School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences

Political Science (B.A.)

Political Science involves the study of interesting and important topics about citizenship, government and politics. These topics include the influence of citizens on what government does, the scope, responsibilities and effectiveness of government itself, and the activities of both elected and appointed public officials. These topics are important parts of what political scientists know about American government and politics, comparative government and politics, international relations, political behavior, political economy, political institutions, and political theory. Political scientists and public administrators pay particular attention to the design, implementation, and evaluation of laws and public policies that may affect people's well-being.

The Political Science Program at The University of Texas at Dallas provides:

- the foundations for more advanced, graduate study of citizenship, government and politics in Political Science;
- the special core knowledge needed for subsequent professional education in law and public policy analysis;
- the opportunity to acquire useful skills for careers in federal, state, and local government, community service, educational and other nonprofit organizations, and business firms.

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Degree Requirements (120 semester credit hours)

I. Core Curriculum Requirements[1]: 42 semester credit hours

Communication (6 semester credit hours)

3 semester credit hours Communication (RHET 1302)

3 semester credit hours Communication Elective (PSCI 3325, PSCI 4307 or PSCI 4360)[2]

Social and Behavioral Sciences (15 semester credit hours)

6 semester credit hours Government (GOVT 2301 and GOVT 2302)

6 semester credit hours American History (HIST 1301 and HIST 1302)

3 semester credit hours Social and Behavioral Sciences Elective (SOC 1301, CRIM 1301, ECON 2301, or ECON 2302)[2]

Humanities and Fine Arts (6 semester credit hours)

3 semester credit hours Fine Arts (ARTS 1301)

3 semester credit hours Humanities (HUMA 1301)

Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning (6 semester credit hours)

3 semester credit hours Mathematics (at or above level of College Algebra, recommended: MATH 1306 or 1314)

4 semester credit hours Quantitative Reasoning (EPPS 3405)[2, 3]

Science (9 semester credit hours including at least one course with a substantial laboratory component)

II. Major Requirements: 55 semester credit hours

Major Preparatory Courses (1 semester credit hours beyond Core Curriculum)[2]

GOVT 2301 Constitutional Foundations and Political Behavior in the U.S. and Texas[2]

GOVT 2302 Political Institutions in the U.S. and Texas[2]

PSCI 3325 American Public Policy[2]

or PSCI 4307 Predicting Politics[2]

or PSCI 4360 The Political Economy of Multinational Corporations[2]

EPPS 3405 Introduction to Social Statistics with Lab[2, 3]

One of the following:

CRIM 1301 Introduction to Criminal Justice[2]

ECON 2301 Principles of Macroeconomics[2]

ECON 2302 Principles of Microeconomics[2]

SOC 1301 Introduction to Sociology[2]

Major Core Courses (18 semester credit hours)

PSCI 3301 Political Theory

PSCI 3322 Constitutional Law

PSCI 3333 Political Behavior

PSCI 3362 The American Political Institutions

PSCI 4329 Global Politics

One of the following:

CRIM 3301 Theories of Justice

PSCI 3303 Civil Liberties

PSCI 3326 Politics and Business

PSCI 3364 Campaigns and Elections

PSCI 4364 Civil Rights Law and Society

Major Related Courses (36 semester credit hours)

36 semester credit hours Major and Related electives[4]

III. Elective Requirements: 23 semester credit hours

Advanced Electives (6 semester credit hours)

All students are required to take at least six semester credit hours of advanced electives outside their major field of study. These must be either upper-division classes or lower-division classes that have prerequisites.

Free Electives (17 semester credit hours)

This requirement may be satisfied with lower- and upper-division courses from any field of study. Students must complete at least 51 semester credit hours of upper-division credit to qualify for graduation.

Minor in Political Science (18 semester credit hours)

For a minor in Political Science, students must take GOVT 2301 and GOVT 2302. In addition students must take four upper-division courses with a PSCI prefix with the exception of PSCI 4V76, PSCI 4V97, PSCI 4V98, and PSCI 4V99.

1. Curriculum Requirements can be fulfilled by other approved courses from accredited institutions of higher education. The courses listed in parentheses are the most efficient way to satisfy both Core Curriculum and Major Requirements at UT Dallas.
2. A Core Curriculum Requirement that also fulfills a Major Requirement. Semester credit hours are counted in the Core Curriculum.
3. Three semester credit hours are counted under Quantitative Reasoning core, and one semester credit hour is counted under Major Preparatory Courses.
4. Most students take upper-division PSCI courses. However, subject to advisor approval, courses from other disciplines may be used to satisfy this requirement.

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