Political Science

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ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
Global Politics – Minor
Law and Society – Minor
Political Science – BA
Public Policy – MPP

The Political Science Department offers instruction leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a Master of Public Policy degree. Through the required and elective courses, the department seeks to expand each student's comprehension of the political process, and to develop those understandings and skills which are essential for effective citizenship and for leadership positions in the public and private sectors.

In addition to the undergraduate major and the graduate program, the department offers minors in Global Politics and Law and Society. The department provides students in General Education courses with an understanding of the operations of local, state, and national government and the processes by which the individual and community interact in the several levels of government. The department supports internship opportunities in local, state, and federal agencies in addition to applied public policy research opportunities through the Cal Poly Institute for Policy Research.

CONCENTRATIONS
American Politics. Study of American governmental institutions, politics, and policies. Provides students with a broad knowledge of the American political system that can prepare them for careers in public service, such as campaign advisors or policy analysts.

Global Politics. Study of international and comparative politics, politics of developing areas, and U.S. foreign policy. Prepares students for careers in government, business, and related agencies which deal with international relations and also prepares students for graduate studies.

Pre-Law. Study of American constitutional law, civil liberties, jurisprudence and judicial process. Prepares students for careers in the several fields of law. Some students may seek admission 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 option to one of the concentrations, students with varying backgrounds and interests may pursue a course of study which meets their individual needs and interests. A minimum of 28 units of coursework are selected by the student and approved by the student's academic advisor. 20 of these must be at the 300–400 level and 16 units must carry a POLS prefix.