

# POLITICAL SCIENCE - 5-YEAR BACHELOR OF ARTS AND MASTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE ADMINISTRATION

This program combines the teaching of analytical thinking skills and applications to better understand human behavior as it relates to public policy and management along with skills in leadership and research methods.

The combined degree program between the Department of Political Science and The Bush School of Government and Public Service allows undergraduate Political Science students to enter the Master of Public Service Program, with a focus in Public Policy Analysis, at the beginning of their fourth year at Texas A&M University.

Students will be required to complete the same curriculum as other students admitted to the Bush School's MPSA program. At the completion of the program, students are prepared for a wide variety of post-graduate opportunities including: employment in local, state or federal government, non-profit organizations, or government contracting.

Students interested in this program will apply during the spring semester of their junior year and, if admitted, begin taking masters-level courses in the fall semester of their senior year with an undergraduate classification. Students are reclassified as degree seeking master's students upon completing the first two semesters of the program. Prior to being reclassified, a student must have completed all requirements for their bachelor's degree in Political Science.

## Program Requirements

### First Year

Fall		Semester Credit Hours
BUSH 141	Bush Undergraduate Success Hub <sup>1</sup>	3
ENGL 104	Composition and Rhetoric <sup>1</sup>	3
POLS 206	American National Government <sup>1</sup>	3
Foreign language <sup>2</sup>		4
Mathematics <sup>3</sup>		3
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>16</b>

Spring		Semester Credit Hours
POLS 207	State and Local Government <sup>1</sup>	3
American history ( <a href="https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#american-history">https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#american-history</a> )		3
Foreign language <sup>2</sup>		4
Mathematics <sup>3</sup>		3
Humanities directed elective ( <a href="https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/government-public-service/">https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/government-public-service/</a> )		3
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>		<b>16</b>

### Second Year

Fall		Semester Credit Hours
POLS 200	Foundations of Political Science <sup>1</sup>	3

American history ( <a href="https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#american-history">https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#american-history</a> )	3
Creative arts ( <a href="https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#creative-arts">https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#creative-arts</a> )	3
Foreign language <sup>2</sup>	3
Life and physical sciences ( <a href="https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#life-physical-sciences">https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#life-physical-sciences</a> )	3
Humanities directed elective ( <a href="https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/government-public-service/">https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/government-public-service/</a> )	3

**Semester Credit Hours 18**

### Spring

POLS 209	Introduction to Political Science Research <sup>1,4</sup>	3
Communication ( <a href="https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#communication">https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#communication</a> )		3
Foreign language <sup>2</sup>		3
Life and physical sciences ( <a href="https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#life-physical-sciences">https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#life-physical-sciences</a> )		3
Social and behavioral sciences ( <a href="https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#social-behavioral-sciences">https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#social-behavioral-sciences</a> ) <sup>5</sup>		3
General elective <sup>6</sup>		3

**Semester Credit Hours 18**

### Third Year

#### Fall

Select two of the following: <sup>1</sup>		6
POLS 203	Introduction to Political Theory	
POLS 229	Introduction to Comparative Politics	
POLS 231	Introduction to World Politics	
POLS 233	Politics and Policy in the United States	
Language, philosophy and culture ( <a href="https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#language-philosophy-culture">https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#language-philosophy-culture</a> )		3
Life and physical sciences ( <a href="https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#life-physical-sciences">https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#life-physical-sciences</a> )		3
Social and behavioral sciences ( <a href="https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#social-behavioral-sciences">https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#social-behavioral-sciences</a> ) <sup>5</sup>		3
General elective <sup>6</sup>		1

**Semester Credit Hours 16**

#### Spring

Select one of the following: <sup>1</sup>		3
POLS 203	Introduction to Political Theory	
POLS 229	Introduction to Comparative Politics	
POLS 231	Introduction to World Politics	
POLS 233	Politics and Policy in the United States	
Political Science elective ( <a href="https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/pols/">https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/pols/</a> ) <sup>1,7</sup>		3

Political Science elective ( <a href="https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/pols/">https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/pols/</a> ) <sup>1,7</sup>	3
Humanities directed elective ( <a href="https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/government-public-service/">https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/government-public-service/</a> )	3
General elective <sup>6</sup>	3
General elective <sup>6</sup>	3
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Fourth Year</b>	
<b>Fall</b>	
BUSH 631 Quantitative Methods in Public Management I <sup>8</sup>	3
PSAA 601 Foundations of Public Service <sup>9</sup>	3
PSAA 621 Economic Analysis <sup>9</sup>	3
PSAA 643 Foundations of the Nonprofit Sector <sup>9</sup>	3
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Spring</b>	
PSAA 611 Public Policy Formation <sup>8</sup>	3
BUSH elective <sup>8</sup>	3
BUSH elective <sup>10</sup>	3
PSAA elective <sup>10</sup>	3
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Fifth Year</b>	
<b>Fall</b>	
PSAA 675 Public Service and Administration Capstone Seminar	3
BUSH/PSAA elective <sup>10</sup>	3
BUSH/PSAA elective <sup>10</sup>	3
PSAA elective <sup>10</sup>	3
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Spring</b>	
PSAA 676 Public Service and Administration Capstone Seminar II	3
PSAA elective <sup>10</sup>	3
PSAA elective <sup>10</sup>	3
PSAA elective <sup>10</sup>	3
<b>Semester Credit Hours</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Total Semester Credit Hours</b>	<b>150</b>

<sup>8</sup> Course counted towards the general electives of the BA program.  
<sup>9</sup> Course counted towards the Political Science electives of the BA program.  
<sup>10</sup> BUSH school graduate advisor will assist with BUSH/PSAA course selection for chosen track in the graduate program.

No more than 36 credits in political science may be applied to the degree.

Other courses may qualify for the college and university requirements. Student should consult the approved list of courses in the Undergraduate Student Services Office. No course can be counted in more than one category.

Students are reclassified as degree seeking master's students typically in the second year of the graduate portion of this program.

The program includes a total of 168 hours which up to 18 hours may be applied toward both the Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and the Master of Public Service Administration.

Graduation requirements include a requirement for 3 hours of International and Cultural Diversity (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/degree-information/international-cultural-diversity-requirements/>) courses and 3 hours of Cultural Discourse (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/degree-information/cultural-discourse-requirements/>) courses. A course satisfying a Core category, a college/department requirement, or a free elective can be used to satisfy this requirement. Select in consultation with an academic advisor.

<sup>1</sup> Must make a grade of C or better.  
<sup>2</sup> Complete 14 hours of a foreign language (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/government-public-service/>) through the intermediate level. If you choose to enroll in a language you have studied previously without receiving college credit, you must first take a placement test. Select in consultation with an academic advisor.  
<sup>3</sup> Select from MATH 140, MATH 142, MATH 151, MATH 152; PHIL 240.  
<sup>4</sup> Students must complete this course before taking more than 6 hours of 300- or 400-level courses in Political Science.  
<sup>5</sup> POLS 100-499 (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/pols/>) cannot be used to fulfill this requirement.  
<sup>6</sup> Select from any 100-499 course not used elsewhere including BUSH 632, BUSH 635, PSAA 630, PSAA 622, PSAA 634; 6 hours PSAA 600-699 (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/course-descriptions/psaa/>); (excluding POLS 100-499 (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/pols/>)).  
<sup>7</sup> Select from POLS 100-499 (exclude POLS 206, POLS 207, POLS 209, POLS 308-POLS 309); BUSH 631; PSAA 601, PSAA 611, PSAA 621.