

POLITICAL SCIENCE - BA

The Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree program in Political Science provides a solid education in liberal arts. It focuses on improving students' understanding of local and global politics. This program also teaches vital skills in social science research methods, boosting critical thinking, and improving students' abilities in writing, speaking, and visual communication. At Texas A&M, students pursuing this degree need to complete four semesters of a foreign language course. Alongside this requirement, the degree covers a wide range of courses, offering flexibility in the core curriculum and electives. This flexibility helps students get a comprehensive education that supports their future academic and professional goals.

Within their major area of study, students will be able to further their education in American political institutions and political behavior; international relations; comparative politics; political theory; research methodology; public policy and administration; and race and ethnic politics.

Students who graduate with a degree in Political Science have a wide spectrum of career fields to choose from. Many students will pursue careers such as government, law, education, business, non-profits, and journalism.

Program Requirements

First Year

Fall		Semester Credit Hours
ENGL 104	Composition and Rhetoric	3
POLS 206	American National Government	3
American history (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#american-history)		3
Foreign language ¹		4
Mathematics (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#mathematics) ²		3
Semester Credit Hours		16

Spring

POLS 207	State and Local Government	3
American history (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#american-history)		3
Foreign language ¹		4
Mathematics (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#mathematics) ²		3
Humanities directed elective (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/government-public-service/)		3
Semester Credit Hours		16

Second Year

Fall		Semester Credit Hours
POLS 200	Foundations of Political Science	3

Creative arts (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#creative-arts)		3
Foreign language ¹		3
Life and physical sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#life-physical-sciences)		3
Humanities directed elective (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/government-public-service/)		3

Semester Credit Hours 15

Spring

POLS 209	Introduction to Political Science Research ³	3
Communication (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#communication)		3
Foreign language ¹		3
Life and physical sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#life-physical-sciences)		3
Social and behavioral sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#social-behavioral-sciences) ⁴		3

Semester Credit Hours 15

Third Year

Fall

Select two of the following:		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 (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#language-philosophy-culture)		3
Life and physical sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#life-physical-sciences)		3
Social and behavioral sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#social-behavioral-sciences) ⁴		3

Semester Credit Hours 15

Spring

Select one of the following:		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 (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/pols/) ⁵		3
Humanities directed elective (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/government-public-service/)		3
General elective ⁴		3
General elective ⁴		3

Semester Credit Hours 15

Fourth Year**Fall**

Political Science elective (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/pols/) ⁵	3
Political Science elective (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/pols/) ⁵	3
General elective ⁴	3
General elective ⁴	3
General elective ⁴	3
Semester Credit Hours	15

Spring

Political Science elective (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/pols/) ⁵	3
Political Science elective (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/pols/) ⁵	3
General elective ⁴	3
General elective ⁴	3
General elective ⁴	1
Semester Credit Hours	13
Total Semester Credit Hours	120

¹ Complete 14 hours of a foreign language (<http://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.

² At least 3 hours must be in MATH except MATH 102, MATH 103, MATH 150, MATH 167, STAT 201. Three hours may be PHIL 240.

³ Students must complete this course before taking more than 6 hours of 300- or 400-level courses in Political Science.

⁴ POLS 100-499 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/pols/>) cannot be used to fulfill this requirement.

⁵ Select from POLS 100-499 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/pols/>) (except POLS 206, POLS 207, POLS 209).

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

A grade of C or better is required for a course to be counted in the major field.

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.

Graduation requirements include a requirement for 3 hours of International and Cultural Diversity (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/degree-information/international-cultural-diversity-requirements/>) courses and 3 hours of Cultural Discourse (<http://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.