

Choose 1	Communication (Core)
Choose 1	Integrative/Experiential Learning Option (Core)
Choose 1	American History (Core)
MATH 1314	College Algebra
Choose 1	Social and Behavioral Sciences (Core)
UNIV 1301	Learning Framework
Choose 1	Communication (Core)
Choose 1	American History (Core)
Choose 1	Government/Political Science (Core)
Choose 1	Life and Physical Sciences (Core)
Choose 1	Creative Arts (Core)

Choose 1	Government/Political Science (Core)
Choose 1	Integrative/Experiential Learning Option (Core)
Choose 1	Language, Philosophy & Culture (Core)
Choose 1	Life and Physical Sciences (Core)
13XX - 43XX	Free Elective
POLS 2370	Introduction to Political Science Research
POLS 23XX	Gateway to Political Science Course
POLS 23XX	Gateway to Political Science Course
POLS 23XX	Gateway to Political Science Course
13XX - 43XX	Free Elective
Choose 1	Life and Physical Sciences (Core)
Choose 1	Government/Political Science (Core)

POLS 33XX/43XX	U.S. Gov./Politics - Institutions/State Subfield
POLS 33XX/43XX	U.S. Gov./Politics - Groups/Behavior Subfield
POLS 33XX/43XX	World Politics Subfield
13XX - 43XX	Free Elective
33XX - 43XX	Free Advanced Elective
POLS 33XX/43XX	World Politics Subfield
POLS 33XX/43XX	World Politics Subfield
POLS 33XX/43XX	World Politics Subfield
13XX - 43XX	Free Elective
33XX - 43XX	Free Advanced Elective

POLS 33/43XX	Advanced/Upper-Division Elective
POLS 33/43XX	Advanced/Upper-Division Elective
POLS 33/43XX	Advanced/Upper-Division Elective
33XX - 43XX	Free Advanced Elective
33XX - 43XX	Free Advanced Elective
33XX - 43XX	Free Advanced Elective
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33XX - 43XX	Free Advanced Elective
33XX - 43XX	Free Advanced Elective

**FIRST YEAR      SECOND YEAR      THIRD YEAR      FOURTH YEAR**

**Additional Info**

- Political Science majors must complete the following courses & requirements to graduate with a B.A. in Political Science.
- POLS 2470 Introduction to Political Science Research (by sophomore year)
  - Any two of the following gateway courses (by sophomore year)
    - POLS 2330 Introduction to Globalization
    - POLS 2340 Introduction to Political Theory
    - POLS 2350 Introduction to Political Economy
  - POLS Upper-Division Subfields:
    - 1 Course in U.S. Political Institutions
    - 1 Course in U.S. Political Groups & Behavior
    - 2 Courses in World Politics
    - 1 Course in Political Economy & Public Policy
    - 1 Course in Political Theory
    - 2 More POLS Courses (may include internships)
  - POLS 4370 Senior Research Seminar (in senior year)
  - Must earn a second major or minor in different discipline
  - Must earn 54 upper-division hours (at least 27 in POLS)

**Contact Info**

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UTRio Grande Valley

**BLUE PRINT**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE (BA)**  
 Catalog: 2017-18  
 COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

**Degree Info**

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

# BLUEPRINT EXPERIENCES

## FIRST YEAR

## SECOND YEAR

## THIRD YEAR

## FOURTH YEAR AND BEYOND

## CAREERS

### MILESTONES

- UTRGV has a Writing Center and a Learning Center. Make it a point to visit them!
- Complete your core English classes (section 010) during your first year.
- Complete 30 credit hours every year in order to graduate in 4 years.
- Shoot for a GPA of 4.0.
- Take MATH 1340 in your first year.

### ADVICE & SUPPORT

- Meet with your academic advisor and bring your orientation folder with you to every session!
- Choose a major with confidence- Visit my.UTRGV.edu and check out the Kuder Journey.
- Visit a faculty member during their office hours and ask a question about class.
- Classes fill up fast. When registration opens, be sure to register on the first day for your group.
- Cold or flu getting you down? We have Student Health Services on campus with free office visits.

### APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN

- Look for a service-learning course! For guidance, visit Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
- Participate in a campus-sponsored community service project.
- Ask a student in class to study with you.
- Set up your profile on the Engagement Zone through My.UTRGV.edu.
- Attend a diversity based campus or community event (e.g. MLK Day of Service).
- Attend a departmental program such as Undergraduate Political Science Association.
- Join a student organization! Consider looking into Undergraduate Political Science Association or visit VLink (utrgv.edu/vlink) for options.

