

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

About This Program

The Bachelor of Arts in Political Science aims to maximize students' capacities to analyze and interpret political events and governmental processes. In addition to acquiring general knowledge about government and political behavior, students also learn the analytical skills relevant to particular political systems (their own and others'), and to problems of most immediate consequence and concern to them.

The major courses are designed to present a coherent portrait of the discipline. Students begin with a general introduction to national, state, and local politics followed by a required course in research methods and political analysis. Finally, students are exposed to four major areas of the discipline. The department also offers options for students who desire a concentration in American Politics, International Studies, Law and Courts, and Public Policy. Students may choose any 18 hours (6 advanced) for a minor. Those who want a specialization may concentrate courses in any of these areas: public law; policy and administration; comparative and international politics; American national government; political parties, group politics, and elections.

The political science student is exposed to a multifaceted and highly regarded faculty, many of whom have received regional and national honors for teaching, service, and research. Upon graduation, UT Arlington political science majors are prepared to compete for a wide variety of jobs in both the private and public sectors.

Competencies

1. Upon completion, students will be able to identify and describe political structures, rules, behaviors, and environments which shape political action.
2. Upon completion, students will be able to explain and employ statistical and methodological techniques to analyze information.
3. Upon completion, students will be able to identify, comprehend, and apply comparative, theoretical, or conceptual approaches to actors and their policies.
4. Upon completion, students will be able to develop the ability to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate political phenomena.

Admissions Criteria

Students should have completed 30 hours of core with 30 hours at UT Arlington, or 40 hours of core with 12 hours at UT Arlington with an overall GPA greater than 2.0. Students may be accepted as pre-political science majors if the above standards are not met.

Curriculum

Foundations

General Core Requirements (<https://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/degree requirements/generalcore requirements/>) 42

Students must complete specific classes in certain core areas.

For Communication select:

ENGL 1301 & ENGL 1302	RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION I and RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION II
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For Mathematics select:

MATH 1301	CONTEMPORARY MATHEMATICS (or MATH 1302)
MATH 1308	ELEMENTARY STATISTICAL ANALYSIS (or MATH 1309)

For U.S. History select:

HIST 1301	HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES TO 1865
HIST 1302	HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, 1865 TO PRESENT

Political Science Foundations

UNIV 1131	STUDENT SUCCESS (or UNIV 1101)	1
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Select 6 hours in social or cultural anthropology; archaeology; social/political/cultural geography; economics; criminal justice; psychology; sociology; gender, women & sexuality studies.	6
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Select 6 hours of English literature from the following:	6
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ENGL 2303	TOPICS IN LITERATURE
ENGL 2309	WORLD LITERATURE
ENGL 2319	BRITISH LITERATURE
ENGL 2329	AMERICAN LITERATURE

Another ENGL course approved by advisor

Select 1441 and 1442 in any modern or classical language	8
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Political Science Specialization

The following general education requirements must be completed as preparation for work in the major:

POLS 2311	GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES	
POLS 2312	STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
POLS 3310	RESEARCH METHODS AND POLITICAL ANALYSIS (or equivalent)	3
Select one course from each of the following areas:		12
Area I: American Politics		
POLS 3306	LEGISLATIVE ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE	
POLS 3307	COMPARATIVE STATE AND LOCAL POLITICS	
POLS 3311	PUBLIC OPINION	
POLS 4316	WOMEN IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS	
POLS 4317	ETHNIC GROUP POLITICS IN THE UNITED STATES	
POLS 4318	POLITICS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS	
POLS 4319	POLITICS OF MEXICAN AMERICANS	
POLS 4320	CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, CIVIL SOCIETY, AND COMMUNITY	
POLS 4326	ELECTION STRATEGY AND CAMPAIGN MANAGEMENT	
POLS 4330	THE U.S. PRESIDENCY	
POLS 4333	PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP IN DOMESTIC POLICY MAKING	
Area II: International Studies		
POLS 3301	INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL ISSUES	
POLS 3302	INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	
POLS 3304	INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS	
POLS 3317	MEXICAN POLITICS AND U.S.-MEXICO RELATIONS	
POLS 3319	CAUSES OF WAR	
POLS 3328	INTRODUCTION TO MIDDLE EAST POLITICS	
POLS 3378	LATINO POLITICS	
POLS 3379	LATINO POLITICAL THOUGHT	
POLS 4311	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY	
POLS 4312	INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	
POLS 4336	CONTEMPORARY UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY	
POLS 4359	CITIZENSHIP IN THE AMERICAS	
POLS 4360	THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	
POLS 4361	WAR, PEACE, AND POLITICS IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION	
POLS 4362	RUSSIA AND THE POST-SOVIET STATES TODAY	
POLS 4365	RUSSIAN FOREIGN POLICY	
POLS 4369	THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT	
POLS 4370	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST	
POLS 4371	THE POLITICS AND FOREIGN POLICY OF ISRAEL	
POLS 4372	VIOLENCE AND SCARCITY IN WORLD POLITICS	
POLS 4373	POLITICS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW	
POLS 4375	SCIENCE FICTION AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	
Area III: Law & Courts		
POLS 3330	JUDICIAL POLITICS	
POLS 3331	CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN CIVIL LIBERTIES	
POLS 3333	JURISPRUDENCE AND CONSTITUTIONAL CONFLICT	
POLS 3336	STATE COURTS	
POLS 4331	U.S. CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: GOVERNMENT POWER	
POLS 4332	U.S. CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS	
Area IV: Public Policy		
POLS 3303	BUREAUCRATIC POLITICS	
POLS 3305	GOVERNMENT IN URBAN AMERICA	
POLS 3309	HEALTH POLITICS, POLICY, AND ADVOCACY	
POLS 3312	INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS	
POLS 4303	PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND THE POLITICAL PROCESS	

