

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

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. 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.

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
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
Communication (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#communication)		3
Mathematics (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#mathematics) ¹		3
General elective ²		3
Semester Credit Hours		18

Spring

POLS 207	State and Local Government	3
American history (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#american-history)		3
Mathematics (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#mathematics) ¹		3

Humanities directed elective (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/government-public-service/)		3
Humanities directed elective (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/government-public-service/)		3
General elective ²		3

Semester Credit Hours 18

Second Year

Fall

PHIL 240	Introduction to Logic	3
POLS 200	Foundations of Political Science	3
Creative arts (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#creative-arts)		3
Language, philosophy and culture (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#language-philosophy-culture)		3
Humanities directed elective (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/government-public-service/)		3
General elective ²		3

Semester Credit Hours 18

Spring

POLS 209	Introduction to Political Science Research ³	3
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	
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) ²		3
General elective ²		3
General elective ²		3

Semester Credit Hours 18

Third Year

Fall

POLS 308	Game Theoretic Methods in Political Science	3
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	

Life and physical sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#life-physical-sciences)		3
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Social and behavioral sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#social-behavioral-sciences) ²		3
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Semester Credit Hours 15

Spring

POLS 309	Polimetrics	3
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Life and physical sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#life-physical-sciences)		3
Political Science elective (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/pols/) ⁴		3
Political Science elective (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/pols/) ⁴		3
General elective ²		3
Semester Credit Hours		15
Fourth Year		
Fall		
BUSH 631	Quantitative Methods in Public Management I ⁵	3
PSAA 601	Foundations of Public Service ⁶	3
PSAA 621	Economic Analysis ⁶	3
PSAA 643	Foundations of the Nonprofit Sector ⁶	3
Semester Credit Hours		12
Spring		
PSAA 611	Public Policy Formation ⁵	3
BUSH elective ⁵		3
BUSH elective ⁷		3
PSAA elective ⁷		3
Semester Credit Hours		12
Fifth Year		
Fall		
PSAA 675	Public Service and Administration Capstone Seminar	3
BUSH/PSAA elective ⁷		3
BUSH/PSAA elective ⁷		3
PSAA elective ⁷		3
Semester Credit Hours		12
Spring		
PSAA 676	Public Service and Administration Capstone Seminar II	3
PSAA elective ⁷		3
PSAA elective ⁷		3
PSAA elective ⁷		3
Semester Credit Hours		12
Total Semester Credit Hours		150

⁷ BUSH school graduate advisor will assist with BUSH/PSAA course selection for chosen track in the graduate program.

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 academic advisor for additional options.

Students are reclassified as degree seeking master's students in 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 Science in Political Science and the Master of Public Service Administration.

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.

¹ Select from any University Core Mathematics course except MATH 150, MATH 167, STAT 201.

² Select from any 100-499 course not used elsewhere (except POLS 100-499 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/pols/>)); BUSH 632 or BUSH 635 or PSAA 630; PSAA 622 or PSAA 634; 6 hours PSAA 600-699 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/course-descriptions/psaa/>).

³ Students must complete this course before taking more than 6 hours of POLS 100-499 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/pols/>) level courses in Political Science.

⁴ Select from POLS 100-499 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/pols/>) (exclude POLS 206, POLS 207, POLS 209, POLS 308, POLS 309); BUSH 631; PSAA 601, PSAA 611, PSAA 621.

⁵ Course counted towards the General electives of the BS program.

⁶ Course counted towards the Political Science electives of the BS program.