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

*View an Example of Degree Requirements by Semester*

Faculty


*Associate Professors:* Banks P. Miller, Clint W. Peinhardt

*Clinical Associate Professor:* Karl K. Ho

*Assistant Professors:* Jonas Bunte, Vito D’Orazio, Thomas Gray, Lauren Ratliff Santoro

1. 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
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: 15 semester credit hours

Required Core Courses: 6 semester credit hours

- **PSCI 3322** Constitutional Law
- **PSCI 3333** Political Behavior

Choose three courses from the following: 9 semester credit hours

- **PSCI 3301** Political Theory
- **PSCI 3328** International Relations
- **PSCI 3350** Comparative Politics
- **PSCI 4329** Global Politics
- **PSCI 3362** The American Political Institutions

Major Related Courses: 42 semester credit hours

42 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.
Minor in Political Science: 18 semester credit hours

**Required Courses: 6 semester credit hours**

[GOVT 2305](#) American National Government

[GOVT 2306](#) State and Local Government

**Upper-Division Courses: 12 semester credit hours**

Any upper-division courses with a PSCI prefix except [PSCI 4V76](#), [PSCI 4V97](#), [PSCI 4V98](#) and [PSCI 4V99](#).

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.