THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

# Political Science Undergraduate Advising Manual



2026-2027

*Last Updated: August 2026*

Department of Political Science
Columbian College of Arts and Sciences

# Table of Contents


Welcome....3
PSC Majors and Minors....4
PSC Declaration Process....4
Declaration FAQs....6
Planning your PSC Major or Minor....7
BA in Political Science: Major Requirements....8
BA in Political Science, Public Policy Focus: Major Requirements....9
BS in Political Science: Major Requirements....11
Minor in Political Science Requirements....13
Minor in Public Policy Requirements....14
Registration....15
Important Registration Logistics....15
Registration FAQs....16
Internships....18
Incoming Transfer Students....20
Credits Taken Off Campus....21
Study Abroad....21
Transfer Credits....21
PSC Honors....22
Pi Sigma Alpha....22
PSC Combined Degree Programs....23

# Welcome

On behalf of the PSC Undergraduate Advising team, faculty, and staff, welcome to the GWU Department of Political Science (PSC)! This manual was created to be a one-stop shop for all PSC Advising information, resources, and FAQs.

The PSC Undergraduate Advising team works to ensure the PSC undergraduate program runs transparently and equitably for all students as we support their professional development journeys. Keep in mind that the team works specifically on PSC requirements and PSC courses. We work collaboratively with your college advisor (CCAS/ESIA/etc. advising) and other departmental advisors (if you have other majors or minors). Additionally, the PSC Advising team is not full-time; please plan on a response within a few business days, and longer during the start of the semester, registration, and over university breaks.

Below are some key links to get you started:

- PSC Undergraduate Advising Webpage
- Connect with us on LinkedIn
- Sign up for our Weekly Newsletter to stay in the know about department updates, local events, and professional development opportunities (internships, job postings, etc.)!

Connect with us:

- Send all inquiries and documents to pscdus@gwu.edu.
- Come in for our Advising Office Hours! Updated schedules for both in-person and online hours can be found on our website.

Who are we?

Dr. Kelly Bauer, Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) and Associate Professor of Political Science - *On leave for Spring 2026*

Jittip Mongkolnchaiarunya, PSC Assistant Advisor and Graduate Teaching Assistant

# PSC Majors and Minors

The PSC department offers 5 different major and minor options for GW students:

1. BA in Political Science
2. BA in Political Science, Public Policy Focus
3. BS in Political Science
4. Minor in Political Science
5. Minor in Public Policy

See all of our major/minor's specific course requirements in the sections below, as each of them slightly differ due to varying focus areas. If you have any further questions about course requirements, please contact the PSC Undergraduate Advising team.

Note: All major/minor requirements are in addition to the University and college (ie Columbian College) General Education Requirements. Please reach out to your home school advisor (CCAS/ESIA/etc.) for further guidance on these courses.

Note: Students can only declare 1 major or minor in the department. PSC majors cannot minor in a PSC-based minor (i.e. no PSC major, policy minor), and students cannot be both PSC and Policy minors.

## PSC Declaration Process

The declaration process asks you to plan out your path to completing the major/minor requirements. We do require students to lay out a complete and feasible plan to complete the requirements at the point of declaration, as evidence of your understanding of these requirements (and their respective prerequisites and restrictions). You can change these plans as you work through the major, but you are responsible for understanding if these changes impact your ability to complete the requirements on your planned graduation timeline. If you have questions about changes to the declaration plan, please check in.

Note: We encourage students to complete the declaration process electronically. You are welcome to stop by PSC advising hours with questions, but we do require an electronic record of all declaration forms, so most students complete this process electronically. If you bring a printed form to advising hours for approval, we will ask you to send us a picture for our records.

Declaring a PSC Major/Minor if CCAS is your home school:

1. Familiarize yourself with the major/ minor requirements, as listed on the PSC website and in the GW Bulletin. The degreemap "what if" function is also useful (but not perfect!).

2. Complete one of the prefilled major/minor declaration forms linked below. On page 1, fill in your personal information. On page 2, list the semester, course number, and location of each PSC requirement, and sign at the bottom.

   Declaration Forms:
   a. BA in Political Science
   b. BA in Political Science, Public Policy Focus
   c. BS in Political Science
   d. Minor in Political Science
   e. Minor in Public Policy

3. After you have filled out your portions of the form, email it to pscdus@gwu.edu. We will review the form to ensure your course plan meets major/minor requirements, sign, and send it back to you. *During busy seasons (at the start and end of semesters, and during registration) and over summer, it may take us up to a week to process.*
4. Be sure that you have signed the bottom of page 2, and submit to CCAS Advising for processing. During busy seasons, it may take that office several business days to process.
5. Complete the PSC Major declaration info survey (minors do not need to complete, but can). This makes sure you have some key information about next steps and resources, and helps the department track some key information and know which students are interested in what career paths (i.e. campaigning, PhD programs, etc, etc).