### GLOBAL, CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Create a résumé and set up your profile on the Career Connection icon: (My.UTRGV.edu).
- Got summer plans? Visit Career Center and ask about places to do some job shadowing.
- Research shows that students who work on campus perform better than those who work off campus. Look for a job on the Career Center portal!
- Check your UTRGV email for the daily Messenger- locate and attend one student workshop.

### LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

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- Shoot for a GPA of 4.0.
- Complete major foundation classes, such as POLS 2370 and two of the following: POLS 2230, 2340, 2350
- Complete 30 credit hours.

- Want to explore different careers? Check out Kuder Journey!
- Come ready with course suggestions and questions when you visit your academic advisor.
- Visit the Communication Hauser Lab for help with your speeches.
- Trouble making your tuition payment? The Financial Aid Office can help. Payment plans and emergency loans are also available

- To find undergraduate research opportunities, visit the Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
- Consider attending the LeaderShape Institute or attend the Engaged Scholar Symposium.

- Look at study abroad opportunities! Consider attending a semester at another university in a different country.
- Check out a cultural campus or community event such as HESTEC or FESTIBA.
- Join another student organization. Perhaps from the list at <http://www.utrgv.edu/political-science/undergraduate/student-organizations/index.htm> or visit VLink for options.
- Check out a campus event that offers free lunch-bring a friend!

- Update your resume in Career Connection and have it reviewed.
- Visit the Career Center site to find a job fair to attend. At the event, approach a recruiter and discuss internships.
- Will a minor expand your career options? We recommend any discipline within the Liberal Arts College, such as Philosophy, or Economics in the College of Business.
- Explain to someone how your academic program aligns with your strengths and interests.

- Shoot for a GPA of 4.0.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Have you landed an internship or acquired research experience? This is the year to make it happen.
  - RGV Legislative Internship
  - Austin (State Capitol) Legislative Internship
  - Government Internship
  - Legal Internship

- Seek out research opportunities within your major and join a professional organization such as Model UN Club.
- Check DegreeWorks to make sure you are on track for graduation next year.
- Apply for internship and/or job shadowing opportunities. Discuss this with your advisor, faculty mentor, or Career Center.

- Go show off your research, service-learning or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium!
- Sharpen your writing skills! Take an intensive writing course such as ENGL 3342 or become the secretary for your organization.

- Consider serving on a campus life/community committee or become a student leader and make a difference. Visit VLink or speak with your Student Government Association for more information!
- Travel the world! Look into study abroad opportunities at Office for International Programs & Partnerships.

- Check out the Political Science department website for postings on career/graduate school. <http://www.utrgv.edu/political-science/>
- Think about three people you can ask for letters of recommendation (professors, mentors, advisors, supervisors, etc.). Give them at least two weeks' advance notice!
- When is the deadline for your graduate school application? Visiting the program admissions webpage. Most do not accept late applicants!

- Shoot for a GPA of 4.0.
- "I have a plan for after graduation." If this describes you, great! If not, visit your Faculty Advisor or Career Center!
- Register for your Capstone/senior/portfolio project: POLS 4370 Senior Research Seminar.
- Complete at least 30 credit hours to graduate.
- Submit your application(s) for graduate school, an apprenticeship, or for fulltime employment.

- Engage in an independent study project or an academic internship to complement your major.
- Discuss future plans with your faculty mentor or advisor that includes employment, finances, and other life goals.
- Apply for graduation one semester prior to your anticipated date. Visit the Academic Advising Center to ensure you are on track.

- Continue to present research or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium.
- Set up an informational interview with an individual (especially an alumnus) currently in the field you aspire to work in.

- Identify employers of interest and seek them out at job fairs, online, at on-campus information sessions, staffing agencies, etc. The Career Center can help.
- Before a job interview, schedule a mock interview with the Career Center or speech coaching with the Communication Hauser Lab.

- Have you received your acceptance for graduate school or an employment offer? If not, network: talk to faculty, the Career Center, and get on LinkedIn.
- Formulate and implement a strategy for life after graduation: attend career fairs, graduate fairs, apply to fellowships, etc.
- Update your information with Alumni Relations. Enjoy alumni mixers, events and continued access to Career Center services!
- Remember to do your exit loan counseling on studentloans.gov.

- Public policy
- Urban planning
- City or town management
- Legislative, Executive, or Judicial Services
- Program administration
- General services
- Community affairs
- Social services
- Law enforcement
- Research
- Intelligence
- Foreign service
- Elected or appointed leadership
- Campaign management
- Staff administration
- Special interest advocacy
- Political advising
- Lobbying
- Public relations
- Community organizing
- Government relations

For additional info, visit the Career Center website and check out "What Can I Do With This Major?" [www.utrgv.edu/careercenter](http://www.utrgv.edu/careercenter)