

POLITICAL SCIENCE - 5-YEAR BACHELOR OF ARTS 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

	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
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		
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
General elective ³		3
Semester Credit Hours		18

Spring

POLS 209	Introduction to Political Science Research ⁴	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) ³		3
General elective ³		3
Semester Credit Hours		18

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) ³		3
General elective ³		1
Semester Credit Hours		16

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
Political Science elective (http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/pols/) ⁵	3
General elective ³	3
General elective ³	3
Semester Credit Hours	18
Fourth Year	
Fall	
BUSH 631 Quantitative Methods in Public Management I ⁶	3
PSAA 601 Foundations of Public Service ⁷	3
PSAA 621 Economic Analysis ⁷	3
PSAA 643 Foundations of the Nonprofit Sector ⁷	3
Semester Credit Hours	12
Spring	
PSAA 611 Public Policy Formation ⁶	3
BUSH elective ⁶	3
BUSH elective ⁸	3
PSAA elective ⁸	3
Semester Credit Hours	12
Fifth Year	
Fall	
PSAA 675 Public Service and Administration Capstone Seminar	3
BUSH/PSAA elective ⁸	3
BUSH/PSAA elective ⁸	3
PSAA elective ⁸	3
Semester Credit Hours	12
Spring	
PSAA 676 Public Service and Administration Capstone Seminar II	3
PSAA elective ⁸	3
PSAA elective ⁸	3
PSAA elective ⁸	3
Semester Credit Hours	12
Total Semester Credit Hours	150

⁷ Course counted towards the Political Science electives of the BA program.

⁸ BUSH school graduate advisor will assist with BUSH/PSAA course selection for chosen track in the graduate program.

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.

Students are reclassified as degree seeking master's students typically in the 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 Arts 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 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 150, MATH 167, STAT 201. Three hours may be PHIL 240.

³ Select from any 100-499 course not used elsewhere including BUSH 632, BUSH 635, PSAA 630, PSAA 622, PSAA 634; 6hours PSAA 600-699 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/course-descriptions/psaa/>); (excluding POLS 100-499 (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/course-descriptions/pols/>))

⁴ Students must complete this course before taking more than 6 hours of 300- or 400-level courses in Political Science.

⁵ Select from POLS 100-499 (exclude POLS 206, POLS 207, POLS 209, POLS 308-POLS 309); BUSH 631; PSAA 601, PSAA 611, PSAA 621.

⁶ Course counted towards the general electives of the BA program.