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)
- **POLS 4370 Senior Research Seminar** (in senior year)
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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 subfields:
1. U.S. Government & Politics
2. World Politics
3. Political Economy & Public Policy
4. Political Theory

Contact Info

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Join our Learning Community: [www.utrgv.edu](http://www.utrgv.edu)
**BLUEPRINT EXPERIENCES**

**MILESTONES**

**FIRST YEAR**
- UT Rio Grande Valley 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.

**SECOND YEAR**
- Meet with your academic advisor and bring your orientation folder to every session!
- Choose a major with confidence—Visit my.UTRGV.edu and check MyMajors.
- 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.

**THIRD YEAR**
- 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.

**FOURTH YEAR**
- Complete the major foundation classes, such as POLS 2470 and two of the following: POLS 2230, 2340, 2350.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- 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!

**ADVICE & SUPPORT**

- Research shows that students who work on campus perform better than those who work off campus. Look for a job on Handshake!
- Check your UTRGV email for the daily Messenger—locate and attend one student workshop.

**APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN**

- Complete major foundation classes, such as POLS 2470 and two of the following: POLS 2230, 2340, 2350.
- Complete 30 credit hours.
- Have you landed an internship or acquired research experience? This is the year to make it happen.
- Submit your application(s) for graduate school, an apprenticeship, or for full-time employment.

**GLOBAL, CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- Create a résumé and set up your profile on the Handshake 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 Handshake!
- Check your UTRGV email for the daily Messenger—locate and attend one student workshop.

**LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**

- Update your résumé in Handshake and have it reviewed.
- Visit the Career Center site to find a job 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.

- Check out the Political Science department website for postings on career/graduate school.
- 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 applications!

- "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/Intensive 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 full-time employment.

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**CAREERS**

- 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