



Request to Disestablish Academic Program/Plan

Name of Academic Program: Political Science, Comparative Politics Emphasis(POLBA.COMPOL)
Academic Department: School of Government and Public Policy, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Geographic Site: Main Campus
Instructional Modality: In-Person
Last Term of operation: Spring 2027
Brief Description: Immerse yourself in the politics and cultures of other countries to forge a more meaningful understanding of how the world works on a systematic level. Political science is the study of government, public policy and the political behavior of individuals and groups. Students in the Bachelor of Arts in Political Science program with an emphasis in Comparative Politics dive into the study of domestic politics, political institutions and conflicts of countries. Students learn to analyze and compare countries, emphasizing key patterns of similarity and difference. They also examine politics from humanistic and scientific perspectives, honing applicable skills such as critical thinking and communication along the way. Students often take advantage of important opportunities, such as internships at government agencies, like the Arizona Legislature and Arizona Superior Court, and with local politicians and campaigns.
Reason for Disestablishing the Program: The Comparative Politics (CP) concentration, based on enrollment, is the smallest of all of the political science concentrations, and it is one of three concentrations that has to do with global politics. Our aim is to disband the Comparative Politics and International Relations (IR) concentrations and retool the Foreign Affairs concentration to better meet the needs of students. It will be renamed International Affairs, include all IR and CP courses, and remove additional requirements to make the concentration more accessible to students. This is for the following reasons:



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- The differences between these concentrations are not readily apparent. This creates confusion among students, who are unsure of which concentration to choose.
- Comparative Politics and International Relations are two of the traditional subfields within political science, and the separate concentrations capture this historical disciplinary divide in political science. However, the boundaries between comparative and IR have been narrowing. The difference between them is less clear in the discipline overall, and within SGPP's faculty, who specialize in cross-cutting areas. It is increasingly difficult to separate classes into an IR or Comparative concentration as the two subfields converge over time.
- The Foreign Affairs concentration was added more recently, and it combines all IR and Comparative courses into a single concentration. However, it also adds additional requirements, including six semesters of language proficiency and an international experience. While students often want the variety of classes in the FA concentration, they often choose IR because of the extra requirements.
- The current set up affects our Comparative concentration the most, as it is the smallest of the three by a wide margin. It doesn't have name recognition among students, and students who would choose FA turn to IR instead. This leaves the comparative courses available to a much smaller group of students.
- Finally, we recognize that some students will want to complete the additional requirements contained in the FA concentration, and we are working on micro credentials and different badges that can be earned towards that end.

Disestablishment Plan:

We will continue to support all students who are within the Comparative Politics concentration. Some students may switch to the new International Affairs concentration, but others can continue to complete their degree under the previous set up. We expect that we will have the same number of political science students overall, just the three concentrations (IR, CP, FA) will combine into one.

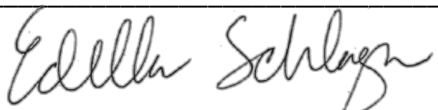
How will program resources be reallocated? (i.e., faculty and administrative positions; infrastructure, etc.):

All resources will continue to be used, but they will primarily move towards supporting the new International Affairs concentration (rather than the three former concentrations). We expect the same number of students within the major and within our internationally facing classes, and so any reallocation will be a relatively minor shift as we reconfigure the concentrations. All classes will continue to be offered, and they will be found in the new International Affairs concentration (instead of spread across three different concentrations).

Is this program in an ABOR designated high demand field? YES NO
Is the discontinued program in education, health, science, technology, engineering or math (STEM)?

No

Department Head Name: Edella Schlager

Department Head Signature: 



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Date: __11/6/2023__

Dean/Assistant Dean Name: _____ Amy Kimme Hea _____

Dean/Assistant Dean Signature: _____  _____ Date: __11/22/2023__