Declaring a PSC Major/Minor if you are in another school:

1. Familiarize yourself with the major/ minor requirements, as listed on the PSC website and in the GW Bulletin. The degreemap "what if" function is also useful (but not perfect!).
2. If you are not housed in CCAS, please complete your home school's major/minor declaration form listing your planned schedule of all PSC requirements.
3. After you have filled out your portions of the form, email it to pscdus@gwu.edu. We will review the form to ensure your course plan meets major/minor requirements, sign, and send it back to you. *During busy seasons (at the start and end of semesters, and during registration) and over summer, it may take us up to a week to process.*
4. Send the signed form to your home school advising office. During busy seasons, it may take that office several business days to process.
5. Complete the PSC Major declaration info survey (minors do not need to complete, but can). This makes sure you have some key information about next steps and resources, and helps the department track some key information and know which students are interested in what career paths (i.e. campaigning, PhD programs, etc, etc).

## Declaration FAQs

Do I need to meet with someone to declare?
You are welcome to meet with PSC Advising, but we don't require this. If you would like to discuss in person, we will ask you to email us a pdf or picture of your completed paper form to keep on record.

Once PSC Advising approves my declaration form, what do I do?
Send the completed form to your home advising office (CCAS/ ESIA/ etc Advising). They process your form, and you'll see this reflected in degreemap.

What is the earliest I can declare?
If you know you would like to be a PSC major/minor, we encourage you to declare! This ensures that you and PSC Advising can see your plans in degreemap, and that you're on our email list. We don't process declaration forms for incoming 1st year students until they start their semester on campus, and we encourage 1st year students to wait until at least midsemester to confirm their plans to major in PSC.

What is the latest I can declare?
Keep in mind that CCAS does add advising holds to students that are advanced in their time at GWU and undeclared. We advise students to declare their majors and minors during their 2nd year at GWU. But, students can add a PSC major or minor up to the point of graduation (this is more likely for a 2nd major or minors, not 1st majors). There are risks involved in adding a major or minor late that could extend your timeline to graduation (i.e. not seeing a prereq on a required class, or classes being full).

Are there declaration forms that aren't approved?
When we don't approve a declaration form, it is a 'not yet,' rather than a 'no.' Once you outline an accurate and feasible path to completing the major/minor requirements, we will approve your declaration. Sometimes, this takes some back and forth conversation to clarify requirements, course sequencing, transfer/study abroad courses, and the interaction between double majors or minors.

How can I ensure my declaration form will be processed quickly?
Be sure your declaration form includes an accurate and feasible path to completing requirements. The PSC website, degreemap, and the GWU Bulletin are your best resources for this. It is often easiest for students to declare 1 major or minor on 1 sheet, rather than try to list the classes for 2 majors and 2 minors on the same form. Keep in mind that we are not full time, and during busy seasons (ie before registration), we sometimes receive 20+ declaration form requests per day. We process them in the order they are received, but it may take a few business days to get to yours. If you register tomorrow, and want to register for a class that requires you to be a major, your form will not be processed in time.

How do I drop a major or minor?
There is a 'drop' option on the declaration form. You do not need PSC Advising approval to drop a PSC major or minor- you can send the form directly to your advising office.

How do I switch a major to a minor, or minor to major?
Use the respective 'drop', 'add', and 'keep' options on the declaration form. PSC Advising will require you to outline a feasible and complete path to completing the respective requirements on the new declaration form (even if, for example, you are dropping from a major to minor and have already completed the minor requirements).

I'd like to declare 2 majors and a minor, but I ran out of space on the declaration form. What should I do?
We advise completing a separate declaration form for each major/minor. If you are declaring a PSC-ECON double major, complete the PSC declaration process with PSC Advising, independent from the ECON declaration process with ECON Advising. This is an easier and more efficient way to complete the paperwork with the respective dept advising offices.

## Planning your PSC Major or Minor

The charts below provide recommendations for when most students should take specific PSC requirements (particularly intros, Group D, Proseminar, and Advanced Topics). For elective credits, we encourage students to take classes that advance their professional interests, which may mean waiting a few semesters to secure a seat.

Note the PSC advising only works on PSC classes and requirements. When you declare, we do not, for example, check if you sequence out your WID requirements in separate semesters, or if you have the prereqs for ECON coursework. Be sure to work with your school advising office (ie CCAS/ ESIA advising) to understand your broader path to graduation.

