Student Success Map

B.A. in Political Science—General Option
Department of Political Science

Get Good Advice

- Mandatory major advising is required prior to registration each semester.
- Meet deadlines to register, pay fees, and apply for financial aid.
- Check your DPR. Are you on-track to meet requirements?
- Complete a sufficient number of units each term (5–6 units) to graduate in four years. Some programs require more.
- Check your Student Center prior to registration for registration holds and updating your personal info.
- Check your Student Center in the first two weeks of classes to confirm your class schedule and that all adds and drops have been processed as you expected.
- Check your Student Center after each semester for grades and academic standing. If your GPA drops below a 2.0, consult an Advisor.

Take the Right Classes

- Understand the General Education requirements and follow them. Obtain your Major Academic Plan (MAP). It will enable you and your advisor to plan for each semester.
- If you need preparatory math and/or English courses, complete them in your first year.
- Take advantage of speakers, films, and events on campus related to your courses.
- Visit the Student Activities Office and get involved with a club or organization—or start your own. Check out the Freshman Leadership Opportunity (FLO).
- Read the Book in Common (BIC) and participate in BIC activities. Go to events sponsored by the Political Science Department, clubs, and organizations.
- Select courses in GE that meet the diversity requirements (US Diversity and Global Cultures).
- Attend a time management, exam preparation, study skills or other workshop in the Student Learning Center. Use the Writing Center for help with writing.
- Explore Study Abroad opportunities. Attend a Study Abroad information meeting. Or consider National Student Exchange.
- Go to a career fair on campus to see what it’s like. Attend events and take advantage of opportunities that introduce you to people who work in government, politics, and private and non-profit sector jobs that interest you. Discuss career options with the Political Science advisor.
- Visit the Career Center to learn about career opportunities and resume building. Attend the Graduate and Professional School Fair on campus early in the fall semester.
- Discuss graduate school or law school opportunities with the Political Science advisor. Consider taking graduate school or law school entrance exams in the summer.

Apply What You Learn

- Know how to use your Degree Progress Report (DPR) in your Student Center. Go to Academic Advising for help.
- Confirm that you are officially declared as a General Political Science major. See your advisor to discuss course selection, internships, study abroad, career planning and other opportunities.
- Complete your GE Foundation courses. Explore GE Pathways. Consider completing an interdisciplinary minor within your GE.
- Take POLS 331, POLS 341 or another POLS class suggested by the Political Science advisor if schedule permits.
- Discuss internship opportunities with the General Political Science advisor. Consider doing some volunteer or internship work over the summer.
- Consider running for a leadership position in a student organization. Go to cultural, social and educational events on campus that interest you, particularly if they are related to politics.
- Review your resume. Have you participated in on- or off-campus activities such as clubs, community service, lectures or forums?
- Consider applying for membership on Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society.
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- Use the Career Center to assess your interests, skills, and work values.
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Prepare for Life After Graduation

- Consider international careers and check out opportunities such as the Peace Corps.
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