

Department/School: POLITICAL SCIENCE

Vision: Political Science is the study of governments and political processes, political behavior, political ideologies, and public policy. Political scientists use a variety of methodological approaches, perspectives, and concepts to examine the political dynamics of all countries and regions of the world. (see, <https://www.utrgv.edu/political-science/>).

Mission: Political Science majors and minors at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley acquire a broad understanding of the political science discipline, while developing transferable skills in oral, written, and technological communication, critical thinking, problem solving, and research, including both quantitative and qualitative analysis. The Department of Political Science expects students to integrate the development of their knowledge and skills with other university and college programs, particularly those that facilitate active community engagement and informed citizenship. (see, <https://www.utrgv.edu/political-science/>).

PROFILE

Majors: B.A. Political Science

Graduate Programs: M.A. Political Science

Students

- Number of Students: 363 majors
- Characteristics: N/A

Faculty

- Number of Faculty: 36
- Ranks: Professors 4; Associate Prof. 7; Assistant Prof. 10; Lecturers 8; Part-Time 5; Teaching Assistants 2

Campus Program Offering

100% of program is available at both campuses (*face-to-face, online, hybrid, or ITV*)

100% of program in the first 2 years of study per major map is available at both campuses (*face-to-face, online, hybrid, ITV*)

100% of program in the upper division are available at both campuses (*face-to-face, online, hybrid, ITV*)

33% of graduate program is available at Brownsville campus and 100% at Edinburg campuses (*face-to-face, online, hybrid, ITV*)

Note: While 100% of the degree program is available on both campuses, many upper-division courses in Brownsville will only be offered once per year instead of every semester. Consequently, Brownsville students are advised to regularly consult the department's 4-year course schedule posted on the department's website.

Stats & Highlights:

- The UTRGV Department of Political Science is the 2nd largest political science department in the UT System (by number of faculty).
- The UTRGV Department of Political Science has awarded 56% (216) of all POLS bachelor's degrees awarded by universities in South Texas since 2015.
- The UTRGV Department of Political Science faculty has published 7 books and 86 journal articles since 2015 (see, <https://www.utrgv.edu/political-science/whats-news/faculty-books/index.htm>).
- The UTRGV Department of Political Science faculty is interviewed, mentioned, or cited more than 100 times annually by newspapers, television and radio stations, including international and national outlets, such as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, and CNN (<https://www.utrgv.edu/political-science/whats-news/faculty-students-in-the-news/index.htm>).
- The UTRGV Department of Political Science faculty has testified 15 times before committees of the U.S. Congress, Gubernatorial Offices, and numerous state legislatures since 2015.

Success Stories/"Bragging":

- 10 Political Science majors were selected for the Rio Grande Valley Legislative Internship Program (VLIP) and spent the Spring 2019 semester as interns at the State Capitol during the 86th Texas Legislative Session.
- 3 POLS majors were selected as Archer Fellows in AY 2018-2019, where they spent a semester taking classes, and serving as interns, in Washington, D.C.
- POLS major Erika Gonzalez selected as one of 15 nationwide for participation in the American Political Science Association's Ralph Bunche Summer Institute at Duke University in Durham, N.C. for summer 2019. She also presented a research paper at the Annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association.
- POLS major Jillian Glantz participated in the IGNITE Young Women Run D.C. 3rd Annual National Conference in Washington, D.C., June 24-26, 2019, which is designed to encourage young women to seek elective office. While in D.C., she submitted her documentary, "Remember my Soul," to the Library of Congress.
- POLS major Natalie Manzanares was selected to attend New Leadership Texas in June 2019, which is convened to empower young women in politics.
- Caesar Villegas, a POLS graduate student, presented a paper at the 2019 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association

Traditions:

- **Political Science Colloquium** – convened on a Friday once per month for the purpose of allowing faculty and students to hear research findings of department faculty and internationally recognized faculty from across the country.

Mantra/Slogan: "Politics is the Queen of the Sciences." (Aristotle)