What happens if I don't follow the recommended course timelines in the infographics below?
Delaying these timelines can create some challenges on the path to graduation, so should only be done with careful and considerate planning.

For example, Group D is a prerequisite for PSC 3500. We recommend that students complete their Group D during their 2nd year and, at the latest, in the fall of their 3rd year. Among other challenges, we've seen students have unexpected financial aid holds preventing them from getting a seat in PSC 3500 their final semester, an amazing internship opportunity that required a night class we didn't offer, and pending study abroad credit that prevented students from registering with their class. We support students through these situations, but that doesn't mean we always have solutions. We advise students to generally follow this timeline to give students more class topics and schedule options (and avoid graduation delays).

## BA in Political Science: Major Requirements

*This infographic is condensed to support your planning. The GWU Bulletin is the official source of policies and requirements.*

### Prerequisites — All 3 courses listed below required

PSC 1001 or PSC 1001W Introduction to Comparative Politics
PSC 1002 or PSC 1002W Introduction to American Politics
PSC 1003 or PSC 1003W Introduction to International Politics
or IAFF 1005 Introduction to International Affairs

*Recommended for Year 1; most should complete by Year 2*

*Students in the Politics & Values Program are required to take PSC 1011 and PSC 1012W; these two courses fulfill the prerequisite requirement and count as a theory course.

### Group D: Methods — 1 course from list below required

PSC 2101 Scope and Methods of Political Science
or substitute courses listed on GWU Bulletin
PSC 2102 Visualizing and Modeling Politics
(see bulletin prerequisites)

*Recommended for Year 2; most should complete by first semester of Year 3*

### Group E: Political Thought — 1 course from list below required

PSC 2105 Major Issues of Western Political Thought I
PSC 2106 or PSC 2106W Major Issues of Western II
PSC 2107 Twentieth-Century Political Thought
PSC 2109 Global Justice
PSC 2110 American Political Thought
PSC 2111 Nietzsche and Political Theory
PSC 2120W Freedom in American Thought
PSC 2991 Special Topics in Political Thought

### Electives — 4 courses required

Courses must be PSC 2000+ level from Groups A-E.

*Recommended after completion of prerequisites*

*Max 3 credits each for the following courses:
PSC 2987 Internship: Political Science
PSC 2850 Undergraduate Political Science Research

### 3000-Levels — Both courses listed below required

PSC 3192W Proseminar: Political Science
PSC 3500 or PSC 3500W Advanced Topics in Political Science

*Recommended for Years 3-4*

## BA in Political Science, Public Policy Focus: Major Requirements

*This infographic is condensed to support your planning. The GWU Bulletin is the official source of policies and requirements.*

### Prerequisites — All 3 courses listed below required

PSC 1001 or PSC 1001W Introduction to Comparative Politics
PSC 1002 or PSC 1002W Introduction to American Politics
PSC 1003 or PSC 1003W Introduction to International Politics
or IAFF 1005 Introduction to International Affairs

*Recommended for Year 1; most should complete by Year 2*

*Students in the Politics & Values Program are required to take PSC 1011 and PSC 1012W; these two courses fulfill the prerequisite requirement and count as a theory course.

### Group D: Methods — 1 course from list below required

PSC 2101 Scope and Methods of Political Science
or substitute courses listed on GWU Bulletin
PSC 2102 Visualizing and Modeling Politics
(see bulletin prerequisites)

*Recommended for Year 2; most should complete by first semester of Year 3*

### Social Science & Statistics — All 4 courses listed below required

ECON 1011 Principles of Economics I (see bulletin prerequisites)
ECON 1012 Principles of Economics II (see bulletin prerequisites)
ECON 2101 Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (see bulletin prereqs)
STAT 1051 Introduction to Business and Economic Statistics
or STAT 1053 Introduction to Stats in Social Science
or STAT 1111 Business and Economic Statistics I

### 3000-Levels — Both courses listed below required

PSC 3192W Proseminar: Political Science
PSC 3500 or PSC 3500W Advanced Topics in Political Science

*Recommended for Years 3-4*

### PSC Electives — 2 courses required

Courses must be PSC 2000+ level from Groups A-E.

