

major in
POLITICAL SCIENCE
University of California, Irvine

THE DEGREE

Political science majors at UC Irvine study how politics work at the individual, group, national, and international levels. Methods for gathering and analyzing information about political behavior and political processes are a major focus of the introductory course work. Upper-division courses are organized around general areas of study including American politics, comparative politics, international relations, political theory and public law. World renowned faculty experts explore a host of topics including political economy, international relations, legal systems, political institutions, political philosophy, political ideology, political behavior and radical and ethnic politics.

CAREERS

Political science majors learn how to understand politics and develop the analytic thinking and clear writing skills essential for success in a number of fields. Political science majors have gone on to pursue careers in business, international relations, law, politics, consultancy, journalism and public service as well as advanced graduate training in law, academics and public policy.



**university in the
U.S. under 50**
**Times Higher Education*



**9th best public
university in the U.S.**
**US News & World Report*



**"Coolest School"
for sustainability**
**Sierra Magazine*

POLITICAL SCIENTISTS ASK QUESTIONS LIKE ...

- How are public policies determined?
- What factors shape international relationships?
- Does media influence presidential decision making?
- What are the most effective ways to prevent terrorism?



UCI associate professor Matthew Beckmann studies White House politics and the factors that influence presidential decision-making.

SUGGESTED CURRICULUM

Freshman¹ (12 to 16 units per quarter)

- Lower Division Writing (two courses)
- Lower Division Political Science core courses (three courses)
- Social Science 10A–B–C or Math 2A–B–7
- Social Science 3A
- General Education VI²

Sophomore³ (16 units per quarter)

- Lower Division Political Science courses (two courses)
- General Education II (three courses)
- General Education IV (three courses)
- General Education VII³ (one course)
- General Education VIII⁴ (one course)
- Electives

Junior (16 units per quarter)

- Upper–Division Writing (one course)
- Upper–Division Political Science courses (two courses)
- Upper–Division Social Science courses (three courses)
- Lower/Upper–Division Social Science course (one course)
- Upper–Division Political Science module courses (two courses)
- Electives

Senior (16 units per quarter)

- Upper–Division Political Science module course (one course)
- Upper–Division Political Science course (one course)
- Electives



¹Students should move from a 12 to 16 unit work load in the second quarter of their first year.

²Language may be satisfied in high school prior to matriculation.

³This requirement can be met with PS 61A.

⁴This requirement can be met with PS 6A or 41A or 51A.

OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to the regular curriculum, political science students have their choice of programs, clubs, and organizations to further their education, both within the department and outside of it. These opportunities include:

- **HONORS PROGRAM**
- **MINOR PROGRAMS***
 - Political Science
 - Global Peace and Conflict Studies
- **STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**
 - Model United Nations
 - UCI Human Rights Program
 - UCI Law Forum
 - UCI Mock Trial
- **DEAN'S AMBASSADORS COUNCIL***
- **GLOBAL CONNECT***

*Open to all majors

UNDERGRAD STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Social Sciences Undergraduate Student Affairs Office provides numerous services and special programs for undergraduate students including:

- Course planning
- Change of major requests
- Financial aid appeals
- Graduate and professional school information
- Information concerning honors
- Course substitutions
- Career and internship guidance

To set up an appointment, call 949.824.6803, or visit their website at www.undergrad.socsci.uci.edu/offices/studentaffairs.

ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

The School of Social Sciences Academic Resource Center (SSARC) is a great starting point for information regarding internships, graduate school, and prospective careers.

Visit SSARC online at www.ssarc.socsci.uci.edu or call 949.824.8322 today to set up an appointment.

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