Political Science, BA

This political science degree program, offered at ASU's West campus, goes beyond a basic understanding of the American political system, helping you develop the necessary research skills needed to analyze complex sociopolitical issues. These skills consistently prepare our students for graduate or law school, and immediate career opportunities in public administration.

Program Description

Political science is the study of governmental practices, politics and theories. Coursework in the BA program in political science covers American institutions, international relations, political theory and world affairs.

The program helps students gain a basic understanding of the assumptions underlying political science and helps them develop the necessary research skills for analyzing complex sociopolitical issues. In addition to coursework, students learn through internships, service-learning and research opportunities.

Graduates of this program are prepared for work as analysts or aides in local, state or national legislative offices, among other roles. Many graduates go on to law school or graduate programs in political science, social science, urban planning or public administration.

This major is eligible for the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) program at the following location: West campus. Students from Western states who select this major and campus may be eligible for reduced nonresident tuition at a rate of 150 percent of Arizona resident tuition plus all applicable fees. See more information and eligibility requirements on the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) program.

At a Glance
Required Courses (Major Map)

2019 - 2020 Major Map
Major Map (Archives)

Accelerated Degrees

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's and master's degree with:

- Communication Studies, MA
- Interdisciplinary Studies, MA
- Social Justice and Human Rights, MA

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students will be advised by their academic departments to apply.

Admission Requirements

General University Admission Requirements:

All students are required to meet general university admission requirements.
Freshman | Transfer | International | Readmission

Change of Major Requirements

A current ASU student has no additional requirements for changing majors.

Transfer Options
ASU is committed to helping you thrive by offering tools that allow you to personalize your transfer path to ASU. Students may use the Transfer Map search to outline a list of recommended courses to take prior to transfer.

ASU has transfer partnerships in Arizona and across the country to create a simplified transfer experience for students. These pathway programs include exclusive benefits, tools, and resources and help students save time and money in their college journey. Learn more about these programs by visiting the Admissions site.

Global Opportunities

PLuS Alliance
Global Experience

With over 250 programs in more than 65 countries (ranging from one week to one year), study abroad is possible for all ASU students wishing to gain global skills and knowledge in preparation for a 21st-century career. Students earn ASU credit for completed courses, while staying on track for graduation, and may apply financial aid and scholarships toward program costs. https://mystudyabroad.asu.edu/

Global Degree

Career Opportunities

The political science curriculum provides a solid background for employment in a relevant profession and prepares students for graduate work in:

- political science
- professional schools
- social science disciplines
- urban planning

The program serves as a good precursor to staff, manager or policy analyst positions in local, state and federal government. This degree is recognized as qualification for many careers in business (for-profit and nonprofit) and industry.

Work may include binational, cross-border positions linking U.S. and Mexican businesses, Arizona-Sonora local government or local community groups on both sides of the border. Many students use the degree as a gateway to law school or as basis for further study in such applied fields as:

- community development
• public administration
• public policy
• urban affairs and urban and regional planning

Career examples include but are not limited to those shown in the following list. Advanced degrees or certifications may be required for academic or clinical positions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career</th>
<th>*Growth</th>
<th>*Median Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Planner</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>$46,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Programs Specialist</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>$44,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judge</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>$133,840</td>
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<td>Law Clerk</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
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<td>Lawyer</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal Court Hearing Officer</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>$94,790</td>
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<td>Mediator 😎</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
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<td>Political Analyst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Politician</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>$25,630</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban Planner 😎</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>$71,490</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Data obtained from the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) under sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA).

🌞 Bright Outlook  🌿 Green Occupation

Contact Information

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