

School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences

Public Affairs (B.S.)

The Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs is intended for individuals called upon to manage in the arenas of government, nonprofits, or business. These generalist managers must synthesize many forms of knowledge derived from government, economics, sociology, and other fields, and must apply that knowledge creatively to meet the varied and multiple challenges of public administration. The ability to understand the substance of policy and program issues; the ability to grasp the administrative, political, and ethical implications imbedded in them; and the ability then to act upon the issues with effect, together define the worth of contemporary managers.

The Public Affairs program promotes acquisition of knowledge and skills essential to the tasks of identification, analysis, design implementation, supervision, evaluation, communication, and other key functions that are integral components of management careers in federal, state, and local governments; criminal justice; in social service, education, community development, arts and other nonprofit organizations; and in business firms.

Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs

Degree Requirements (120 semester credit hours)

I. Core Curriculum Requirements¹: 42 semester credit hours

Communication (6 semester credit hours)

3 semester credit hours Communication ([RHET 1302](#))

3 semester credit hours Communication Elective ([PA 3377](#))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](#), [SOC 2319](#), [CRIM 1301](#), or [CRIM 1307](#))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 [MATH 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: 49 semester credit hours

Major Preparatory Courses (4 semester credit hours beyond Core Curriculum)

[ECON 2301](#) Principles of Macroeconomics

or [ECON 2302](#) Principles of Microeconomics

[EPPS 3405](#) Introduction to Social Statistics with Lab^{2, 3}

Major Core Courses (18 semester credit hours)

[PA 3304](#) Research Methods in Public Administration

[PA 3310](#) Public Administration

[PA 3333](#) Human Resources Management

[PA 4312](#) Organizations

[PA 4360](#) Ethics in Public Administration

[PA 4340](#) Creating High Performance Organizations

Major Related Courses (27 semester credit hours)

27 semester credit hours Major and Related electives⁴

III. Elective Requirements: 29 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 (23 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 Public Affairs (18 semester credit hours)

For a minor in Public Affairs, students must take [PA/PSCI 3310](#), [PA 3333](#), [PA 4312](#), and any nine semester credit hours of upper-division classes with a PA prefix with the exception of [PA 4V97](#), [PA 4V98](#), and [PA 4V99](#) or from the following list of courses: [ECON 4320](#), [ECON 4330](#), [GEOG 3370](#), [PSCI 3326](#).

Minor in Public Health (18 semester credit hours)

For a minor in Public Health, students must take the following: [SOC 4369](#), [SOC 4384](#), [SOC 4385](#), and nine semester credit hours of the following upper-division electives, [ECON 3330](#), [GEOG 3357](#), [GEOG 3372](#), [HIST 3328](#), [HLTH 1322](#), [HTLH 3301](#), [HTLH 3305](#), [HTLH 3310](#), [HTLH 4380](#), [HGMT 4301](#), [ISIS 3315](#), [PSCI 4365](#), [PSY 4328](#), [PSY 4346](#), [SOC 4357](#), [SOC 4371](#), [SOC 4372](#), [SOC 4377](#), or [SPAN 3341](#).

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 Major requirement that also fulfills a Core Curriculum requirement. Semester credit hours are counted in 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 PA courses. However, subject to advisor approval, courses from other disciplines may be used to satisfy this requirement.

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