

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 two-year, 48-hour curriculum as other students admitted to the Bush School's MPSA program. Students will double-count up to 9 hours of Bush School coursework towards the undergraduate major coursework and up to 9 hours towards general electives in the Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. 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 102 credit hours, typically in the third semester 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
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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
Language, philosophy and culture or creative arts (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/university-core-curriculum/#language-philosophy-culture)		3
Literature directed elective (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/)		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
Literature directed elective (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/)		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

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

Spring

POLS 309 Polimetrics	3
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

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).

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

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

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

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