



Advising Guide & Degree Checklist B.A./B.S. in Social Science- 2024-25 catalog

Social Science: Program Overview

At OSU-Cascades, students can pursue a social science degree with an option in law and society, cultures and identities, community development and leadership, environments, or a general option. Students will investigate the social and cultural dynamics in our communities, explore how these dynamics impact the development of sustainable communities, and examine how effective community leadership impacts positive social change. Social Science studies contain scientific investigation and theory pertaining to human individuals, social groups, institutions, and ideologies.

To complete a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Social Science students must complete the following degree requirements:

- OSU Graduation Requirements
 - Baccalaureate Core
 - College of Liberal Arts Core
 - BA or BS Requirements
 - Social Science Major Requirements
 - Specialty Options: Law and Society, Cultures and Identities, Community Development and Leadership, Humans and the Environment, or General Option.
-

OSU Graduation Requirements:

Students pursuing a degree at OSU must meet the following requirements in addition to program and college requirements. catalog.oregonstate.edu/regulations/#text

- 180 minimum = total number of credits required to graduate
- 60 minimum = number of upper division credits required
- 45 of last 75 credits must be OSU credits
- Max 135 credits transferred to OSU
- Max 18 W grades (withdraw)

***All catalog and course planning by term information is subject to change pending course forecast and catalog declaration.*

Baccalaureate Core Requirements “Bacc Core”

Search the schedule of classes for approved Bacc Core courses for each category.

Students with an AAOT complete all Skills and Perspectives in Bacc Core.

Requirement		Fulfilled
Skills (18-19)		
Lifetime Fitness (2cr)	HHS 231	
Lifetime Fitness Lab or Physical Activity Class (1cr)	PAC 1xx	
Math (3-4cr)		
Writing I (4cr)	WR 121Z	
Writing II (4cr)		
Speech (4cr)		
Perspectives (24-32 cr)	**No more than two courses from any one department**	
Cultural Diversity (3-4cr)		
Literature & Arts (3-4cr)		
Social Process & Inst. (3-4cr)		
Western Culture (3-4cr)		
Physical Science (4cr)		
Bio Science (4cr)		
1 additional Bio or Phys. Sci. (4cr)		
Difference Power & Discrimination (3-4cr)		
Synthesis (6cr)	**Synthesis course must be from 2 different departments**	
Contemporary Global Issues (3-4cr) [CGI]	ANTH 352 in major core	Fulfilled by Major
Science Tech and Society (3-4cr) [STS]		

DOUBLE COUNTING: A course can double count in Bacc Core, CLA Core or Major. However, a single course cannot count for three requirements.

College of Liberal Arts Core (CLA Core)

CLA Core Requirement	OSU-Cascades Course options	Grade
Fine Arts (3-4 cr) FA	ART 101, ART 115, ART 117, ART 131, ART 215, ART 263, ART 271	
Non-Western Culture (3-4 cr) NWC	ANTH 315, ENG 212, ENG 213, ENG 360, ES 241	
Humanities (3-4 cr) HUM	Art History, English, History courses. PS 206	
Social Science (3-4 cr) SS	COMM 321 in major	Fulfilled by Major
Additional CLA Core course (3-4cr)	Social Science major completes	Fulfilled by Major

BA or BS Requirements

Courses used to satisfy the B.S. cannot double count to satisfy baccalaureate core requirements.

B.A. Requirements	Notes	Course/Grade
Second year proficiency in a second language at the college level with C-grade or better.	SPAN 111 to SPAN 213 at Cascades. Additional lang. online	
B.S. Requirements Courses used to satisfy the B.S. cannot double count to satisfy baccalaureate core requirements.		
Any computer science (CS) course approved by the student's advisor	ART 121, CS 391, or CS 101 (online)	
Any course from the College of Science except math or statistics (at least 3 credits) BI, BB, CH, MB, Z departments	samples: BB 332, MB 330, Z 349	
Two Courses: Math or Statistics 200-Level or higher	Class cannot also count in Bacc Core	

Social Science Major Core (17 credits)

Required 2.3 GPA for graduation, all classes for the major must be A–F not S/U.

