



POLITICAL SCIENCE

Presented By:

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Overview of Degree with Learning Outcomes

- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science
- Minor in Political Science

Political Science is the study of government, public policies and political behavior. Political Science uses both humanistic and scientific perspectives and skills to examine all countries and regions of the world. The Political Science Program is based on the educational objectives emphasized in the California State University Channel Island's mission. All students graduating with a degree in Political Science will have taken course work and developed competencies in all four key areas of the university mission: interdisciplinary and integrative learning; multicultural perspectives; international perspectives and civic engagement through service learning or experiential learning. Unlike traditional political

science majors, all students will be required to complete a course on racial politics in the United States. This is not only consistent with our mission, but it reflects the ethnic and racial reality of California in the 21st century. The curriculum will have a strong international component as well, as all graduates will take international politics, and comparative government, and many of the elective courses emphasize international perspectives. All students graduating from CSUCI must complete nine units of upper division interdisciplinary course work. Finally, experiential and service learning are woven throughout the curriculum, and the required capstone course is a community based project designed to synthesize learning through analysis of an important policy issue.

STUDENTS COMPLETING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A B.A. DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE WILL BE ABLE TO:

- write clearly and with purpose on issues of international and domestic politics and public policy;
- participate as a civically engaged member of society;
- analyze political and policy problems and formulate policy options;
- use electronic and traditional library resources to research key local, state, national and international policy issues and present results;

- demonstrate competency with basic tools underlying modern social science research including competency in statistics and qualitative analysis
- demonstrate critical thinking, including the ability to form an argument, detect fallacies, and marshal evidence, about key issues of public policy and politics;
- discuss the major theories and concepts of political science and its subfields; and
- deliver thoughtful and well articulated presentations of research findings.

Sample of Courses Offered in 2006-2007

- Science and Public Policy
- Politics and Film
- Electoral Process
- Public Administration
- U.S. Foreign Policy
- International Law and Organizations
- Politics of Latin America
- Politics of Race and Ethnicity
- American Political Institutions
- Political Sociology
- Introduction to International Relations
- Comparative Government



Careers

The Political Science Program prepares students for careers in federal state and local governments, law, business, international organizations, nonprofit associations and organizations, campaign management and polling, journalism, education, electoral politics, research and advocacy. In addition, the major in Political Science prepares students for graduate and professional study in the field of Political Science as well as International Relations and Public Administration.

Assessment Activities

For the 2006-2007 AY, the Political Science program selected the following learning outcomes to assess: (1) analyze political and policy problems and formulate policy options, and (2) deliver thoughtful and well-articulated presentations of research findings. Students in the Capstone course during the spring semester will produce a research project based on a real world policy problem affecting the community. Students will analyze the problem using techniques of social science research, formulate policy options and proposed solutions, and present their findings in the form of a policy memo and a poster. The posters will be as-

essed based on a rubric designed to measure the two learning outcomes selected for this year. The assessment rubric, which is currently under development, will be modeled after successful rubrics used to measure policy analysis skills as well as the quality of presentation of research findings. The rubric will be pilot tested using the five posters produced by students in first year of the major. During the second year of the major, when a larger cohort will be ready to complete the capstone course, data will be collected for purposes of assessing the identified outcomes, and making program and course modifications based