

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. Students develop an understanding of the political, economic, and social factors that influence decision-making in government and nonprofit organizations.

The Public Affairs program promotes the 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; social service, education, community development, arts, and other nonprofit organizations; and business firms.

Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs

[Degree Requirements](#) (120 semester credit hours)¹

[View an Example of Degree Requirements by Semester](#)

Faculty

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Professor: Abraham Benavides, Meghna Sabharwal

Associate Professors: Evgenia Gorina, James R. Harrington, Sarah Maxwell

Assistant Professors: Allison Russell, Elizabeth Searing

Professor Emeritus: L. Douglas Kiel

Clinical Professor: John R. McCaskill

Associate Professor of Practice: Teodoro Benavides

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

Or select any 6 semester credit hours from [Communication Core](#) courses (see advisor)

Mathematics: 3 semester credit hours

Choose one course from the following:

[MATH 1306](#) College Algebra for the Non-Scientist

[MATH 1314](#) College Algebra

Or select any 3 semester credit hours from [Mathematics Core](#) courses (see advisor)

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 3 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

Or select any 6 semester credit hours from [Government/Political Science Core](#) courses (see

advisor)

Social and Behavioral Sciences: 3 semester credit hours

[PA 2325](#) Introduction to Public and Nonprofit Management_{3, 4}

Or select any 3 semester credit hours from [Social and Behavioral Sciences Core](#) courses (see advisor)

Component Area Option: 6 semester credit hours

[EPPS 2301](#) Research Design in the Social and Policy Sciences_{3, 4, 5}

[EPPS 2302](#) Methods of Quantitative Analysis in the Social and Policy Sciences_{3, 4, 5}

Or select any 6 semester credit hours from [Component Area Option Core](#) courses (see advisor)

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_{3, 4, 5}

[EPPS 2302](#) Methods of Quantitative Analysis in the Social and Policy Sciences_{3, 4, 5}

[PA 2325](#) Introduction to Public and Nonprofit Management_{3, 4}

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 electives⁶

15 semester credit hours of which must come from the following:

[PA 3314](#) Financial Management

[PA 3379](#) Diversity in the Public Sector

[PA 3382](#) Sustainable Communities

[PA 4345](#) Negotiation and Conflict Resolution

[PA 4351](#) Managing the Urban Environment

[PA 4350](#) Public and Nonprofit Agencies, Management and Ethics

[PA 4386](#) Health and Social Policy

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. The Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs degree requires EPPS 2301 and 2302 as a requirement or as a prerequisite for another required course which makes it a necessity to take both courses as soon as is prudent in a student's academic career. Otherwise students run the risk of falling behind in their time to graduation.
6. Most students take upper-division PA courses. However, subject to advisor approval, courses from other disciplines may be used to satisfy this requirement.

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