School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences

Political Science (BA)

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)¹

Faculty


Clinical Professor: Linda Camp Keith

Associate Professors: Patrick T. Brandt, Clint W. Peinhardt, Idean Salehyan

Clinical Associate Professors: Brian Beary, Karl K. Ho

Assistant Professors: Jonas Bunte, Vito D'Orazio, Banks P. Miller

I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 semester credit hours²

Communication: 6 semester credit hours
**COMM 1311** Survey of Oral and Technology-based Communication  
**RHET 1302** Rhetoric

**Mathematics: 3 semester credit hours**  
**MATH 1314** College Algebra

**Life and Physical Sciences: 6 semester credit hours**  
Select any 6 semester credit hours from Life and Physical Sciences core courses (see advisor)

**Language, Philosophy and Culture: 3 semester credit hours**  
Select any 3 semester credit hours from Language, Philosophy and Culture core courses (see advisor)

**Creative Arts: 3 semester credit hours**  
Select any 3 semester credit hours from Creative Arts core courses (see advisor)

**American History: 6 semester credit hours**  
Select any 6 semester credit hours from American History core courses (see advisor)

**Government / Political Science: 6 semester credit hours**  
**GOVT 2305** American National Government
**GOVT 2306** State and Local Government

**Social and Behavioral Sciences: 3 semester credit hours**  
Choose one course from the following:  
**CRIM 1301** Introduction to Criminal Justice  
**ECON 2301** Principles of Macroeconomics  
**ECON 2302** Principles of Microeconomics  
**SOC 1301** Introduction to Sociology

**Component Area Option: 6 semester credit hours**  
**EPPS 2301** Research Design in the Social and Policy Sciences  
And choose one course from the following:  
**EPPS 2302** Methods of Quantitative Analysis in the Social and Policy Sciences  
**EPPS 2303** Descriptive and Inferential Statistics for the Social and Policy Sciences
II. Major Requirements: 57 semester credit hours

**Major Preparatory Courses:** 0 semester credit hours beyond Core Curriculum

- **GOVT 2305** American National Government
- **GOVT 2306** State and Local Government

And choose one course from the following:

- **EPPS 2302** Methods of Quantitative Analysis in the Social and Policy Sciences
- **EPPS 2303** Descriptive and Inferential Statistics for the Social and Policy Sciences

**Major Core Courses:** 18 semester credit hours

**Required Core Courses:** 9 semester credit hours

- **PSCI 3322** Constitutional Law
- **PSCI 3333** Political Behavior
- **PSCI 3362** The American Political Institutions

Choose two courses from the following: 6 semester credit hours

- **PSCI 3301** Political Theory
- **PSCI 3328** International Relations
- **PSCI 3350** Comparative Politics
- **PSCI 4329** Global Politics

Choose one course from the following: 3 semester credit hours

- **PSCI 3325** American Public Policy
- **PSCI 4307** Predicting Politics
- **PSCI 4360** The Political Economy of Multinational Corporations

**Major Related Courses:** 39 semester credit hours

- 39 semester credit hours Major and Related electives

III. Elective Requirements: 21 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 courses to qualify for graduation.
1. Incoming freshmen must enroll and complete requirements of UNIV 1010 and the corresponding school-related freshman seminar course. Students, including transfer students, who complete their core curriculum at UT Dallas must take UNIV 2020.

2. Curriculum Requirements can be fulfilled by other approved courses from institutions of higher education. The courses listed are recommended as the most efficient way to satisfy both Core Curriculum and Major Requirements at UT Dallas.

3. A Core Curriculum Requirement that also fulfills a Major Requirement. Semester credit hours are counted in the Core Curriculum.

4. Most students take upper-division PSCI courses. However, subject to advisor approval, courses from other disciplines may be used to satisfy this requirement.