

BA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND JOURNALISM



SACRAMENTO STATE

In Workflow

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Approval Path

1. Fri, 28 Feb 2025 17:29:30 GMT
Jim Cox (jhcox): Approved for POLS Committee Chair
2. Mon, 03 Mar 2025 23:27:21 GMT
Brian DiSarro (disarrob): Approved for POLS Chair
3. Thu, 20 Mar 2025 21:15:48 GMT
Heidy Sarabia (heidy.sarabia): Rollback to POLS Chair for SSIS College Committee Chair
4. Fri, 21 Mar 2025 03:19:41 GMT
Brian DiSarro (disarrob): Rollback to Initiator
5. Fri, 21 Mar 2025 16:54:58 GMT
Jim Cox (jhcox): Approved for POLS Committee Chair
6. Fri, 21 Mar 2025 16:59:04 GMT
Brian DiSarro (disarrob): Approved for POLS Chair
7. Fri, 21 Mar 2025 17:16:51 GMT
Heidy Sarabia (heidy.sarabia): Approved for SSIS College Committee Chair
8. Fri, 21 Mar 2025 17:47:45 GMT
Emily Wickelgren (wickelgr): Approved for SSIS Dean

History

1. May 3, 2018 by clmig-jwehrheim
2. Aug 7, 2018 by 212408496
3. Aug 7, 2018 by 212408496
4. Sep 26, 2018 by 212408496
5. Feb 7, 2019 by 212408496
6. Apr 28, 2020 by 220267334
7. Apr 20, 2021 by 220267334
8. Apr 26, 2021 by Katie Hawke (katiedickson)

Date Submitted: Fri, 21 Mar 2025 03:42:17 GMT

Viewing: BA in Political Science and Journalism**Last approved: Mon, 26 Apr 2021 15:57:10 GMT****Last edit: Fri, 21 Mar 2025 03:42:16 GMT**

Changes proposed by: Danielle Martin (217369244)

Academic Group: (College)

Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Studies

Academic Organization: (Department)

Political Science

Catalog Year Effective:

2026-2027 Catalog

Individual(s) primarily responsible for drafting the proposed degree major program:

Name (First Last)	Email	Phone 999-999-9999
Danielle Martin	danielle.martin@csus.edu	916-278-6380

Type of Program:

Major

Program Change Type:

Substantive

Delivery Format:

Fully Face to Face

Title of the Program:

BA in Political Science and Journalism

Designation: (degree terminology)

Bachelor of Arts

Briefly describe the program proposal (new or change) and provide a justification:

The proposed changes for the POLS-JOUR major are to update the major curriculum to reflect the skills students need for the diverse career paths they take with a POLS-JOUR major. The proposed changes maintain the current balance of Political Science and Journalism courses students take to earn a POLS-JOUR degree. Proposed changes continue to reflect the POLS-JOUR degree's unique interdisciplinary nature.

According to the course catalog, the POLS-JOUR major is 51 units. But operationally, the major is 52 units because even though JOUR 20: Style for Media Writers (1 unit) currently is not listed as a major requirement, JOUR 20 is a corequisite of JOUR 30 (a required course). Thus, we propose adding JOUR 20 as a required course listed for the POLS-JOUR major, and updating the number of units for the major to accurately reflect the number of units students must complete to earn a POLS-JOUR degree.

We propose eliminating JOUR/COMS 55 or JOUR 50 as a requirement because students receive similar content in required upper division JOUR courses. These courses are designed to introduce students to media studies, but those concepts are covered in depth in the required upper-division coursework. Neither of these courses are prerequisites for upper division major courses.

We propose adding JOUR 131: Data Journalism or JOUR 116: Data Visualization as a major requirement. Students would select one of these courses. Each of these courses instructs students in quantitative analysis. Students learn how to work with statistics – where to find accurate data, what the data tells us and how to explain it (in writing or visually) to a variety of audiences. These classes provide valuable skills that students can use in journalism, government and other fields.

We regularly substitute experience on the State Hornet (JOUR 197A: The State Hornet-Introduction) for internship units (JOUR 195) because working at the State Hornet helps students develop similar skills as an internship (JOUR 195). COMS 195 also is internship units that would be appropriate for POLS-JOUR majors. We are keeping the requirement that students take 3 units of internship, but increasing the number of internship options listed for them in the course catalog. Adding options for students' internship requirement aids students in finding their desired career path.

The POLS-JOUR major currently requires students to take one International Relations/Comparative Politics related course (POLS 130, POLS 131, or POLS 135), and we propose adding one more course to the list of options: POLS 140, Comparative Politics. Similar to the current list of options in this category, POLS 140 introduces students to the field of comparative politics. Adding POLS 140 better aligns the POLS-JOUR major with current political science curriculum.

