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 hours)

I. Core Curriculum Requirements¹: 42 hours

Communication (6 hours)

3 hours Communication (RHET 1302)
3 hours Communication Elective (PA 3377)²

Social and Behavioral Sciences (15 hours)

6 hours Government (GOVT 2301 and GOVT 2302)
6 hours American History (HIST 1301 and HIST 1302)
3 hours Social and Behavioral Sciences Elective (SOC 1301, SOC 2319, CRIM 1301, or CRIM 1307)²

Humanities and Fine Arts (6 hours)

3 hours Fine Arts (ARTS 1301)
3 hours Humanities (HUMA 1301)
Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning (6 hours)

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

4 hours Quantitative Reasoning (EPPS 3405)

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

II. Major Requirements: 49 hours

Major Preparatory Courses (4 hours beyond Core Curriculum)

ECON 2301 Principles of Macroeconomics
or ECON 2302 Principles of Microeconomics
EPPS 3405 Introduction to Social Statistics with Lab

Major Core Courses (18 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 hours)

27 hours Major and Related electives

III. Elective Requirements: 29 hours

Advanced Electives (6 hours)

All students are required to take at least six 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 hours)

This requirement may be satisfied with lower- and upper-division courses from any field of study. Students must complete at least 51 hours of upper-division credit to qualify for graduation.
Minor in Public Affairs (18 hours)

For a minor in Public Affairs, students must take 
PA/PSCI 3310, PA 3333, PA 4312, and any nine semester 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 hours)

For a minor in Public Health, students must take the following: SOC 4369, SOC 4384, SOC 4385, and nine hours of the following upper-division electives, ECON 3330, GEOG 3357, GEOG 3372, HIST 3328, HLTH 1322, HLTH 3301, HLTH 3305, HLTH 3310, HLTH 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. Hours are counted in Core Curriculum.

3. Three hours are counted under Quantitative Reasoning core, and one 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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