

POLITICAL SCIENCE - BS

The Bachelor of Science degree program in Political Science offers a strong liberal arts curriculum aimed at enhancing students' understanding of foreign and domestic politics, along with essential training in social science research methods, strengthening their critical thinking abilities, and enhancing students' written, verbal, and visual communications skills. In addition to building skills in social science research and data analysis, the Bachelor of Science degree plan encompasses a broad spectrum of coursework from throughout the College of Liberal Arts and Texas A&M University. By allowing for flexibility in courses that can be taken within the core curriculum, as well as for general electives, students can achieve a well-rounded education that can help with their future educational 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 in the Bachelor of Science degree program will also be required to take a semester of game theoretic methods and a semester of polimetrics.

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

Program Requirements

First Year

	Semester Credit Hours
Fall	
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
Literature directed elective (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/)	3
General elective ²	3
Semester Credit Hours	15

Second Year

	Semester Credit Hours
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
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

	Semester Credit Hours
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) 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.