POLS 4321	POLICY ENTREPRENEURSHIP
POLS 4340	FEDERAL SOCIAL POLICY
POLS 4350	HEALTH POLITICS AND POLICY
Optional Concentration	
Student may concentrate by completing 12-21 hours in one of the following areas:	
American Politics	
Select 12 hours from Area I: American Politics	
International Studies	
Select 12 hours from Area II: International Studies	
Law & Courts	
Select 12 hours from Area III: Law & Courts	
And select 3 from the following:	
COMS 3310	GROUP COMMUNICATION THEORY
CRCJ 4301	THE AMERICAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM
ENGL 4371	ADVANCED ARGUMENTATION
HIST 3330	U.S. LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY, COLONIAL TO 1877
HIST 3331	U.S. LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY, 1877 TO PRESENT
HIST 4330	GREAT ANGLO-AMERICAN TRIALS
HIST 4331	U.S. CIVIL LIBERTIES
HIST 4359	BRITISH CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY
PHIL 1301	FUNDAMENTALS OF REASONING
PHIL 2311	LOGIC
PHIL 3320	PHILOSOPHY OF LAW
SOCI 3313	CRIMINOLOGY
SOCI 3357	LAW AND SOCIETY
BLAW 3311	LAW I
BLAW 3312	LAW II
Public Policy	
Select 12 hours from Area IV: Public Policy	
Select electives sufficient to complete 120 hours (with at least 36 at the 3000/4000 level). Complete at least 36 hours in POLS (with at least 12 hours at the 3000/4000) level ¹	
Total Hours	120

¹ The 36 hours to include POLS 2311 and POLS 2312.

OPTIONAL CONCENTRATION

A concentration provides the student with a focused, systematic, and in-depth educational experience in the context of a broad liberal arts education. Students may declare a specific area of concentration by filing a statement of intent with the Political Science Department. The area of concentration will require that the student complete the requirements for the general degree plan while also fulfilling certain requirements for the concentration. All students will receive the BA in Political Science. Those completing the selected specialization will also receive recognition of completion.

ORAL COMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER USE COMPETENCIES

Students majoring in political science are required to demonstrate computer use and oral communication competencies. Computer use proficiency can be demonstrated by one of the following:

1. successful completion of POLS 3310 (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=POLS%203310>) RESEARCH METHODS AND POLITICAL ANALYSIS; or
2. successful completion of CSE 1301 (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=CSE%201301>) COMPUTER LITERACY or INSY 2303 (<https://catalog.uta.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=INSY%202303>) INTRODUCTION TO M.I.S. AND DATA PROCESSING; or
3. successful completion of other courses approved by the Undergraduate Assembly; or
4. passing the University computer use competency exam.

Oral communication proficiency can be demonstrated by one of the following:

1. successful completion of specific political science courses approved by the department; or
2. successful completion of one of the following: COMS 1301, COMS 2305, or COMS 3315.
3. successful completion of other courses approved by the Undergraduate Assembly.

Students should discuss these options with their undergraduate advisor who may also provide a list of other courses approved by the University to meet these requirements.

MINOR

Political Science classes may be used toward the major requirements or minor requirements (at the discretion of the department offering the minor) but not both.

Program Completion

To graduate a student must earn a 2.0 GPA.

Advising Resources

The faculty and staff of Political Science are here to help you however we can. Please consult your adviser on a regular basis regarding your degree plan. It's okay to ask for help, so reach out if you need information about your academic work or other campus resources. GO MAVS!

Location:

University Hall 449

Email:

polsinfo@uta.edu

Phone:

817-272-9194

Web:

Political Science Advising (<https://www.uta.edu/academics/schools-colleges/liberal-arts/departments/political-science/undergraduate/admissions-and-advising/>)