Political Science, BA

ASPOLBA

The political science degree program offered at ASU's West campus goes beyond a basic understanding of the American political system, helping students 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

- **College/School:** New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
- **Location:** West campus [WUE](#), ASU@Lake Havasu
- **Additional Program Fee:** No
- **Second Language Requirement:** No
Required Courses (Major Map)

2018 - 2019 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. Students should refer to https://students.asu.edu/changingmajors for information about how to change the major to this program.

Transfer Agreements

ASU has partnered with colleges and universities in Arizona, California, Illinois and Washington to provide transfer curriculum pathways. Students should select their current institution to see if there is a partnership agreement between the institution and ASU for this degree program. Students who do not see their state or institution listed should check back as ASU is always working on creating new partnerships.
Transfer from a Maricopa Community College in Arizona

Select a college

- Chandler-Gilbert Community College
- Estrella Mountain Community College
- GateWay Community College
- Glendale Community College
- Mesa Community College
- Paradise Valley Community College
- Phoenix College
- Rio Salado College
- Scottsdale Community College
- South Mountain Community College

Transfer from an Arizona Community College

Select a college

- Arizona Western College
- Central Arizona College
- Cochise College
- Coconino Community College
- Dine College
- Eastern Arizona College
- Gila Community College
- Mohave Community College
- Northland Pioneer College
- Pima Community College
- Tohono O'odham Community College
- Yavapai College

Transfer from another state

Select a state

- California
- Illinois
- Washington
- Another state

Global Opportunities

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/](https://mystudyabroad.asu.edu/)
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>Business Analyst</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>$82,450</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEO</td>
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<td>$183,270</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chief Sustainability Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>City Planner</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>$46,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>College/University Professor</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Specialist</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compliance Manager</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics Professor</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>$98,350</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Economist</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>$102,490</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Manager (GM)</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occupation</td>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>Salary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government Programs Specialist</td>
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<td>Green Marketer</td>
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<td>Judge</td>
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<td>Lawyer</td>
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<td>Legal Court Hearing Officer</td>
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<td>Logistics Manager</td>
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<td>Mediator</td>
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<td>News Director</td>
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<td>Office Manager</td>
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<td>Operations Research Analyst</td>
<td>27.4%</td>
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<td>Paralegal Assistant</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
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<td>Political Analyst</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
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<td>Political Science Professor</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>$81,430</td>
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<td>Politician</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>$25,630</td>
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<td>Public Relations Manager (PR Manager)</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
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<td>Regulatory Affairs Manager</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
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<td>Security Manager</td>
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<td>Social Sciences Professor</td>
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<td>$64,480</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban Planner</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
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* 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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