

# POLITICAL SCIENCE

ASSOCIATE DEGREE &amp; CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

2023-2024 CATALOG



## DESCRIPTION

Political Science is an academic and research discipline that deals with the theory and practice of politics, and the description and analysis of political systems/processes, political behavior and political actors. Political science is commonly divided into five distinct sub-disciplines which together constitute the field: political theory, comparative politics, public administration, international relations, and public law. The Political Science program provides students with a core curriculum that will prepare them with the knowledge and skills required to succeed in the study of political science. Students will develop skills for critical/analytical thinking, perceptive reading/observation and interpretation, statistics analysis, and civic awareness and participation.

## ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

Students who complete an [Associate Degree for Transfer \(ADT\)](#) and transfer to a similar major at a CSU are guaranteed a pathway to finish their baccalaureate degrees in 60 semester or 90 quarter units. These degrees require students to meet both of the following requirements: (1) Completion of 60 semester units or 90 quarter units that are eligible for transfer to the California State University, including both of the following: (A) The Intersegmental GE Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University GE-Breadth Requirements (CSU GE-Breadth). (B) A minimum of 18 semester units or 27 quarter units in a major or area of emphasis, as determined by the community college district. (2) Obtainment of a minimum grade point average of 2.0.

[An Associate Degree](#), depending on the focus of study, is designed to prepare students for transfer into upper division course work in a bachelor's degree program, or, to prepare students to enter the workforce in a particular vocational field. To qualify for an Associate's Degree, a student must: (1) complete each intraspecific course required for the degree with at least a "C" grade or better, (2) complete all Cuesta College general education, graduation and residency requirements, and (3) achieve an overall grade point average of 2.0 for all courses attempted (major, general education, elective).

## DEGREES, CERTIFICATES & AWARDS

- Associate in Arts for Transfer (A.A.-T.)
- Associate in Arts (A.A.)

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Advocate/Organizer
- Ambassador
- Budget Analyst
- Campaign Worker
- City Planner/Manager
- Community Relations Director
- Compliance Managers
- Congressional Staff Member
- Diplomat
- Education Policy Analyst
- Federal Agency Employee
- Investment Fund Managers
- Labor Relations Specialist
- Lobbyist
- Media Specialist
- Political Science Teachers, Postsecondary
- Political Scientists
- Regulatory Affairs Managers
- Social Workers

## CONTACT

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**ASSOCIATE DEGREE FOR TRANSFER PROGRAM**

**Political Science** — Associate in Arts for Transfer

Political Science is an academic and research discipline that deals with the theory and practice of politics, and the description and analysis of political systems/processes, political behavior and political actors. The Political Science program provides students with a core curriculum that will prepare them with the knowledge and skills required to succeed in the study of political science. Students will develop skills for critical/analytical thinking, perceptive reading/observation and interpretation, and statistics analysis. Two Political Science program tracks prepare students to transfer into the CSU system as well as other four-year institutions. Two tracks are offered: Associate in Arts in Political Science (AA in Political Science) and Associate in Arts in Political Science for Transfer (AA-T in Political Science).

**Required Core: 1 course (3 credits)**

POLS 202. . . . . Government And Politics Of The United States . . . . . 3

**List A: Complete three courses (9-10 credits) chosen from**

POLS 201. . . . . Introduction To Political Science . . . . . 3  
 POLS 204. . . . . World Politics . . . . . 3  
 POLS 206. . . . . Comparative Government . . . . . 3  
 POLS 209. . . . . Introduction To Political Theory . . . . . 3  
 MATH 247. . . . . Introduction To Statistics . . . . . 4

**List B: Complete two courses (6-7 credits) from**

Any course(s) not selected from List A. . . . . 3-4  
 or

POLS 205 Law and Politics . . . . . 3

**Total Credits: . . . . . 18 - 19**

"P" (Pass) grade is acceptable for major coursework in the Associate Degrees for Transfer. In addition to major preparation course work listed above, completion of the CSU GE or IGETC pattern is mandatory.

Courses completed for the major can also be double counted towards GE, where appropriate. See a counselor for details.

[Click Here For Program Student Learning Outcomes](#)

**TRANSFER PREPARATION**

Courses that fulfill major requirements for an associate degree may differ from those needed to prepare to transfer. Students who plan to transfer to a four-year college or university should schedule an appointment with a Cuesta College counselor to develop a student education plan (SEP) before beginning their program.

**TRANSFER RESOURCES:**

CSU and UC Articulation Agreements and Majors Search Engine:  
[www.ASSIST.org](http://www.ASSIST.org)  
 CSU System Information:  
[www2.calstate.edu](http://www2.calstate.edu)

**FINANCIAL AID**

Paying for the cost of a college education requires a partnership among parents, students and the college. As the cost of higher education continues to rise we want you to know that Cuesta College offers a full array of financial aid programs—grants, work study, scholarships, federal loan programs, and fee waivers. These programs are available to both full-and part-time students who are seeking a degree or certificate. For those who qualify, financial aid is available to help with tuition, fees, books and supplies, food, housing, transportation, and childcare. Please log onto our website for additional information:  
[www.cuesta.edu/student/studentservices/finaid](http://www.cuesta.edu/student/studentservices/finaid)

**ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM****Political Science** — Associate in Arts

Political Science is an academic and research discipline that deals with the theory and practice of politics, and the description and analysis of political systems/processes, political behavior and political actors. The Political Science program provides students with a core curriculum that will prepare them with the knowledge and skills required to succeed in the study of political science. Students will develop skills for critical/analytical thinking, perceptive reading/observation and interpretation, and statistics analysis. A political science background is useful for those interested in working in areas like government/civil service, foreign service, law, journalism, communications, human resources, public relations, non-profits, and business.

Two Political Science program tracks prepare students to transfer into UC and CSU programs as well as programs at other four-year institutions or career options. The two tracks offered are: Associate in Arts in Political Science (AA in Political Science) and Associate in Arts in Political Science for Transfer (AA-T in Political Science).

**Required Courses (18 credits)**

POLS 201. . . . .	Introduction To Political Science . . . . .	3
POLS 202. . . . .	Government And Politics Of The United States . . . . .	3
POLS 204. . . . .	World Politics . . . . .	3
POLS 205. . . . .	Law And Politics . . . . .	3
POLS 206. . . . .	Comparative Government . . . . .	3
POLS 209. . . . .	Introduction To Political Theory . . . . .	3

**Plus 9 credits from the following:**

ECON 201A. . . . .	Principles Of Macroeconomics . . . . .	3
HIST 203A * . . . .	History Of World Civilizations . . . . .	3
HIST 203B * . . . .	History Of World Civilizations . . . . .	3
HIST 204A * . . . .	History Of Western Civilization . . . . .	3
HIST 204B * . . . .	History Of Western Civilization . . . . .	3
HIST 207A * . . . .	History Of The United States . . . . .	3
HIST 207B * . . . .	History Of The United States . . . . .	3
HIST 210 * . . . .	History Of California . . . . .	3
HIST 212 . . . . .	History Of Mexican Americans . . . . .	3
HIST 233 . . . . .	History Of African Americans . . . . .	3
PHIL 206 . . . . .	Introduction To Philosophy . . . . .	3
or PHIL 208. . . . .	Introduction To Logic . . . . .	(3)
PSYC 206. . . . .	Introduction To Social Psychology . . . . .	3
SOC 206 . . . . .	Introduction to Race and Ethnicity . . . . .	3
<b>Total Credits:</b> . . . . .		<b>27</b>

\*No more than 6 credits

[Click Here For Program Student Learning Outcomes](#)



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