

POSC BASICS FOR NEW TRANSFERS

New to CSULB as a POSC major, but not new to college?

Wondering how your past coursework helps you to achieve your bachelor's degree? Need to plan your first semester? Want tips about how to make the most of your time at CSULB so you can achieve your post-graduation goals?

ASSESS WHERE YOU STAND

Whether from a community college or a four-year school, past courses can contribute to your CSULB degree. MyCSULB shows how previous coursework fits into your general education (GE), POSC, and university requirements. Check out your Academic Requirements Report (ARR) and Transfer Credit Report. When ready, declare your POSC concentration: Global Politics, Law Politics and Policy, or Political Theory, using MyCSULB's Degree Planner tool.

POSC: As many as three lower division (LD= 100- and 200-level) courses can contribute to the POSC major:

POSC 100 + one concentration
one breadth

<<Taken POSC courses that seem relevant, but they are not showing up in your ARR? Ask the POSC office about an advisor assessment.

GE: All students (including "GE-certified") need to take three upper division GE Capstone courses (one must be Writing Intensive and meeting the GEAR is needed to enroll in WI). Some students may have additional GE to do.



FIRST SEMESTER COURSE PLANNING TIPS

While every transfer student's situation is unique and course offerings vary by semester, here are three key tips and a sample schedule to hit the ground running while you are still figuring everything out:

1. Aim for 15.

To stay on track for graduation, 15 units (usually five 3-unit courses) is a good semester load. Consider less if you have GPA concerns or a lot of off-campus responsibilities.

2. Take (mostly) POSC.

POSC courses are the bulk of your schedule, but GE (Capstones, etc), and second major, minor or certificate classes can strike a balance in your learning, schedule, and goals.

3. Go upper division (UD).

40 UD (300- and 400-level) units are required as part of your 120 overall units. GE Capstones and 30 of 39 POSC major units are UD. Important if you are awaiting assessment of past LD POSC classes.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE:

- POSC 300
- Concentration course
- Concentration course
- Breadth course
- GE Capstone or minor course

FINDING YOUR WAY AT CSULB AND BEYOND

Being on a new campus and taking upper division coursework brings opportunities and challenges. As a transfer student, you have less time on campus overall. Some ideas to get your bearings quickly:

- Get oriented. POSC and/or College of Liberal Arts- ATLAS advisors will be at SOAR to help!

- Be proactive in reaching out. Meet fellow students at SOAR, in class, and through study groups and clubs. Participate in class and go to faculty office hours to enhance learning and get guidance on career and educational goals.

- Weigh options early. Assess if you have the time and desire for a second major, minor, certificate, or study abroad. "Double count" POSC and/or minor classes with GE as possible.

- Stay on top of your progress. Learn how to use MyCSULB, read advising materials, and engage the many specialized resource offices on campus that are here to help.



Need more details?

<http://www.cla.csulb.edu/departments/polisci/>



The official major requirements worksheet and much more info are on the department website. Find complete course specifics in the CSULB catalog and the CSULB schedule of classes.



Questions? Make an appointment or attend a workshop with a POSC or College of Liberal Arts-ATLAS advisor.