

Degree Type – Bachelor of Arts (BA)
Degree Title – Political Science

The concepts, skills, and knowledge acquired as part of a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science degree can lead to many diverse career fields, including but not limited to civil service, teaching, law, policy consultant, journalism, non-profit sector management, Foreign Service, politics, and government. Acquired skills include oral, written, and technological communication, critical thinking and problem solving, and quantitative and qualitative analysis. A degree in political science can lead to a Master of Arts and Ph.D. degrees. The Department of Political Science has divided the discipline into six fields:

1. *U.S. Government & Politics*
2. *Comparative Government & Politics*
3. *International Relations*
4. *Political Theory*
5. *Public Policy & Political Behavior*
6. *Research Methods*

To achieve these goals, a student must earn 120 Credit Hours at the University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley. These 120 Credit Hours consist of courses in the General Education Core (Part A: 42 Credit Hours), the Major Requirement (Part B: 36 Credit Hours), and Free Electives (Part C: 42 Credit Hours). To earn a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science students must earn a minor and/or second major in a different discipline.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. **To comprehend the origins and evolution of U.S. and Texas political systems, with a focus on the growth of political institutions, the constitutions of the U.S. and Texas, federalism, civil liberties, and civil and human rights.**
2. **To recognize and assume their responsibility as a citizen in a democratic society by learning to think for themselves, by engaging in public discourse, and by obtaining information through the news media and other appropriate information sources about politics and public policy.**
3. **To examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods, social structures, and cultures.**
4. **To develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.**
5. **To analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on the area under study.**

A – GENERAL EDUCATION CORE – 42 HOURS

Students must fulfill the General Education Core requirements. The courses listed below satisfy both degree requirements and General Education core requirements.

Required

Mathematics – 3 hours

MATH 1314 College Algebra

Government/Political Science – 6 hours

POLS 2301 US and Texas Government and Politics I (or POLS 2387 Honors)

POLS 2302 US and Texas Government and Politics II (or POLS 2388 Honors)

B – MAJOR REQUIREMENTS – 36 HOURS (27 advanced)

1 – Political Science Core – 9 hours

a – Political Science Statistics – 3 hours

POLS 2370 Introductory Statistics for Political Science (Recommended: dual enrollment in POLS 3370)

b – Political Science Electives – 6 hours*Choose from:*

POLS 2340 Introduction to Political Theory
 POLS 2350 Political Economy

May choose only one:

ECON 2301 Principles of Macroeconomics
 ECON 2302 Principles of Microeconomics

2 – Advanced Political Science – 27 hours (27 advanced)**a – US. Government and Politics – 6 hours (6 advanced)***Choose from:*

POLS 3310 U.S. State & Local Government
 POLS 3311 Contemporary Texas Politics
 POLS 3312 U.S. Political Parties
 POLS 3313 U.S. Gender Politics
 POLS 3319 Archer Congress, Presidency, and Beyond
 POLS 4313 U.S. Legislative Process
 POLS 4314 U.S. Executive Process
 POLS 4315 U.S. Intelligence Agencies
 POLS 4316 U.S. Latin@ Politics

Choose one:

POLS 4310 U.S. Judicial Process
 POLS 4311 U.S. Constitutional Law – Federalism
 POLS 4312 U.S. Constitutional Law – Civil Liberties

b – Comparative Government and Politics – 3 hours (3 advanced)*Choose from:*

POLS 3320 Introduction to Comparative Government & Politics
 POLS 3321 Comparative Politics of Developing Nations
 POLS 3322 European Politics
 POLS 3323 Middle Eastern Politics
 POLS 3324 Asian Politics
 POLS 3325 South American Politics
 POLS 4320 Latin American Politics
 POLS 4321 Central American & Caribbean Politics
 POLS 4322 Western European Politics
 POLS 4323 Mexican Politics
 POLS 4324 Contemporary Chinese Politics

c – International Relations – 3 hours (3 advanced)*Choose from:*

POLS 3330 International Politics
 POLS 3331 Global Security
 POLS 3332 Revolution & Reform in Developing Nations
 POLS 3333 Gender Theory in World Politics
 POLS 4330 Contemporary International Issues
 POLS 4331 U.S. Foreign Policy
 POLS 4332 International Organizations
 POLS 4333 U.S. – Mexico Border Relations

d – Political Theory – 3 hours (3 advanced)*Choose from:*

POLS 3340 Classical Political Theory
 POLS 3341 Modern Political Theory
 POLS 3342 Contemporary Political Theory
 POLS 4340 Politics & Culture
 POLS 4341 U.S. Political Theory

e – Public Policy and Political Behavior – 3 hours (3 advanced)

Choose from:

POLS 3350 Voting Behavior, Campaigns & Elections
 POLS 3351 Interest Groups & Political Movements
 POLS 3352 Media & Politics
 POLS 3353 Urban Politics
 POLS 3355 U.S. Public Policy
 POLS 3356 U.S. Fiscal Policy
 POLS 4350 Political Socialization & Civic Engagement
 POLS 4351 Public Opinion & Political Behavior
 POLS 4352 U.S. Race & Ethnic Politics
 POLS 4353 Race & Gender: The Politics of Intersectionality
 POLS 4354 Immigration, Race & Citizenship
 POLS 4355 U.S. Labor Policy
 POLS 4356 U.S. Environmental Policy

f – Political Science Research Methods – 3 hours (3 advanced)

POLS 3370 Scope & Methods (dual enrollment with POLS 2370 recommended)

g – Advanced Electives in Political Science – 6 hours (6 advanced)

Choose any course from the Advanced Political Science lists, or:

POLS 3190 Internship
 POLS 3390 Independent Study
 POLS 3391 Archer Internship
 POLS 3392 Archer Policy Process
 POLS 3394 Special Topics in Politics
 POLS 3395 Movies & Politics
 POLS 4390 Legal Research & Writing I
 POLS 4391 Legal Research & Writing II

C – FREE ELECTIVES – 42 HOURS (27 advanced)

Credit hours can be used to attain minor and/or second major in a different discipline. After earning enough credit hours for a minor and/or second major in a different discipline, students may choose Political Science Advanced Courses, or a second minor, or use as Advanced Electives in other disciplines.

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS FOR GRADUATION – 120 HOURS

TOTAL ADVANCED HOURS – 54 HOURS

ADMISSION, PROGRESSION, AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, if applicable:

Graduation requirements

Students must successfully complete a “capstone experience.” This requirement may be satisfied by the completion of either: (1) POLS 3190 Internship (3 credit hours) or POLS 3391 Archer Internship, or (2) a “Capstone Eligible” course determined by department.