

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC COMPETENCIES - POLITICAL SCIENCE

Competencies are the skills, knowledge and attributes gained through every work, educational, volunteer and life experience.

UVic students in the [Political Science](#) program develop the following program-specific competencies. We worked with the Department of Political Science to develop this document.

KNOWLEDGE BASE OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Demonstrates familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in political science

- + Characterizes the nature of political science as a discipline
- + Demonstrates knowledge and understanding representing appropriate breadth and depth in selected content areas of political science
- + Distinguishes among theories of politics and analyzes current political situations in theoretical terms

KNOWLEDGE OF POLITICAL SYSTEMS AND INSTITUTIONS

Understands the social, cultural, historical, geographic and other forces that generate conflicts within and among societies, including:

- + The social bases and evolution of politics in regions such as North America, Great Britain, Europe, Latin America, East/South East Asia and Africa
- + Constitutional frameworks and political institutions in regions such as North America, Great Britain, Europe, Latin America, East /South East Asia and Africa
- + The design of electoral systems and their implications for representation
- + The relationships between indigenous communities and colonial states and the evolution of indigenous governance
- + The role and functioning of supra-national institutions

KNOWLEDGE OF ISSUES AND POLICIES

Understands the issues and policies that affect democracy and the distribution of power, including:

- + The political and social questions and policies relating to diversity, pluralism, gender, economic class and culture
- + The politics of development, both in developing countries and domestic urban settings
- + Global issues, ethics and policies relating to human rights, nationalism, migration, security, the environment and trade
- + Public policy design, analysis and implementation
- + How electronic media shapes the communication of political ideologies and messages

KNOWLEDGE OF POLITICAL THOUGHT

Understands the philosophical foundations and development of both historical and contemporary political thought, including:

- + Persistent themes and assumptions of political thought from ancient and medieval civilizations through to the late 19th century
- + The relevance of key theorists' works for contemporary politics and government

RESEARCH METHODS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Understands and applies basic research methods in political science, including research design, data analysis and interpretation

- + Understands and applies key empirical research methods such as interpretive, historical, participatory, quantitative, case study and comparative where appropriate