

POLITICAL SCIENCE - BS

The Bachelor of Science (BS) degree program in Political Science focuses on teaching research skills and data analysis while deepening understanding of politics. At Texas A&M, this program stands out for its unique approach within the undergraduate political science curriculum. It's intended to introduce students to political research methods, making it a starting point for those interested in technical careers like policy analysis, data science, or graduate studies. This BS program is one of the largest and most science-oriented political science undergraduate programs in the world.

Beyond emphasizing research skills and data analysis, the BS degree plan at Texas A&M offers a wide range of courses. This flexibility in both core curriculum and elective courses allows students to gain a comprehensive education beneficial for their future academic and professional pursuits. 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
Mathematics (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#mathematics) ¹		3
General elective ²		3

Semester Credit Hours 15

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
General elective ²		3

Semester Credit Hours 15

Second Year

Fall		Semester Credit Hours
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

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
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

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	

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
Social and behavioral sciences (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#social-behavioral-sciences) ²		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	

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
General elective ²		3
General elective ²		3

Semester Credit Hours 15

Fourth Year**Fall**

POLS 308	Game Theoretic Methods in Political Science	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
	General elective ²	3
Semester Credit Hours		15

Spring

POLS 309	Polimetrics	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
	General elective ²	3
Semester Credit Hours		15
Total Semester Credit Hours		120

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

² POLS 100-499 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/pols/>) cannot fulfill this requirement.

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

⁴ Select from POLS 100-499 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/pols/>) (except POLS 200, POLS 206, POLS 207, POLS 209, POLS 308, POLS 309).

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 with academic advisor for additional options.

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.