

The concepts, skills, and knowledge acquired as part of a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science degree can lead to many diverse career fields, including but not limited to civil service, teaching, law, policy consultant, journalism, non-profit sector management, Foreign Service, politics, and government. Acquired skills include oral, written, and technological communication, critical thinking and problem solving, and quantitative and qualitative analysis. A degree in political science can lead to a Master of Arts and Ph.D. degrees. The Department of Political Science has divided the discipline into four sub fields:

1. U.S. Government & Politics
2. World Politics
3. Political Economy & Public Policy
4. Political Theory

A – GENERAL EDUCATION CORE – 42 HOURS

Students must fulfill the General Education Core requirements. The courses listed below satisfy both degree requirements and General Education core requirements.

Required

020 - Mathematics – 3 hours

MATH 1314 College Algebra

070 - Government/Political Science – 6 hours

POLS 2305 U.S. Federal Government and Politics (or POLS 2385 Honors)

POLS 2306 Texas Government and Politics (or POLS 2386 Honors)

B – MAJOR REQUIREMENTS – 37 HOURS (27 advanced)

1 – Gateway to Political Science – 6 hours

Choose 6 hours from:

POLS 2330 Introduction to Globalization

POLS 2340 Introduction to Political Theory

POLS 2350 Introduction to Political Economy

May choose one:

ECON 2301 Principles of Macroeconomics

ECON 2302 Principles of Microeconomics

2 – Research Methods & Capstone Experience – 7 hours (3 advanced)

POLS 2470 Introduction to Political Science Research

POLS 4370 Senior Research Seminar

3 – Subfield Requirements – 18 hours (18 advanced)

a – U.S. Government and Politics – 6 hours (6 advanced)

i – U.S. Political Institutions & State/Local Politics – 3 hours (3 advanced)

Choose from:

POLS 3310 U.S. State and Local Government

POLS 3311 Contemporary Texas Politics

POLS 3319 Archer Congress, Presidency, and Beyond

POLS 4310 U.S. Judicial Process¹

POLS 4311 U.S. Constitutional Law – Federalism¹

POLS 4312 U.S. Constitutional Law – Civil Liberties¹

POLS 4313 U.S. Legislative Process

POLS 4314 U.S. Executive Process

POLS 4315 U.S. Intelligence Agencies

POLS 4317 Minority Representation in U.S. Political Institutions

POLS 4392 Special Topics in U.S. Government & Politics*

¹ May not be used to satisfy both U.S. Political Institutions & State/Local Politics requirement and a requirement for the Legal Studies minor if selected.

**POLS 4392, 4393, 4394, and 4395 combined may be taken no more than three times for credit, only two of which may be used to satisfy degree requirements.

ii – U.S. Political Groups & Behavior – 3 hours (3 advanced)

Choose from:

POLS 3312 U.S. Political Parties

POLS 3313 U.S. Gender Politics
POLS 3350 Voting Behavior, Campaigns, and Elections
POLS 3351 Interest Groups and Political Movements
POLS 3352 Media and Politics
POLS 4316 U.S. Latin@ Politics
POLS 4350 Political Socialization and Civic Engagement
POLS 4351 Public Opinion and Political Behavior
POLS 4352 U.S. Race and Ethnic Politics
POLS 4353 Race and Gender: The Politics of Intersectionality
POLS 4392 Special Topics in U.S. Government & Politics*
*POLS 4392, 4393, 4394, and 4395 combined may be taken no more than three times for credit, only two of which may be used to satisfy degree requirements.

b – World Politics – 6 hours (6 advanced)

Choose from:

POLS 3321 Comparative Politics of Developing Nations
POLS 3323 Middle Eastern Politics
POLS 3324 Asian Politics
POLS 3330 International Politics
POLS 3331 Global Security
POLS 3332 Revolution and Reform in Developing Nations
POLS 3333 Gender Theory in World Politics
POLS 4320 Latin American Politics
POLS 4321 Central American and Caribbean Politics
POLS 4322 Western European Politics
POLS 4323 Mexican Politics
POLS 4324 Contemporary Chinese Politics
POLS 4326 Globalization and Identity Politics
POLS 4327 Conflict Studies
POLS 4328 Global Political Economy
POLS 4329 Politics of Debt
POLS 4332 International Organizations
POLS 4333 U.S. – Mexico Border Relations
POLS 4393 Special Topics in World Politics*
*POLS 4392, 4393, 4394, and 4395 combined may be taken no more than three times for credit, only two of which may be used to satisfy degree requirements.

c – Political Economy & Public Policy – 3 hours (3 advanced)

Choose from:

POLS 3353 Urban Political Economy
POLS 3355 U.S. Public Policy
POLS 3356 U.S. Economic Policy
POLS 4331 U.S. Foreign Policy
POLS 4354 Immigration, Race, and Citizenship
POLS 4355 U.S. Labor Policy
POLS 4356 U.S. Environmental Policy
POLS 4357 Urban Sustainability
POLS 4360 Class, Power, & the State
POLS 4361 Inequality & the Welfare State
POLS 4362 Money, Politics, & Policy
POLS 4394 Special Topics in Political Economy & Public Policy*
*POLS 4392, 4393, 4394, and 4395 combined may be taken no more than three times for credit, only two of which may be used to satisfy degree requirements.

d – Political Theory – 3 hours (3 advanced)

Choose from:

POLS 3340 Classical Political Theory
POLS 3341 Modern Political Theory
POLS 3342 Contemporary Political Theory

POLS 4340 Politics and Culture
POLS 4341 U.S. Political Theory
POLS 4342 Democratic Theory
POLS 4343 Political Ideologies
POLS 4344 Green Political Theory
POLS 4395 Special Topics in Political Theory*

*POLS 4392, 4393, 4394, and 4395 combined may be taken no more than three times for credit, only two of which may be used to satisfy degree requirements.

4 – Advanced Electives in Political Science – 6 hours (6 advanced)

Choose any course from the Advanced Political Science lists, or:

POLS 3190 Internship
POLS 3390 Independent Study¹
POLS 3391 Archer Internship²
POLS 3392 Archer Policy Process³
POLS 3393 Internship⁴
POLS 3395 Movies and Politics
POLS 4390 Legal Research and Writing I
POLS 4391 Legal Research and Writing II

¹POLS 3390 may be taken no more than twice for credit; topics must be different.

²Only 3 credit hours of POLS 3391 will be accepted to satisfy 3 of the 6 credit-hour requirement.

³Only 3 credit hours of POLS 3392 will be accepted to satisfy 3 of the 6 credit-hour requirement.

⁴Students may take 3 credit hours of POLS 3190 or POLS 3393 to satisfy 3 of the 6 credit-hour requirement.

C – SECOND MAJOR OR MINOR – 41 HOURS (27 advanced)

Credit hours can be used to attain minor and/or second major in a different discipline. After earning enough credit hours for a minor and/or second major in a different discipline, students may choose Political Science Advanced Courses, or a second minor, or use as Advanced Electives in other disciplines.

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS FOR GRADUATION – 120 HOURS

TOTAL ADVANCED HOURS – 54 HOURS

ADMISSION, PROGRESSION, AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, if applicable:

Graduation requirements

1. Students must successfully complete a “capstone experience.” This requirement may be satisfied with POLS 4370 Senior Research Seminar.
2. To obtain a Political Science degree, students must use their remaining 41 credit hours to obtain a minor and/or a second major in a different discipline.
3. In addition to the graduation requirements listed in the UTRGV 2018-2019 Undergraduate Catalog, demonstration of proficiency in a language other than English is required at the undergraduate level equivalent to a minimum of six credit hours. Proficiency can be demonstrated by a college credit exam, a placement test approved through the UTRGV Department of Writing and Language Studies, and/or up to six credit hours of college-level language coursework.