Students currently select one course from a list of American politics and urban politics courses (3 units) and one of two constitutional law courses (3 units). To increase flexibility for students and still ensure they take at least one course in these fields, we propose changing the requirement to selecting two courses (6 units) from the following POLS courses: POLS 120-129 (law courses), POLS 151-159 (American politics courses), POLS 160-169 (identity politics and current issues), POLS 181: Comparative State Government, or POLS 184: Introduction to Urban Politics. Increased flexibility in these areas is useful for students' specialization in particular areas and/or exposure to a breadth of fields within American politics. Students have more ability to select courses that develop knowledge they need for their future careers.

Finally, we updated the catalog description to more accurately describe the major.

See attached summary table of proposed changes.

University Learning Goals

Undergraduate Learning Goals:

Competence in the disciplines
 Knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world
 Intellectual and practical skills
 Integrative learning

Program Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcome

Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively about politics, government, and journalism.

Locate, identify and evaluate information related to politics, government, and journalism.

Critically examine arguments, claims, and alternative explanations found within the field of political science and journalism.

Explain and apply key concepts and knowledge in the areas of political science and journalism.

Analyze quantitative data and write up research findings.

Learning Outcomes Display

Course Code	PLO 1	PLO 2	PLO 3	PLO 4	PLO 5
POLS 1					
JOUR 20					
JOUR 30					
POLS 170					
POLS 180					
POLS 181					
POLS 184					
POLS 130					
POLS 131					
POLS 135					
POLS 140					
JOUR 130A					
JOUR 130B					
JOUR 134					
JOUR 135					
JOUR 153					

JOUR 116					
JOUR 131					
JOUR 195					
JOUR 197A					
POLS 195A					
POLS 195B					
POLS 195D					
COMS 195					

Will this program be required as part of a teaching credential program, a single subject, or multiple subject waiver program (e.g., Liberal Studies, Biology) or other school personnel preparation program (e.g., School of Nursing)?

No

Please attach a Comprehensive Program Assessment Plan

POLS-JOUR Comprehensive Assessment Plan.docx

Please attach a Curriculum Map Matrix

BA POLS-JOUR CurriculumMapMatrix.docx

Please attach a five-year budget projection

POLS-JOUR Budget Plan & Fiscal Impact Statement.docx

Do these changes impact the degree roadmap?

Yes

Please attach the updated roadmap:

POLS-JOUR_4-Year Roadmap Proposed.docx

Briefly describe the change:

Eliminate JOUR/COMS 55 or JOUR 50 requirement.

Add JOUR 20 as requirement.

Add JOUR 131 or JOUR 116 as requirement.

Add JOUR 197A and COMS 195 as internship requirement course options.

Change select one American Politics course (3 units) and select one Constitutional Law course (3 units) to select two American Politics or Law courses (6 units).

Add POLS 140 as option in list of POLS 130, POLS 131, and POLS 135 International Relations course options.

Catalog Description:

Units required for Major: 52

Total units required for BA: 120

Program Description

A unique interdisciplinary program that spans the combined areas of Political Science and Journalism. Political Science-Journalism majors are required to complete an internship, and there are many internship opportunities for majors to meet their unique interests through this program.

Note: Political Science-Journalism majors should have both an advisor in the Political Science Department and a Journalism Advisor in the Communication Studies Department.

Admission Requirements: Course prerequisites and other criteria for admission of students to the degree major program, and for their continuation in it.

Minimum Grade Requirement

Majors must complete each required lower and upper division Journalism course with a grade of "C-" or better.

As defined by policy <http://www.csus.edu/umannual/acadaff/fsm00010.htm>, a change in units constitutes a substantive change to the program. If your changes constitute a substantive change, please refer back to the "Program Change Type" field above to ensure that "Substantive" is selected.

Program Requirements: (If new courses are being created as part of a new program, it will be useful to propose courses first.)

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Units
Required Lower Division Courses (7 Units)		
POLS 1	Essentials Of Government ^{1,2}	3
JOUR 20	Style For Media Writers	1
JOUR 30	News Writing	3
Required Upper Division Courses (36 Units)		
<i>Political Science</i>		
POLS 170	Public Policy Development	3
POLS 180	California State and Local Government ²	3
<i>American Politics and Law</i>		
Select two courses (6 units) from the following:		6
POLS 120 - POLS 129		
POLS 151 - POLS 159		
POLS 160 - POLS 169		
POLS 181	Comparative State Government	
POLS 184	Introduction to Urban Politics	
<i>International Relations and Comparative Politics</i>		
Select one course (3 units) from the following:		3
POLS 130	International Politics	
POLS 131	International Organization	
POLS 135	United States Foreign Policy	
POLS 140	Comparative Politics	
<i>Journalism</i>		
JOUR 130A	News Reporting I	3
JOUR 130B	News Reporting II	3
JOUR/POLS 134	War, Peace and the Mass Media ²	3
JOUR 135	Public Affairs Reporting ²	3
JOUR/COMS 153	Journalism Law and Ethics	3
<i>Data in Journalism</i>		
Select one course (3 units) from the following:		3
JOUR 116	Data Visualization ²	
JOUR 131	Data Journalism	
<i>Internship</i>		
Select one course (at least 3 units) from the following:		3
JOUR 195	Internship In Journalism	
JOUR 197A	The State Hornet-Introduction	
POLS 195A	Internship	
POLS 195B	Internship Sacramento Semester	
POLS 195D	Internship - Washington DC	
COMS 195	Internship in Communication Studies	
Electives (9 Units)		
Select 2 upper division courses (6 units) in Political Science ³		6
Select 1 upper division course (3 units) in Journalism		3
Total Units		52