*Recommended after completion of prerequisites*

*Max 3 credits each for the following courses:
PSC 2987 Internship: Political Science and
PSC 2850 Undergraduate Political Science Research

*Policy Focus Requirements continue on next page*

## Public Policy Electives

3 courses from list below required

*Recommended after completion of prerequisites*

PSC 2211 State and Urban Politics
PSC 2212 State and Urban Policy Problems
PSC 2213 Judicial Politics
PSC 2216 The American Presidency
PSC 2217 Executive Branch Politics
PSC 2218 or PSC 2218W Legislative Politics
PSC 2219 Political Parties and Interest Groups
PSC 2222 Science, Technology, and Politics
PSC 2224 Issues in Domestic Public Policy
PSC 2240 Poverty, Welfare, and Work
PSC 2241 The Politics of Education Policy
PSC 2446 U.S. Foreign Policy
PSC 2468 Post-Soviet Foreign Policy

## Social Science & Statistics Electives

2 courses from list below required

*Recommended after completion of prerequisites*

DATS 1001 Data Science for All
DATS 2102 Data Visualization for Data Science
DATS 2103 Data Mining for Data Science
DATS 2104 Data Warehousing for Data Science
DATS 4001 Data Science Capstone

ECON 2122 Monetary Theory and Policy
ECON 2136 Natural Resource Economics
ECON 2151/W Economic Development
ECON2157 Urban and Regional Economics
ECON 2158 Industrial Organization
ECON 2159 Government Regulation
ECON 2167 Economics of Crime
ECON 2181 International Trade Theory/Policy
ECON 3142 Labor Economics
ECON 3148 Health Economics
ECON 3161 Public Finance: Expenditure Programs
ECON 3162 Public Finance: Taxation
ECON 3190 Law and Economics
ECON 3191 Game Theory

STAT 1129 Regression Analysis
STAT 2123 Introduction to Econometrics
STAT 2183 Intermediate Statistics Lab/Package

SOC 2105 Social Problems in American Society
SOC 2112 Evaluation Research
SOC 2135 Youth and Delinquency
SOC 2136 Criminology
SOC 2137 Transnational Crime
SOC 2139 Alternatives to Imprisonment
SOC 2143 CJ System Arrest Through Appeal
SOC 2145 Criminal Law
SOC 2146 The Bill of Rights and Criminal Justice
SOC 2161 Sociology of Complex Organizations
SOC 2162 Sociology of the Family
SOC 2163 Sociology of Education
SOC 2169 Urban Sociology
SOC 2170 Class & Inequality in American Society
SOC 2174 Sociology of Immigration
SOC 2179 Race and Minority Relations

## BS in Political Science: Major Requirements

*This infographic is condensed to support your planning. The GWU Bulletin is the official source of policies and requirements.*

### Prerequisites — All 3 courses listed below required

PSC 1001 or PSC 1001W Introduction to Comparative Politics
PSC 1002 or PSC 1002W Introduction to American Politics
PSC 1003 or PSC 1003W Introduction to International Politics
or IAFF 1005 Introduction to International Affairs

*Recommended for Year 1; most should complete by Year 2*

*Students in the Politics & Values Program are required to take PSC 1011 and PSC 1012W; these two courses fulfill the prerequisite requirement and count as a theory course.

### Group D: Methods — 1 course from list below required

PSC 2101 Scope and Methods of Political Science
or substitute courses listed on GWU Bulletin
PSC 2102 Visualizing and Modeling Politics
(see bulletin prerequisites)

*Recommended for Year 2; most should complete by first semester of Year 3*

### Group E: Political Thought — 1 course from list below required

PSC 2105 Major Issues of Western Political Thought I
PSC 2106 or PSC 2106W Major Issues of Western II
PSC 2107 Twentieth-Century Political Thought
PSC 2109 Global Justice
PSC 2110 American Political Thought
PSC 2111 Nietzsche and Political Theory
PSC 2120W Freedom in American Thought
PSC 2991 Special Topics in Political Thought

### STEM — Both courses listed below required

MATH 1232 Single Variable Calculus II
STAT 1051 Introduction to Business and Economic Statistics
or STAT 1053 Introduction to Stats in Social Science
or STAT 1111 Business and Economic Statistics I

### 3000-Levels — Both courses listed below required

PSC 3192W Proseminar: Political Science
PSC 3500 or PSC 3500W Advanced Topics in Political Science

*Recommended for Years 3-4*

*BS Requirements continue on the next page

## PSC Electives — 4 courses required

*Recommended after completion of prerequisites*

Courses must be PSC 2000+ level from Groups A-E.

*Max 3 credits each for the following courses:
PSC 2987 Internship: Political Science and

1. PSC 2850 Undergraduate Political Science Research

## STEM Electives — 4 courses required

*Recommended after completion of prerequisites*

Courses must be in Computer Science (CSCI), Data Science (DATS), Mathematics (MATH), or Statistics (STAT).

