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]

I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 hours

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
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.