

**Office of the President
California State University, Chico**



Executive Memorandum 19-011

May 13, 2019

From: Gayle E. Hutchinson, President

Subject: Approval to Change the Name of the Option in General Political Science within the BA in Political Science

Upon the recommendation of the Academic Senate and with the concurrence of the Provost, I approve changing the name of the Option in General Political Science within the BA in Political Science to the Option in U.S. Politics. This change will be effective fall 2020.

Policy Title:	EM 19-011 Approval to Change the Name of the Option in General Political Science within the BA in Political Science
Contact:	Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice
Supersedes:	
Revision:	
Enabling Legislation or Executive Order:	

Undergraduate Program Name Change

Current Program Name: Option in General Political Science

Propose Name Change to: Option in U.S. Politics

Complete only if applicable

Program named above is: B.A. in Political Science

Option within _____
(degree program name)

Minor

Certificate

Rationale for Change (Note: Provide as much detail as possible, if the rationale exceeds this space please attach additional pages. For Degree Name Changes see Chancellor's Office requirements.):

We are proposing to change the name of one of the options under the B.A. in Political Science from "Option in General Political Science" to "Option in U.S. Politics." The old name, General Political Science, does not indicate the focus of the curriculum primarily on U.S. governmental and political institutions, the political behavior of the people of the United States, and political processes specific to the U.S. The core requirements of the major expose students to political theory, comparative politics, international relations, U.S. constitutional law and research methods, and the redesigned Option in U.S. Politics focuses specifically on politics and government in the United States, as the old option did.

We are re-structuring the curriculum of the B.A. in Political Science to bring it into compliance with EO 1071. As part of that re-structuring, we are increasing the common core of classes from 10 to 22 units. The courses that will remain in the old Option in General Political Science will primarily have a focus on U.S. politics, making our proposed new name a better fit.

See more on page 2.

Required Signatures:

The Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice
has reviewed and approved this name change:

Mahalley D. Allen
Chair, Department Curriculum Committee

10/26/18
Date

Mahalley D. Allen
Department Chair

11/2/18
Date

The College of Behavioral and Social Sciences
has reviewed and approved this name change:

Mahalley D. Allen
Chair, College Curriculum Committee

12/17/18
Date

[Signature]
College Dean

1/23/19
Date

Send completed form to Curriculum Services at zip 128

Note: The department will be notified of EPPC review date. Degree name changes require CO approval

Undergraduate Program Name Change

Current Program Name: Option in General Political Science

Propose Name Change to: Option in U.S. Politics

Complete only if applicable

Program named above is: B.A. in Political Science

Option within _____
(degree program name)

Minor

Certificate

Rationale for Change (Note: Provide as much detail as possible, if the rationale exceeds this space please attach additional pages. For Degree Name Changes see Chancellor's Office requirements.):

Continued from page 1.

The old name, General Political Science, also has no relevance or meaning within the broader field of political science. The American Political Science Association and universities in the CSU system and throughout the U.S. and worldwide use U.S. Politics or American Politics to describe this standard subfield within the broader field of political science or politics. For instance, Fresno State, CSU, Fullerton, San Diego State, Sacramento State, UC San Diego, UC Santa Cruz, and other public and private universities in California have options, tracks or subfield requirements in American or U.S. politics within their B.A. in Political Science. Our proposed Option in U.S. Politics is very similar to Fresno State's American Politics Track within their B.A. in Political Science: <http://www.fresnostate.edu/socialsciences/polisci/documents/PLSI%20AP%20track.pdf> (also attached).

Required Signatures:

The Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice
has reviewed and approved this name change:

Chair, Department Curriculum Committee

Date

Department Chair

Date

The College of Behavioral and Social Sciences
has reviewed and approved this name change:

Chair, College Curriculum Committee

Date

College Dean

Date

Send completed form to Curriculum Services at zip 128

Note: The department will be notified of EPPC review date. Degree name changes require CO approval

AMERICAN POLITICS TRACK

This track is ideal for students interested in **pursuing a career in American politics, including work in campaigns, the government, and supporting elected officials.** (Keep in mind that completion of these courses alone does not fulfill degree requirements.)

Possible careers include working:

- As an elected official in local, state, or national office (many area elected officials are our graduates)
- On the staff of elected officials at the local, state, or national levels working on a wide variety of issues
- As a political campaign organizer and strategist
- In a local, state, and national government department or agency (many senior staff in city or county agencies are our graduates)
- At a nonprofit organization, foundation, or political advocacy organization working on grassroots organizing, social protest, and advocating on social justice issues
- In government relations or lobbying for political interest groups and corporations
- At a newspaper, magazine, film, television, or other media, working on political and governance issues
- At a think tank, research organization, or consulting firm working on local, state, or national political and governance issues
- In education (as a teacher, community college instructor, or university professor)

Faculty Advisors: Dr. Lisa Bryant (lbryant@csufresno.edu), Dr. Jeffrey Cummins (jcummins@csufresno.edu), Dr. Thomas Holyoke (tholyoke@csufresno.edu), and Dr. Ali Masood (amasood@csufresno.edu).

Recommended courses for track:

From the Core (when possible, take before other courses in the same series):

PLSI 90 Methods of Analysis

PLSI 150 Public Policy Analysis

Electives (choose from the following):

State and Local Government

PLSI 103 California Politics

PLSI 160 State and Local Government

PLSI 163 Municipal Government

PLSI 169T Seminar in Metropolitan Government and Politics

Political Behavior and Elections

PLSI 107 Women in U.S. Politics

PLSI 151 Political Participation and Political Parties

PLSI 152 Public Opinion and Political Behavior
PLSI 155 Interest Group Politics
PLSI 156T Topics in Political Behavior
PLSI 159T Seminar in American Politics and Government
PLSI 161 Social Movement Politics

Political Institutions

PLSI 153 Presidential Politics
PLSI 154 Congressional Politics
PLSI 174 Politics and the Court

In addition to the above courses, an internship, as well as writing, communication, and analytical skills will be helpful for a career in this field. Some of the careers above may require further education in the form of a Master's or Ph.D. degree.

For complete information on course and unit requirements to complete a bachelor's degree in Political Science, refer to the course catalogue and the department's website at

<http://www.fresnostate.edu/socialsciences/polisci/degrees/index.html>.

Pursuing any track is optional, and you may switch tracks if your interests or career goals change.