<u>List of excluded courses from the above departments that CANNOT count as electives:</u>
CSCI 1010 Computer Science Orientation
CSCI 1011 Introduction to Programming with Java
CSCI 1020 Applications Software
CSCI 1021 Introduction to Computers and Int.
CSCI 1022 Introduction to Internet Technology
CSCI 1023 Introduction to Web Software Development

DATS 1001 Data Science for All
DATS 2101 Ethical Life in a Digital World

MATH 1000 Dean's Seminar
MATH 1008 History of Mathematics
MATH 1009 Mathematical Ideas I
MATH 1220 Calculus with Precalculus I
MATH 1221 Calculus with Precalculus II
MATH 1231 Single-Variable Calculus I
MATH 1252 Calculus for the Social and Mngt.
MATH 2991 Introductory Special Topics

STAT 1000 Dean's Seminar
STAT 1129 Introduction to Computing
STAT 4195 Reading and Research

## Minor in Political Science Requirements

*This infographic is condensed to support your planning. The GWU Bulletin is the official source of policies and requirements.*

| Intro Courses | 1 course from list below required |
|---|---|

PSC 1001 or PSC 1001W Introduction to Comparative Politics
PSC 1002 or PSC 1002W Introduction to American Politics
PSC 1003 or PSC 1003W Introduction to International Politics
or IAFF 1005 Introduction to International Affairs

| Group E: Political Thought | 1 course from list below required |
|---|---|

PSC 2105 Major Issues of Western Political Thought I
PSC 2106 or PSC 2106W Major Issues of Western II
PSC 2107 Twentieth-Century Political Thought
PSC 2109 Global Justice
PSC 2110 American Political Thought
PSC 2111 Nietzsche and Political Theory
PSC 2120W Freedom in American Thought
PSC 2991 Special Topics in Political Thought

| PSC Electives | 4 courses required |
|---|---|

*Additional introductory courses beyond the required one for the minor may be counted as electives.

## Minor in Public Policy Requirements

*This infographic is condensed to support your planning. The GWU Bulletin is the official source of policies and requirements.*

### Intro Courses

1 course from list below required

PSC 1001 or PSC 1001W Introduction to Comparative Politics
PSC 1002 or PSC 1002W Introduction to American Politics
PSC 1003 or PSC 1003W Introduction to International Politics
or IAFF 1005 Introduction to International Affairs

### Social Science & Statistics

Both courses from list below required

ECON 1011 Principles of Economics I
(see bulletin prerequisites)
ECON 1012 Principles of Economics II
(see bulletin prerequisites)

### Methods: Group D

1 course from list below required

PSC 2101 Scope and Methods of Political Science
or substitute courses listed on GWU Bulletin
PSC 2102 Visualizing and Modeling Politics
(see bulletin prerequisites)

### Public Policy Electives

3 courses from list below required

PSC 2212 State and Urban Policy Problems
PSC 2213 Judicial Politics
PSC 2216 The American Presidency
PSC 2217 Executive Branch Politics
PSC 2218 or PSC 2218W Legislative Politics
PSC 2219 Political Parties and Interest Groups
PSC 2222 Science, Technology, and Politics
PSC 2224 Issues in Domestic Public Policy
PSC 2240 Poverty, Welfare, and Work
PSC 2241 The Politics of Education Policy
PSC 2446 U.S. Foreign Policy
PSC 2468 Post-Soviet Foreign Policy

# Registration

**PSC has high demand for classes.** Do your best to familiarize yourself with the following timelines and procedures, proactively plan a few schedule options, remove registration holds (financial, major declaration, etc) before your registration period, and register during your assigned registration period.

Keep in mind that PSC does not waive prerequisite courses or restrictions, or add students over the course cap, except in very specific circumstances by approval of the PSC DUS (for example, a coding error, or for some students in their final semester). This means that you might not get into the classes on your preferred schedule and we encourage students to plan a few schedule options. You can use GWeb's Plan Ahead feature to create up to 5 plans when preparing (see first video in the attached link for more details, keeping in mind that Plan Ahead does not monitor if a class is full or not offered a specific semester- be sure to look at the schedule of classes when preparing for registration).

For more general information on registration, visit the registrar's website.