A course can double count in Bacc Core, CLA Core or Major. However, a single course cannot count for three requirements.

**All catalog and course planning by term information is subject to change pending course forecast and catalog declaration.*

Course	Title	CR	BC/CLA Core:	Term Planned*	Grade
SSCI 211	Career Development in the Social Sciences	1		Fall	
SSCI 301	Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences	4	WIC	Winter	
SSCI 406**	Project/Capstone	3		Spring (Grad Yr)	
COMM 321	Introduction to Communication Theory	3	CLA: SS	Fall	
ANTH 352	Anthropology, Health, and the Environment	3	BC: CGI	Spring	
SUS 420	Social Dimension of Sustainability	3		Winter	

Specialty Option (21-25 credits)

Students must select an option

Required 2.3 GPA for graduation, all classes for the major must be A–F not S/U.

Law and Society (25cr)

A social science degree prepares students to be successful in a career in law. This option offers a curricula focused on critical thinking, reading, writing, and argumentation for students who wish to apply to, and succeed in, law school.

Course	Title	CR	BC/CLA Core:	Term Planned*	Grade
COMM 312 or COMM 316	Adv. Public Speaking or Advanced Persuasion	3		Fall 2025 Fall 2024	
COMM 320	Intro to Rhetorical Theory	3		Winter 2025	
COMM 466	Ethics of Rhetoric	3		Spring 2025	
PS 201	Intro to US Government and Politics	4	BC: SPI, CLA: SS	Fall	
PS 383 or PS 382	Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties or Constitutional Law: Government Powers & Constraints	4	BC: DPD	Spring 2025 Spring 2026	
PS 362	American Political Thought	4	CLA: SS	Fall 2024	
SOC 448	Law and Society (SOC 204 rec. pre-req) sub approvals SOC 439 or SOC 430	4			

Cultures and Identities (24cr)

This option focuses on cultures and identities—our own and others’—as essential to understanding our lived community experiences. The curricula explores the processes through which we develop and negotiate identities and cultures.

Course	Title	CR	BC/CLA Core:	Term Planned*	Grade
ANTH 251 or SOC 206	Language in the USA or Social Problems and Issues	3	BC: DPD, CLA:SS BC: DPD, CLA:SS	Winter Spring	
ANTH 311 or ANTH 315	North American Native Peoples or Peoples of the World: Africa	3	BC: CD, CLA: NWC BC: CD, CLA: NWC	Online Spring	
ANTH 350 or ANTH 380	Language, Culture and Society or Global Conflicts: Anthropological Perspectives	4		Winter 2026 Winter 2025	
COMM 326	Intercultural Communication	3	CLA: SS	Fall 2024, 2026	
COMM 427	Cultural Codes in Communication	3		Fall 2025	
ENG 212, ENG 213 or ENG 360	Literature of the World or Native American Literature	4	BC:CD, CLA:HUM, NWC BC:CD, CLA:HUM, NWC	Winter Spring	
SOC 430 or SOC 452	Gender and Society or Sociology of Religion	4		Fall 2024 Fall 2025	

Community Development and Leadership (25cr)

This option focuses on the social and cultural dynamics in our communities, how these dynamics impact the development of sustainable communities, and how effective community leadership impacts positive social change.

Course	Title	CR	BC/CLA Core:	Term Planned*	Grade
COMM 312 or COMM 316	Advanced Pub Speaking (COMM 114 rec pre-req) or Advanced Persuasion (COMM 111 rec pre-req)	3	CLA:HUM	Fall 2025 Fall 2024	
COMM 322	Small Group Communication	3	CLA: SS	Winter 2026	
COMM 323	Community Dialogue	4		Winter 2025	
COMM 325 or LEAD 342	Communicating Leadership or Team and Organizational Leadership	4	BC: SPI	Spring 2026 Online	
COMM 326	Intercultural Communication	3	CLA: SS	Fall 2024, 2026	
PS 383, PS 382 Or PS 381 or PS 331	Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties or Constitutional Law: Government Powers & Constraints	4	BC: DPD	Spring	
SOC 439 or SOC 475	Welfare and Social Services or Rural Sociology	4		Spring 2025 Spring 2026	

Humans and the Environment (23cr)

This option focuses on human relationships with the environment and decision-making. The curricula includes an understanding of the historical, cultural, and economic systems which shape how humans interact with their environment.

