

Planning Guide: Political Science Major & Data Science Certificate

Below are sample course plans that show how a student might navigate both the Political Science major and Data Science certificate. This plan is provided as a tool for students to understand the potential course load between two programs and areas of overlap and non-overlap. Please note that this is a flexible plan and students are not required to follow this plan exactly. Students are strongly encouraged to review the full curriculum for both programs on the Guide and contact relevant advisors for information on course selection.

[Guide link to the Political Science major](#) (select Political Science BA or BS).

[Guide link to the Data Science certificate.](#)

4 YEAR PLAN

	Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
	<i>Poli Sci Maj Courses</i>	<i>DS Cert Courses</i>	<i>Poli Sci Maj Courses</i>	<i>DS Cert Courses</i>
Year 1	POLI SCI 104, 120, 140, or 160 (3-4)		POLI SCI 104, 120, 140, OR 160 (3-4)	
Shared/Gen-Ed's	Electives and gen-ed courses		Electives and gen-ed courses	
Year 2	POLI SCI 231, 297, or 355 (3-4) optional but can satisfy Ethnic Studies POLI SCI 170, 270*, 274*, 348*, or 373 (3-4) courses with an asterisk can fulfill the QrB requirement		POLI SCI Elective (3-4)	COMP SCI 220 (4)
Shared/Gen-Ed's	Electives and gen-ed courses		Electives and gen-ed courses	
Year 3	POLI SCI 300+ Level (4)	STAT 240 (4)	POLI SCI 300+ Level (4)	DS Elective
Shared/Gen-Ed's	Electives and gen-ed courses		Electives and gen-ed courses	
Year 4	POLI SCI 300+ Level (4), Senior Honors Thesis (3-4, optional)	Data Ethics (3-4)	POLI SCI 300+ Level (4)	DS Elective (3)
Shared/Gen-Ed's	Electives and gen-ed courses		Electives and gen-ed courses	

Below is a 5-semester and 3-semester plan for students who may have less than two years to complete the Data Science certificate.

5 SEMESTER PLAN

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4	Semester 5
COMP SCI 220 (4)	STAT 240 (4)	Data Ethics (3-4)	DS Elective (3)	DS Elective (3)

3 SEMESTER PLAN

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
COMP SCI 220 (4), Data Ethics (3-4)	STAT 240 (4), DS Elective (3-4)	DS Elective (3)

Updated August 2025.