 2nd semester college-level course equivalent (e.g., SPA 1012 or ASL 1122) with a C- or higher, satisfactory proficiency testing (CU Denver Department of Modern Languages Placement Testing, BYU FLATS, CLEP), or submitting their high school transcript demonstrating completion of a 2nd year (Level II) high school course with a minimum grade of “C-” (1.7) in the 2nd semester of the 2nd year or later. Students may have additional options to fulfill this requirement and should consult a CU Denver CLAS Academic Advisor. **Students who have not fulfilled this requirement must work with a CU Denver CLAS Academic Advisor to modify this plan.**

| | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------|
| Year Three | Fall | CRS |
| | PSCI 2011 | 3 |
| | PSCI Upper-Division Elective Course | 3 |
| | CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity ^M | 3 |
| | General Upper-Division Elective | 3 |
| | General Elective | 3 |
| | Total Credit Hours | 15 |

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|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Spring | CRS |
| PSCI Political Theory Course | 3 |
| PSCI American Politics Course | 3 |
| PSCI International Politics Course | 3 |
| General Upper-Division Elective | 3 |
| General Elective | 3 |
| Total Credit Hours | 15 |

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|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Year Four | Fall | CRS |
| | PSCI Political Theory Course | 3 |
| | PSCI Comparative Politics Course | 3 |
| | PSCI Upper-Division Elective Course | 3 |
| | General Upper-Division Elective | 3 |
| | General Elective | 3 |
| Total Credit Hours | 15 | |

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| Spring | CRS |
| PSCI Experiential Learning Course | 3 |
| PSCI Capstone Experience | 3 |
| PSCI Upper-Division Elective Course | 3 |
| General Upper-Division Elective | 3 |
| General Elective | 3 |
| Total Credit Hours | 15 |

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