Course	Title	CR	BC/CLA Core:	Term Planned*	Grade
AEC/ECON 352 or FES 365	Environmental Econ and Policy (pre-req ECON 201) or Issues in Natural Resources Conservation	3	BC: CGI BC: CGI	Winter Winter	
COMM 416	Ethnography of Communication	3	CLA: SS	Spring 2025	
COMM 440	Theories of Conflict Management	3		Spring 2026	
GEOG 333	Environmental Justice	4	BC: DPD	Spring	
PS 475	Environmental Policy and Politics	4		Spring	
SOC 480	Environmental Sociology	4	BC: CGI	Fall	
WR 462	Environmental Writing (WIC)	4		Spring 2025	

General Social Science (at least 21cr)

The general option consists of 21 credits, selected with your advisor, from the following fields: ANTH, COMM, HST, PS, PSY, SOC, SSCI.

At least 15 credits must be upper division.

Course	Title	CR	Term Planned*	Grade

SSCI 406 – Capstone Project

A portfolio/reflection project where students would take selected activities (e.g., assignments, group projects, speeches, and so forth) and reflect on how their work and projects help them meet the five learning goals of Social Science. Students will better understand how to communicate their skills, experiences, and expertise and how they translate into the workplace or graduate level education.

Contact a faculty member in Social Science 1 to 2 terms before your last term to prepare for SSCI 406 in your last term.

Detailed Requirements:

A requirement for a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science or Bachelor of Science in Social Science degree is completing a SSCI 406 capstone project. This portfolio/reflection project asks you to take selected activities (e.g., assignments, group projects, speeches, term papers, and so forth) and—in the spirit of summative assessment—reflect on how their work helped you meet five learning goals established in SSCI.

1. Demonstrate understanding and the value of communication competence in group and interpersonal communication.
2. Apply concepts from the social sciences to local, regional, and environmental communities.
3. Demonstrate proficiency with critical thinking, analysis of problems, and synthesis of data.
4. Communicate and collaborate with multiple audiences of diverse backgrounds and interests. Specifically, be able to write for and talk with both experts and lay persons utilizing multiple approaches.
5. Be prepared to pursue further professional or academic endeavors in one's selected discipline.

What follows is a general framework for completing your SSCI 406 capstone project. While your SSCI 406 experience could be more project based, and scaffold previous SSCI work to current or ongoing activities, such as work in the community, work in the Laboratory for the American Conversation, or even toward an instrumental goal such as graduate/professional school applications or career direction, SSCI 406 projects will include three general components:

1. Meet with a SSCI faculty member during your penultimate term to obtain approval to register for SSCI 406 in your final term at OSU-Cascades.
2. Propose your capstone project by the end of Week 1 (i.e., January 13, 2023, for Winter Quarter; April 7, 2023, for Spring Quarter). to your faculty project advisor. This faculty member to whom you've submitted your capstone project proposal will review and approve your project. Proposals not approved may be revised and resubmitted. Submit revisions by the end of Week 2 of your final term.
3. Prepare and present a written capstone report and an oral presentation at term's end.

Following are general instructions for completing your SSCI 406 capstone project written report.

1. Review your major course assignments from classes you've taken to fulfill your Social Science Major Core and Specialty Option requirements for your SSCI degree.
2. Select three assignments that are meaningful in a thematic way. While these three assignments may not be work where you received your highest grades, they should be assignments that fit together to build an argument you'll make about how learning goals were met.
3. Write a report that explains why these three assignments are the ones you have chosen. For example, how have they marked your progress through the program, or how have the subjects you have engaged or challenged your thinking, or how do these assignments show your mastery of a difficult subject, and so on. You'll revisit and think deeply about some important points in your process of earning your degree in Social Science.
4. Adapt your written report for delivery as an oral presentation that shares your work with other Social Science majors, Social Science faculty, and other OSU-Cascades community members during Week 10.