



Bachelor of Science

Major: Political Science

2024-2025 Sample 4-Year Plan

Total Degree Requirements: 120 credits

Student _____ Student ID# _____ Student Phone # _____

Advisor _____ Minimum GPA 2.0 Minor/Career Interest(s) _____

Students are not limited to this plan; it is meant to be used as a guide for planning purposes in consultation with your advisor. The sample schedule is one possible path to completing your degree within four years. For official program requirements, please refer to the [Undergraduate Catalog](#).

FIRST YEAR

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
AHSS 192	Introduction to American and Global Studies		1	F	
ENGL 101	Composition I (SGR #1)	p. Placement	3		
POLS 100	American Government (SGR #3)		3		
POLS 101	Introduction to Political Science		3	F	
POLS 253	Current World Problems		3		
SGR #2	Oral Communication		3		
Total Credit Hours			16		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
POLS 102 or POLS 141	POLS 102 American Political Issues or POLS 141 Governments of the World		3		
SGR #1	Written Communication	p. ENGL 101	3		
SGR #3	Social Sciences	SGR#3 non-POLS	3		
SGR #6	Natural Sciences		3-4		
General Elective			3		
Total Credit Hours			15-16		

SECOND YEAR

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
POLS 388	Research Methods	p. POLS 100	3	F	
POLS Elective			3		
SGR #4	Arts and Humanities	SGR#4 satisfied by coursework from 2 different disciplines or one Modern Language sequence.	3-4		
SGR #5	Mathematics	p. Placement	3		
SGR #6	Natural Sciences		3-4		
Total Credit Hours			15-16		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
POLS Elective			3		
Minor/2 nd Major Course			3		
Natural Sciences		See AHSS Natural Science list in the catalog.	3		
SGR #4	Arts and Humanities	SGR#4 satisfied by coursework from 2 different disciplines or one Modern Language sequence.	3-4		
General Elective		Taken as needed to complete degree requirements	3		
Total Credit Hours			15-16		

THIRD YEAR

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
POLS Elective			6		
Minor/2 nd Major Course			3		
General Electives		Taken as needed to complete degree requirements	6		
Total Credit Hours			15		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
POLS Elective			6		

Information Subject to Change. This is not a contract.

p. = Course Prerequisite
Semester: F = Fall, S = Spring, SU = Summer



Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
Minor/2 nd Major Course			3		
General Electives		Taken as needed to complete degree requirements	6		
Total Credit Hours			15		

FOURTH YEAR

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
POLS Elective			6		
Minor/2 nd Major Course			6		
General Elective		Taken as needed to complete degree requirements	3		
Total Credit Hours			15		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
POLS 489	Capstone	p. POLS 388	3	S	
Minor/2 nd Major Course			3		
General Electives		Taken as needed to complete degree requirements	6-9		
Total Credit Hours			12-15		

COMMENTS/NOTES

Students from all academic majors can pursue graduation with Fishback Honors College distinction. View the [Honors program requirements](#).

As part of the Political Science major, students in this program must complete:

- 18 upper division major elective credits, including at least 3 non-U.S credits.
- all major classes with a grade of C or higher

As part of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, students in this program must complete:

- a minimum of 33 upper division credits (300-400 level courses)
- a capstone course in their major
- a minor, second major, or teaching specialization
- 10 + credits in Natural Sciences including two lab science courses and courses in at least two prefixes

Testing into a higher-level language course may reduce time to graduation. To begin coursework above the 101 level, take the free modern language placement test at <https://www.sdstate.edu/school-american-and-global-studies/language-placement-information>. Students with any modern language experience are strongly encouraged to complete the placement test.