

BLUEPRINT EXPERIENCES

FIRST YEAR

SECOND YEAR

THIRD YEAR

FOURTH YEAR AND BEYOND

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.

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

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- 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

- 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.

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 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.

- Want to explore different careers? Check out MyMajors!
- 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

- 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.

- 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.

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.

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

- 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.

- 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.

GLOBAL, CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 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.

- 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!

- 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.

- 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.

LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

- 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.

- Update your resume in Handshake 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.

- 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!

- 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.

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