**Note:** We make announcements for new course offerings in our undergraduate weekly newsletter, so be sure to sign up!

## Important Registration Logistics

| | |
|---|---|
| From registration and through end of Week 1 of Classes | • GWeb registration and waitlists are BOTH active.<br>• Students in their final semester with remaining PSC requirements should check in with pscdus@gwu.edu as soon as possible.<br>*If a course is full with a waitlist, there is no way to join the class via RTF or RTF-EZ. A RTF just adds the student to the waitlist, so it is much quicker to join the waitlist in GWeb.* |
| Week 2 of Classes | • GWeb registration is active and the waitlist is cleared.<br>*During this time, RTFs will not be signed for full courses or to waive prereqs. Students can still continuously monitor GWeb to see if a seat opens in a full course they are looking to join.* |
| After Week 2 | • GWeb registration is no longer active.<br>*If you are requesting late enrollment in a class with open seats after week 2, please contact the instructor first. If they approve your request to add the course late, forward their written approval to pscdus@gwu.edu along with a completed RTF EZ.* |

See the registrar's fall/spring schedule with add/drop dates here.

## Registration FAQs

Why doesn't PSC sign most RTFs?
There is a lot of demand for PSC classes, and we are not able to ensure that all students have their preferred classes. Channeling registration through the online registration platform, rather than RTFs, ensures transparency in which students get seats when, and helps the department manage demand. Please note that all RTF requests in PSC go to the pscdus@gwu.edu and there are very few circumstances in which the PSC DUS will sign a RTF. Individual instructors will not sign RTFs for students to join classes.

When does PSC sign a RTF?

- Pending study abroad credit (i.e. a student took their Group D class abroad, and that credit is still pending)
- Academic forgiveness/retaking a course
- Crosslisted courses meeting a prerequisite (i.e. in some semesters, DATS 2102 is crosslisted with PSC 2102. If a student enrolls in DATS 2102, the registration system doesn't know that meets the Group D prereq for 3500)
- PSC 2987 Internship enrollment
- Rarely, students in their final semester

I have a registration hold – can PSC Advising register me, save me a seat, or sign a RTF?
Unfortunately, no. RTFs won't be processed if a student has an advising hold, and PSC Advising doesn't have any way to register or save seats for students. Work with the office that placed the hold (Advising, Financial Aid).

A class required junior standing, and I'll be a junior standing in the fall. Why can't I register online? Can I get a RTF?
The GWU registration system is based on credits completed. Often, students will have junior standing (60+ credits) only AFTER completing their current courses. Unfortunately, students in this scenario will need to wait to register or waitlist for classes requiring junior standing until their current semester grades post.

How do waitlists work?
Waitlist policies are managed by the Registrar's Office. Waitlists open the week after registration, and clear at the end of the first week of the semester. While waitlists are active, the only way to join a class is off the waitlist.

Keep in mind that waitlists are sorted by credits and major, and then time joined, so you may be the first person to join a waitlist, but 10th on the list people second semester seniors joined after you. You are not allowed to join the waitlist for multiple sections of the same course, so you need to choose which section of PSC 2101, for example, you'd like to waitlist for. Selected

topics courses (ie PSC 3192W and 3500 and 2991) are exceptions, because the topics vary and students can repeat the courses for credit.

I'm in my final semester, and didn't register for my remaining requirements? What should I do?
Asap, join waitlists and communicate with PSC Advising. If students communicate with PSC Advising in the month of registration (i.e. Nov for a May graduation) and they are reasonably flexible with their course and schedule options, we very likely will figure out a path to a May graduation. Keep in mind that while waitlists are active, all open seats go to students on the waitlist, so it is essential to join waitlists early. PSC Advising supports students through this, but we are working within GWU registration policies and processes.

I have a combination of majors, minors, and study abroad plans that requires me to take class X in semester Y but it is full. What should I do?
Given high demand for PSC classes, we usually can't accommodate these requests once classes are full. You are certainly welcome to join waitlists and register for classes if seats are available. If you have a very specific path to graduation, we encourage you to work with PSC Advising early and often to plan a feasible and flexible path to completing requirements.

I'm a first semester senior, and need to take 2 more WID classes. How do I enroll in PSC 3192W this semester?
Unfortunately, once these sections are full, we usually can't accommodate these requests. Because of high demand for PSC classes, we are only able to find seats for some students in their final semester. You are certainly welcome to join waitlists and register for classes if seats are available. We strongly encourage you to work with CCAS/ESIA advising to find other WID classes to ensure you have a WID class in each of your remaining 2 semesters.

Registration seems stressful! How can I prepare and avoid some of this stress?
Do your best to understand registration policies, major/minor requirements, and graduation requirements. Flexibility is important! PSC has 1000+ majors and many more students who take PSC classes, and PSC Advising does our best to ensure that registration is transparent and fair. Know what classes have prereqs, space out your WID requirements, and plan options if you don't get into a class you wanted to. Ask if you have questions!

