
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*

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 – 36 HOURS (27 advanced)

1 – Political Science Core – 9 hours

a – Political Science Statistics – 3 hours

POLS 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.