

**[ CHED MEMORANDUM ORDER (CMO) NO. 31 OF  
2011, November 16, 2011 ]**

**POLICIES, STANDARDS, AND GUIDELINES (PSG) FOR THE  
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM**

SUBJECT POLICIES, STANDARDS, AND GUIDELINES (PSG) FOR THE  
: BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM

In accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act (RA) No. 7722, otherwise known as the *"Higher Education Act of 1994,"* and by virtue of the Commission en bane Resolution No. 196-2011 dated 08 August 2011 and for the purpose of making relevant the general principles and guidelines for the operation of Bachelor of Arts in Political Science program in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the country, this set of Policies, Standards and Guidelines (PSG) is hereby adopted and promulgated by this Commission.

**ARTICLE I**

**INTRODUCTION**

**SECTION 1. Rationale and Background.**— The American Political Science Association defines political science as **the study of governments, public policies and political behavior, using both humanistic and scientific perspectives and skills to examine all countries and regions of the world.** From this definition, it is important to emphasize that the discipline deals with a rather broad spectrum of concerns, from understanding the link between the individual (micro) and the institutional (macro) and the national to the global structures of policy making and politics.

An undergraduate degree in political science must constantly keep abreast with changes in the disciplines content theory, and methodology and must also root itself in the constant changes in the national and global political landscape. To this end, while the undergraduate program must conform to the minimum requirements set forth, Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) that offer the program are given the latitude to include courses that are deemed necessary to allow the students a deeper exploration and understanding of the various fields in the discipline and equip them with the competencies necessary to assess and respond to a myriad of political concerns and problems that require policy, program or in general, political action.

**ARTICLE II**

**AUTHORITY TO OPERATE**

**SEC. 2.** All Higher Education Institutions HEIs), both private and public (State Universities and Colleges [SUCs] and Local Colleges and Universities [LCUs] intending to offer the Bachelor of Arts in Political Science must first secure proper authority from the Commission on Higher Education in accordance with existing

rules and regulations.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **PROGRAM SPECIFICATIONS**

**SEC. 3. Degree Name.**—The degree under this program shall be called Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (BA PS)

#### **SEC. 4. Objectives**

- To train students in the language, theories and methodologies specific to the discipline;
- To expose the students to the current developments in each of the Political Science subfields;
- To equip the students with the necessary skills for political and policy analysis and enable them to craft the necessary interventions to bring forth desired political changes.

**SEC. 5. Specific Professions/Careers/ Occupation or Trades that the Graduates of this Program May Go Into.**—Graduates of the program could go into public and private sector work to engage in teaching, research, social development work, risk analysis, and grantsmanship.

**SEC. 6. Program Majors.**—Although the undergraduate program covers the discipline of Political Science, HEIs have to offer additional major courses from any or a combination of the fields of the discipline to include international relations, public administration, comparative government, political economy, theory and methodology, Philippine politics and government, and policy analysis.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **COMPETENCY STANDARDS**

**SEC. 7.** Students in the discipline must exhibit the following competencies at the end of the undergraduate program:

- Understanding of the major concepts in the discipline
- a thorough knowledge of political science, its various sub-disciplines major themes, and analytical techniques as well as basic analytical techniques from other relevant disciplines
- a well developed ability to conduct their own scholarly inquiries using established quantitative and qualitative methods, guided by a theory-based or conceptual framework
- written visual and oral presentation skills to produce or present analytical reports

- a substantive understanding of the historical and contemporary developments in the national and global setting
- a predisposition towards political involvement or participation in any form

## **ARTICLE V**

### **CURRICULUM**

**SEC. 8. Curriculum description.**—The curriculum for the program includes a set of general education courses, a defined set of core courses that the students are required to take, major tracks that comprise subjects in specific fields of the discipline that the student may wish to focus on or be tracked under, and elective courses taken from other social science degree programs.

The general education courses essentially prepare the students to the study of political science, refining their knowledge of the humanities, developing their reading and language proficiency, and providing requisite quantitative competencies.

However, the courses listed under the General Education shall automatically be considered as revised once a new CMO on General Education is issued by CHED, without the need for additional action on the part of the concerned Technical Panel. The Office of Programs and Standards (OPS) will issue an amendment to this CMO at such time to show the revised curriculum.

**SEC. 9. Curriculum outline.**—Given the difference in school calendars (from semestral, trimestral, quadrimestral), the suggested flow of course for the BA PS program is as follows:

- Completion of general education curriculum, including Fundamentals of Political Science and Introduction to Philippine Politics and Government, within the first three terms of the undergraduate students enrolled in the program (For the core courses, Annex A establishes the sequence of course offerings and prerequisites that must be followed).
- Completion of major and elective courses from the fourth term onwards.

*See CHED MEMORANDUM ORDER (CMO) NO. 31 OF 2011 Table : 108 OG No. 32, 3948 (August 6, 2012)*

#### **SECTION 10. Sample Program of Study**

*See CHED MEMORANDUM ORDER (CMO) NO. 31 OF 2011 Table: Sample Program of Study : 108 OG No. 32, 3949 (August 6, 2012)*

**SECTION 11. Thesis/Research/Project Requirements.** The thesis /research /project requirement may be offered as a separate course or integrated as a requirement in any of the methodology courses and credited as a major course.

**SEC. 12. On-the-Job Training or Practicum Requirements.**—Depending on the thrust of the program, HEIs are given the leeway of requiring a practicum or