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 six fields:

1. U.S. Government & Politics
2. Comparative Government & Politics
3. International Relations
4. Political Theory
5. Public Policy & Political Behavior
6. Research Methods

To achieve these goals, a student must earn 120 Credit Hours at the University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley. These 120 Credit Hours consist of courses in the General Education Core (Part A: 42 Credit Hours), the Major Requirement (Part B: 36 Credit Hours), and Free Electives (Part C: 42 Credit Hours). To earn a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science students must earn a minor and/or second major in a different discipline.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. To comprehend the origins and evolution of U.S. and Texas political systems, with a focus on the growth of political institutions, the constitutions of the U.S. and Texas, federalism, civil liberties, and civil and human rights.
2. To recognize and assume their responsibility as a citizen in a democratic society by learning to think for themselves, by engaging in public discourse, and by obtaining information through the news media and other appropriate information sources about politics and public policy.
3. To examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods, social structures, and cultures.
4. To develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.
5. To analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on the area under study.

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

Mathematics – 3 hours
MATH 1314 College Algebra

Government/Political Science – 6 hours
POL 2301 US and Texas Government and Politics I (or POLS 2387 Honors)
POL 2302 US and Texas Government and Politics II (or POLS 2388 Honors)

B – MAJOR REQUIREMENTS – 36 HOURS (27 advanced)

1 – Political Science Core – 9 hours

a – Political Science Statistics – 3 hours
POL 2370 Introductory Statistics for Political Science (Recommended: dual enrollment in POLS 3370)
b – Political Science Electives – 6 hours

Choose from:
- POLS 2340 Introduction to Political Theory
- POLS 2350 Political Economy

May choose only one:
- ECON 2301 Principles of Macroeconomics
- ECON 2302 Principles of Microeconomics

2 – Advanced Political Science – 27 hours (27 advanced)

a – US. Government and Politics – 6 hours (6 advanced)

Choose from:
- POLS 3310 U.S. State & Local Government
- POLS 3311 Contemporary Texas Politics
- POLS 3312 U.S. Political Parties
- POLS 3313 U.S. Gender Politics
- POLS 3319 Archer Congress, Presidency, and Beyond
- POLS 4313 U.S. Legislative Process
- POLS 4314 U.S. Executive Process
- POLS 4315 U.S. Intelligence Agencies
- POLS 4316 U.S. Latin@ Politics

Choose one:
- POLS 4310 U.S. Judicial Process
- POLS 4311 U.S. Constitutional Law – Federalism
- POLS 4312 U.S. Constitutional Law – Civil Liberties

b – Comparative Government and Politics – 3 hours (3 advanced)

Choose from:
- POLS 3320 Introduction to Comparative Government & Politics
- POLS 3321 Comparative Politics of Developing Nations
- POLS 3322 European Politics
- POLS 3323 Middle Eastern Politics
- POLS 3324 Asian Politics
- POLS 3325 South American Politics
- POLS 4320 Latin American Politics
- POLS 4321 Central American & Caribbean Politics
- POLS 4322 Western European Politics
- POLS 4323 Mexican Politics
- POLS 4324 Contemporary Chinese Politics

c – International Relations – 3 hours (3 advanced)

Choose from:
- POLS 3330 International Politics
- POLS 3331 Global Security
- POLS 3332 Revolution & Reform in Developing Nations
- POLS 3333 Gender Theory in World Politics
- POLS 4330 Contemporary International Issues
- POLS 4331 U.S. Foreign Policy
- POLS 4332 International Organizations
- POLS 4333 U.S. – Mexico Border Relations

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 & Culture
POLS 4341 U.S. Political Theory

**e – Public Policy and Political Behavior – 3 hours (3 advanced)**

Choose from:

- POLS 3350 Voting Behavior, Campaigns & Elections
- POLS 3351 Interest Groups & Political Movements
- POLS 3352 Media & Politics
- POLS 3353 Urban Politics
- POLS 3355 U.S. Public Policy
- POLS 3356 U.S. Fiscal Policy
- POLS 4350 Political Socialization & Civic Engagement
- POLS 4351 Public Opinion & Political Behavior
- POLS 4352 U.S. Race & Ethnic Politics
- POLS 4353 Race & Gender: The Politics of Intersectionality
- POLS 4354 Immigration, Race & Citizenship
- POLS 4355 U.S. Labor Policy
- POLS 4356 U.S. Environmental Policy

**f – Political Science Research Methods – 3 hours (3 advanced)**

- POLS 3370 Scope & Methods (dual enrollment with POLS 2370 recommended)

**g – 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 Study
- POLS 3391 Archer Internship
- POLS 3392 Archer Policy Process
- POLS 3394 Special Topics in Politics
- POLS 3395 Movies & Politics
- POLS 4390 Legal Research & Writing I
- POLS 4391 Legal Research & Writing II

**C – FREE ELECTIVES – 42 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 by the completion of either: (1) POLS 3190 Internship (3 credit hours) or POLS 3391 Archer Internship, or (2) a “Capstone Eligible” course determined by department.
2. In addition to the graduation requirements listed in the UTRGV 2015-2017 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.