# Internships

Internships are the best way to integrate the professional experience into the academic program. Political Science alumni frequently remember internships as pivotal experiences in their career paths. Our students have interned at the White House, on Capitol Hill, and for political campaigns, think tanks and nonprofits. Go to our Fall 2024 Internship Spotlight page to learn more about student internships through the Political Science Department.

The course code for PSC internships is PSC 2987. Please note that no more than three credits of PSC 2987 may be counted toward the major requirements; additional credits can count towards your total credit count, but not the PSC major.

Eligibility:

- Declared PSC major.
- Junior standing (60+ completed credits). *If you have not completed 60 credits, look into CCAS 2154*.
- Obtain a confirmed internship position involving substantive political science research and work (you need your supervisor's confirmation to enroll in PSC 2987).
- Determine how many credits of PSC 2987 you'd like to enroll in:
    - 1 credit → 75 hours per semester (average of 5+ hours/week over 15 weeks)
    - 2 credits → 150 hours per semester (average of 10+hours/week over 15 weeks)
    - 3 credits → 225 hours per semester (average of 15+hours/week over 15 weeks)
- Familiarize yourself with the PSC 2987 syllabus. *Note that to receive credit for your internship, you must complete both your internship hours, and PSC 2987 assignments.*
- Complete PSC 2987 enrollment paperwork before the end of the 5th week of classes.

To request enrollment in PSC 2987, complete the following:
*The following steps are to be completed only AFTER you have secured an internship.*

1. Complete an Internship Credit Enrollment Request form. Fill out the top box, and have your internship supervisor (your supervisor at your internship organization, not a GWU person) complete the bottom box.
2. Fill out a RTF form (not a RFT EZ). Be sure to fill out your information, the class, the number of credits you'll enroll in, and look up the correct CRN for the course in GWeb or the Schedule of Classes.
3. Email both pdfs (completed internship enrollment request, and RTF) to pscdus@gwu.edu. Once approved, send the signed RTF to CCAS advising (or your home advising office) for processing.
4. Ensure that you are enrolled in PSC 2987 -- check your degreemap, and access to the Blackboard course (once the semester starts).

Once enrolled, students will complete a range of assignments related to their internship: discussion boards, professional development activities, and evaluations of their internship. Full details on the assignments and requirements are available in the PSC 2987 syllabus.

Questions? Contact the PSC Internship Supervisor at pscdus@gwu.edu.

# Incoming Transfer Students

GWU students have their advising team in their home college (i.e. CCAS, ESIA, etc.) that provides them with holistic advising on their path to graduation. Additionally, students have departmental advisors that support them with their specific major(s) and minor(s) requirements. For example, a student might work with CCAS Advising to understand GPAC requirements, PSC Advising about a PSC major, and HIST about a History minor.

Here are some common questions from incoming transfer students:

Approval of Transfer Credits:
Please see the Credits Taken Off Campus section below.

Registration Recommendations:
If you are going to major in PSC or PSC-Policy, your priority should be completing your 3 intro courses (PSC 1001 Intro to Comparative, 1002 Intro to US, 1003 Intro to IR) AND group D (usually PSC 2101). We recommend that students complete these courses 3 semesters before their planned graduation (i.e. Fall 2025 for a planned Spring 2027 graduation).

Transfer Student PSC Major Declaration:
Should you declare now? If you know you are going to major in PSC, yes! It is a good idea to declare before the next registration cycle. This ensures that you are on our email list to receive important advising information, and are able to register for classes reserved for PSC majors. You can change your major at any point, if your plans change.

When you are ready to declare, follow the PSC Declaration Process instructions.

# Credits Taken Off Campus

PSC Advising reviews if transfer and study abroad courses have a GWU PSC equivalent. If it does, the credits will transfer in as that corresponding GW PSC course number. If the course is determined to not have a GWU PSC equivalent, but does meet criteria for GWU PSC credit, the course will be approved as a PSC 1099 or PSC 2099.

PSC 2099 counts as an upper-level elective credit towards the major or minor, and multiple sections of PSC 2099 can count to PSC elective requirements.

We do not approve transfer or study abroad courses as PSC 3192W or PSC 3500 -- plan to take these at GWU.

Learn more about accepted transfer grades and credit limits on the Office of the Registrar website.

## Study Abroad

For all study abroad credits, use the GW Course Approval Transfer System (CATS).

## Transfer Credits

Submit a course syllabus or description along with an Undergraduate Credit Transfer Approval Form (PDF) to pscdus@gwu.edu. If the course credit is approved, PSC Advising will return the transfer credit approval form to the student for submission to their Advising office, and then the Office of the Registrar for processing.