¹ If a student has not taken POLS 1 or its equivalent, then POLS 150 may be used in place of POLS 1 or as its equivalent as a prerequisite.

² Course also satisfies General Education (GE)/Graduation Requirement.

³ The Department of Political Science particularly recommends at least one course in political theory.

Note: POLS 150 may not be used as an elective.

General Education Requirements ¹

Code	Title	Units
Area A: Basic Subjects (9 Units)		
A1 - Oral Communication		3
A2 - Written Communication		3
A3 - Critical Thinking		3
Area B: Physical Universe and Its Life Forms (10 Units)		
B1 - Physical Science		3
B2 - Life Forms		3
B3 - Lab (Note: Lab experience to be taken with one of the following: B1, B2 or B5)		1
B4 - Math Concepts		3
B5 - Additional Course (Any B to reach 12 units) - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements. ²		0
Area C: Arts and Humanities (12 Units)		
C1 - Arts		3
C2 - Humanities		3
C1/C2 - Area C Course		3
C1/C2 - Area C Course - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements.		3
Area D: The Individual and Society (3 Units)		
Area D Course ²		0
Area D Course		3
Area D Course - Take upper-division course to complete Area & upper division requirements. ²		0
Area E: Understanding Personal Development (3 Units)		
Area E Course		3
Area F: Ethnic Studies (3 Units)		
Area F Course		3
Total Units		40

¹ To help you complete your degree in a timely manner and not take more units than absolutely necessary, there are ways to use single courses to meet more than one requirement (overlap). For further information, please visit the General Education page (<https://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/academic-affairs/general-education/>).

Note: There is no way to list all possible overlaps so please consult with a professional advisor. The Academic Advising Center can be visited online (<http://www.csus.edu/acad/>), by phone (916) 278-1000, or email (advising@csus.edu).

² Required in Major; also satisfies GE.

Graduation Requirements ¹

Code	Title	Units
Graduation Requirements (required by CSU) (3 Units)		
American Institutions: U.S. History		3
American Institutions: U.S. Constitution & CA Government ²		0
Writing Intensive (WI) ²		0
Graduation Requirements (required by Sacramento State) (12 Units)		
English Composition II		3
Race and Ethnicity in American Society (RE)		3
Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement ³		6

¹ To help you complete your degree in a timely manner and not take more units than absolutely necessary, there are ways to use single courses to meet more than one requirement (overlap). For further information, please visit the General Education page (<https://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/academic-affairs/general-education/>).

Note: There is no way to list all possible overlaps so please consult with a professional advisor. The Academic Advising Center can be visited online (<http://www.csus.edu/acad/>), by phone (916) 278-1000, or email (advising@csus.edu).

² Required in Major; also satisfies Graduation Requirement.

³ If not satisfied before entering Sacramento State, it may be satisfied in General Education Area C2 (Humanities). "C- or better required." The alternative methods for satisfying the Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement are described here: <https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/world-languages-literatures/foreign-language-requirement.html> (<https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/world-languages-literatures/foreign-language-requirement.html>)

Fiscal Impact to Change an Existing Program

Indicate programmatic or fiscal impact which this change will have on other academic units' programs, and describe the consultation that has occurred with affected units:

This is an interdisciplinary major. Faculty in Political Science and Journalism (within the Communications Studies department) developed and approved these changes.

Attach a copy of correspondence with these units:

Consultation Email with COMS department.pdf

Provide a fiscal analysis of the proposed changes:

There should be no fiscal impact. The proposed changes do not require new faculty, development of new courses, or offering courses each department is not already offering regularly. No anticipated change in staffing. No expected change in the number of POLS-JOUR majors.

How will the above changes be accommodated within the department/College existing fiscal resources?

N/A

Will the proposed changes require additional resources?

No

What additional space, equipment, operating expenses, library, computer, or media resources, clerical/technical support, or other resources will be needed?

None.

Please attach any additional files not requested above:

Proposed Changes to POLS-JOUR Major Feb 2025.docx

Reviewer Comments:

Heidy Sarabia (heidysarabia) (Thu, 20 Mar 2025 21:15:48 GMT): Rollback: Please see email correspondence: 3-20-2025

Brian DiSarro (disarro) (Fri, 21 Mar 2025 03:19:42 GMT): Rollback: Sending this back to you for revisions.

Key: 325