Student Success Map

BA in Political Science—Legal Studies Option
Department of Political Science

Essentials for Every Semester

- Meet with your major advisor and consult Advisors in SSC 220 as needed for course selection strategies. Take courses in the proper sequence.
- 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 (15–16 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 your grades and academic standing. If your GPA drops below a 2.0, consult an Advisor.

	FRESHMAN	SOPHOMORE	JUNIOR	SENIOR
Get Good Advice	Learn where to find and how to use campus resources such as the Student Learning Center, Health Center, Academic Advising, and Wellness Center. Visit each of your instructors during their office hours. Make a point to get to know your professors and meet with your Legal Studies Advisor at least once a semester.	Confirm that you are officially declared as a Legal Studies major. See the Legal Studies advisor to get enrolled in the paralegal certificate program.	Apply for graduation one year in advance of your expected graduation date.	Submit paralegal certificate application to Legal Studies advisor.
Take the Right Classes	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 Legal Studies 300–level courses if schedule permits. Complete your GE Foundation courses. Explore GE Pathways. Consider completing an interdisciplinary minor within your GE. Consult an advisor for help.	Take Legal Studies 300–level courses if you haven't already. Take POLS 451B, POLS 454, and your political theory course. Select a minor and start its courses.	Take POLS 455, POLS 459, and moot court course.
Apply What You Learn			Start your internships at the Community Legal Information Center (CLIC).	Continue applying what you've learned in an internship at CLIC.
Connect with Peers	Join the Pre-Law Society or the Women in Law student organizations. Read the Book in Common (BIC) and participate in BIC activities.	Consider running for a leadership position in a student organization.		Consider applying for membership in Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society.
Think Globally	Select courses in GE that meet the diversity requirements (US Diversity and Global cultures). Get to know International Students in your classroom.	Explore Study Abroad opportunities. Attend an info meeting they offer every semester. Or consider National Student Exchange.	Start visiting potential law schools.	Take the LSAT and apply to law schools.
Prepare for Life After Graduation	Consider a time management workshop in the Student Learning Center. Use the Career Center to assess your interests, skills, and work values.	Meet alumni for insights on legal careers.	Visit the Career Center to learn about career opportunities and resume building. Attend a career fair on campus, regularly scheduled early in fall semesters and several times during spring semesters.	

Graduation and Beyond

Private Sector
- *Solo Legal Practice*
- *Law Firms*

Government
- *State, Local, and Federal*
- *District Attorney*
- *Public Defender*
- *Judge*

Non-Profits
- *Legal Services*

Other Careers
- *Legal Publishing*
- *Business*
- *Politics*

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO

Department of Political Science | 400 W. First Street • Chico, CA • 95929-0455 • Phone: 530.898.5301 | http://www.csuchico.edu/pols/index.shtml