# PSC Honors

In addition to the general requirements stated under University Regulations in the Bulletin, to be considered for graduation with Special Honors a student must have a minimum GPA of 3.8 in all upper-level Political Science (PSC) courses. The GPA is calculated using only PSC courses taken at the 2000, 3000, and 4000 levels through GWU; GW courses other than those specified and transfer courses are not included.

The designation of Honors appears on the student's transcript, not on the diploma.

PSC Advising completes this calculation for all majors after final grades have been submitted; students do not need to do anything beyond meet the gpa requirement.

# Pi Sigma Alpha

Pi Sigma Alpha is the National Political Science Honors society. Membership in the GWU chapter is by invitation only. Each semester, PSC majors with junior or senior standing (based on completed credit hours) and GPAs in the top ⅓ of their class are invited to join. Qualifying students will receive these invitation emails if they are eligible.

GWU's chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha hosts a number of events to promote the professional development of political science students at GWU, and most are open to the broader campus community. Please join! Events will be posted in the weekly brief, and through their Instagram @gw.pisigmaalpha. Dr. Bauer is the faculty advisor, and you can reach the GWU PSA student at gwupisigmaalpha@gmail.com.

# PSC Combined Degree Programs

Designed for high-achieving students in political science, combined degree programs allow students to complete a master's degree on an accelerated timeline by double-counting some classes toward both the undergraduate and graduate degrees.

The Political Science Department offers five combined degree options across 3 parts of the university, catered to students interested in advanced study of political science (MA), public administration (MPA), public policy (MPP), legislative affairs (MPS) and political management (MPS). More information on the degree requirements and contract information for the respective graduate programs are available here, and summarized below.

If you pursue a combined degree program, PSC Advising's role is to help you understand how the graduate coursework you take as an undergraduate student applies to your PSC undergraduate requirements. After clarifying what graduate coursework you'll take as an undergraduate student with the respective program, email PSC advising to confirm how those will apply. Note that graduate coursework will not automatically apply to your PSC undergraduate degree in degreemap, but rather by approval via petition of the PSC DUS. Common course approvals are summarized below.

Combined BA/MA in Political Science

Students in the BA/MA PSC program learn the core principles of political science and go on to master one of three tracks: American Politics, World Politics or Law and Politics.

Students interested in the BA/MA PSC dual degree program should confer with the department's graduate advisor (pscdgs@gwu.edu) during their junior year. They may apply after completing 75 credits. To apply, students should proceed with the CCAS Combined Degree application process. They should also submit the following to the PSC department office: statement of grant purpose, letter of recommendation from a current faculty member, and a résumé or CV.

PSC 6000 level courses will apply to PSC elective and/or the proseminar requirement (note that PSC 6000s are not WID courses).

Combined Public Policy and Public Administration Programs

The Department of Political Science and the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration jointly offer two combined undergraduate/graduate degree options:

- BA in Political Science/Master of Public Administration (MPA)
- BA/BS in Political Science/Master of Public Policy (MPP).

Students may apply after completing 75 credits and proceed with the CCAS Combined Degree application and additional materials required by the Tractenberg School. All other materials must be submitted to the Trachtenberg School Director of Admissions.

Students interested in the MPA/MPP combined degree program should confer with the PSC department's Public Policy Professional Advisor (Professor Stoker, stoker@gwu.edu) during their junior year.

PPPA 6000 level courses will apply to PSC elective and/or the proseminar requirement (note that PPPA 6000s are not WID courses). Additionally, PPPA 6002 can be approved as a Group D PSC requirement.

Combined Political Management Programs

The Department of Political Science and the Graduate School of Political Management (GSPM) jointly offer two BA in Political Science/Master of Professional Studies (MPS) combined degree options:

- BA/MPS in Political Management
- BA/MPS in Legislative Affairs

The BA/MPS in Political Management degree prepares students to plan and win campaigns for elective office and policy positions and find ethical solutions to political dilemmas. Three political management courses are double-counted for undergraduate and graduate credit.

The BA/MPS in Legislative Affairs is ideal for political science majors interested in careers in legislative affairs and politics. Three legislative affairs courses are double-counted for undergraduate and graduate credit.

After completing 60 credits at GW, submit the Dual Degree Application to GSPM Student Services at GSPMstudent@gwu.edu. Once approved, students will take courses that will be double-counted as a junior and/or senior. During their senior year, submit the official application to the MPS program. Students can reach out to GSPMstudent@gwu.edu with questions.

PMGT and LGAF 6000 level courses will apply to PSC elective and/or the proseminar requirement (note that PMGT and LGAF 6000s are not WID courses).