School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences

Public Affairs (BS)

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 embedded 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]¹

I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 hours²

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

Mathematics: 3 semester credit hours
One of the following:
- MATH 1306 College Algebra for the Non-Scientist
- 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

One of the following:

- HUMA 1301 Exploration of the Humanities
- LIT 2331 Masterpieces of World Literature
- PHIL 1301 Introduction to Philosophy
- PHIL 2316 History of Philosophy I
- PHIL 2317 History of Philosophy II

Creative Arts: 3 semester credit hours

- ARTS 1301 Exploration of the Arts

American History: 6 semester credit hours

- HIST 1301 U.S. History Survey to Civil War
- HIST 1302 U.S. History Survey from Civil War

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

- PA 2325 Introduction to Public Service

Component Area Option: 6 semester credit hours

- EPPS 2301 Research Design in the Social and Policy Sciences

And one of 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: 48 semester credit hours

Major Preparatory Courses: 3 hours beyond Core Curriculum

- ECON 2301 Principles of Macroeconomics
  or ECON 2302 Principles of Microeconomics
Major Core Courses: 18 semester credit hours

PA 3306 Advanced Research and Writing for the Policy Sciences
 or PA 3381 Field Research Methods
PA 3310 Public Administration
PA 3333 Human Resources Management
PA 3380 Organizations and Management in the Public Sector
PA 4340 Creating High Performance Organizations
PA 4350 Politics of Bureaucracy

Major Related Courses: 27 semester credit hours

27 semester credit hours Major and Related electives

III. Elective Requirements: 30 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 complete and pass UNIV 1010 Freshman Seminar 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. Most students take upper-division PA courses. However, subject to advisor approval, courses from other disciplines may be used to satisfy this requirement.