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

View an Example of Degree Requirements by Semester

Faculty

Professor: R. Paul Battaglio Jr., Doug Goodman, L. Douglas Kiel
Clinical Professors: Donald R. Arbuckle, John R. McCaskill
Associate Professors: 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 hours²

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

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
   EPPS 2303  Descriptive and Inferential Statistics for the Social and Policy Sciences

II. Major Requirements: 57 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

   EPPS 2302  Methods of Quantitative Analysis in the Social and Policy Sciences
   or  EPPS 2303  Descriptive and Inferential Statistics for the Social and Policy Sciences

   PA 2325  Introduction to Public Service

Major Core Courses: 24 semester credit hours

   PA 3306  Advanced Research and Writing for the Policy Sciences

   PA 3310  Managing Government Organizations

   PA 3333  Human Resources Management: Leading a Diverse Workforce

   PA 3378  Public Finance and Economics

   PA 3380  Organizations: Theory and Behavior

   PA 4355  Managing Nonprofit Organizations

   PA 4370  Leadership, Democracy, and Ethics

   PA 4390  Capstone - Social Entrepreneurship: Leading Change

Major Related Courses: 30 semester credit hours

30 semester credit hours of Major and Related electives
15 semester credit hours of which must come from the following:

- **PA 3314** Financial Management
- **PA 3379** Diversity in the Public
- **PA 3382** Sustainable Communities
- **PA 4345** Negotiations and Conflict Resolution
- **PA 4351** Managing the Urban Environment
- **PA 4352** Emerging Communications Strategies in Public Service Organizations
- **PA 4350** Public Agencies, Management, and Ethics

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 Public Affairs: 18 semester credit hours**

**Required Courses: 6 semester credit hours**

- **PA 3310** or **PSCI 3310** Managing Government Organizations
- **PA 3333** Human Resources Management: Leading a Diverse Workforce

**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.