Political Science, BA

Go beyond a basic understanding of the American political system and develop the necessary research skills needed to analyze complex sociopolitical issues. With these skills, you will be prepared for graduate or law school and for immediate career opportunities in public administration. This political science degree program is offered at ASU's West campus.

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 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% of Arizona resident tuition plus all applicable fees. Students should click the link for more information and eligibility requirements of the WUE program.

At a Glance

- College/School: New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
**Required Courses (Major Map)**

2021 - 2022 Major Map  
Major Map (Archives)

**Accelerated Program Options**

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  
- Global Management, MGM  
- Interdisciplinary Studies, MA  
- Social Justice and Human Rights, MA

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students are 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://changemajor.apps.asu.edu](https://changemajor.apps.asu.edu) for information about how to change a major to this program.

**Transfer Options**

ASU is committed to helping students thrive by offering tools that allow personalization of the transfer path to ASU. Students may use [MyPath2ASU™](#) 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. Students may learn more about these programs by visiting the admission site: https://admission.asu.edu/transfer/pathway-programs.

Global Opportunities

Global Experience
Students can experience firsthand, through study abroad, the diverse political and social powers affecting communities around the globe. Students in political science can enhance their learning by gaining a global perspective on political theory and world affairs. With over 250 programs available, study abroad allows students to tailor their experience to their unique interests and skill sets. Programs exist in diverse countries, such as those ruled by communism and monarchical regimes. https://goglobal.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 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>Occupation</td>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>Average Salary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Programs Specialist</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>$47,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judge</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>$141,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Clerk</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>$57,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyer</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>$126,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Court Hearing Officer</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>$97,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mediator</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>$66,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Analyst</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>$125,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politician</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>$33,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Planner</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>$75,950</td>
</tr>
</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**

School of Social and Behavioral Sciences | FAB N100
sbsadvising@asu.edu | 602-543-3000