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]

View an Example of Degree Requirements by Semester

Faculty

Professor: Doug Goodman, L. Douglas Kiel
Clinical Professors: Donald R. Arbuckle, John R. McCaskill
Associate Professors: R. Paul Battaglio Jr., Young-joo Lee, Sarah Maxwell, Meghna Sabharwal
Assistant Professors: Evgenia Gorina, James R. Harrington
Senior Lecturers: Teodoro Benavides, Galia Cohen

I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 semester credit hours

Communication: 6 semester credit hours

Choose two courses from the following:

COMM 1311 Survey of Oral and Technology-based Communication
RHET 1302 Rhetoric
ECS 3390 Professional and Technical Communication

Mathematics: 3 semester credit hours
Choose one course from 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
Choose one course from 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
Choose one course from the following:
   AHST 1303 Survey of Western Art History: Ancient to Medieval
   AHST 1304 Survey of Western Art History: Renaissance to Modern
   ARTS 1301 Exploration of the Arts

American History: 6 semester credit hours
Choose two courses from the following:
   HIST 1301 U.S. History Survey to Civil War
   HIST 1302 U.S. History Survey from Civil War
   HIST 2330 Themes and Ideas from American History

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$^3, 4$

Component Area Option: 6 semester credit hours

EPPS 2301  Research Design in the Social and Policy Sciences$^3, 4$

And choose one course from the following:

EPPS 2302  Methods of Quantitative Analysis in the Social and Policy Sciences$^3, 4$
EPPS 2303  Descriptive and Inferential Statistics for the Social and Policy Sciences$^3, 4$

II. Major Requirements: 48 semester credit hours

Major Preparatory Courses: 3 semester credit hours beyond Core Curriculum

ECON 2301  Principles of Macroeconomics
or ECON 2302  Principles of Microeconomics
EPPS 2301  Research Design in the Social and Policy Sciences$^3, 4$
EPPS 2302  Methods of Quantitative Analysis in the Social and Policy Sciences$^3, 4$
or EPPS 2303  Descriptive and Inferential Statistics for the Social and Policy Sciences$^3, 4$
PA 2325  Introduction to Public Service$^3, 4$

Major Core Courses: 24 semester credit hours

PA 3306  Advanced Research and Writing for the Policy Sciences
PA 3310  Public Management
PA 3333  Human Resources Management
PA 3378  Public Finance and Economics
PA 3380  Organizations: Theory and Behavior
PA 4340  Creating High Performance Organizations
PA 4350  Public Agencies, Management and Ethics
PA 4355  Management of Nonprofit Organizations

Major Related Courses: 21 semester credit hours

21 semester credit hours Major and Related electives$^5$
III. Elective Requirements: 30 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 Public Affairs: 18 semester credit hours

Required Courses: 6 semester credit hours

PA 3310 or PSCI 3310 Public Management
PA 3333 Human Resources Management

Upper-Division Courses: 12 semester credit hours

Any upper-division course with a PA prefix with the exception of PA 4V97, PA 4V98, and PA 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 Major requirement that also fulfills a Core Curriculum requirement. Semester credit hours are counted in Core Curriculum.

4. Prerequisite course to upper-division PA courses.

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