Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

The Bachelor of Arts in Government and Politics is designed to provide students with the substantive and analytical skills necessary to study important questions about how citizens influence what government does, the responsibilities and effectiveness of government, and the consequences of what public institutions and officials do for individual and community well-being. Course work exploring Congress, the Supreme Court and other institutions, international relations, law, political behavior, political economy, political institutions, political theory, and public policy provides the foundations for more advanced study, the core knowledge needed for professional education in law and public policy, and the skills useful for careers in business, education, government, and public service.

Careers in Political Science

A bachelor’s degree in political science can be applied to many different career paths, from positions in government and business to journalism, teaching, non-profit management and public policy analysis and advocacy.

The career flexibility comes from the critical and strategic thinking skills that are developed in the major. As with most liberal arts degrees, a BA in political science will not prepare a student for a specific job, but it will instill knowledge and set of communication and analytical skills that are valued by employers. It also provides a foundation for graduate study or advanced professional education in fields such as law, public administration and public policy.

The University’s Career Center is an important resource for students pursuing their career. Licensed counselors are available to provide strategies for mastering job interviews, writing professional cover letters and resumes and help students connect with campus recruiters, among other services.

Political Science at UT Dallas

The BA in political science degree requires 120 hours to graduate: 42 hours from the University’s core curriculum, 57 hours from the major and 21 hours of electives. Students must complete a set of core courses within the major. An 18-hour minor in political science also is offered through the school.

All undergraduates can arrange for internships through the Career Center. In addition, a UT Dallas professor acts as lead faculty member for the Archer Fellows program, which allows students to spend a semester in Washington, D.C., completing an internship and taking classes. Archer is highly competitive and open to the entire UT System, but UT Dallas students routinely earn a substantial number of slots. Another political science faculty member directs the Center for the Study of Texas Politics and teaches honors classes that involve field trips to Austin to meet with top government officials.

Pi Sigma Alpha is the political science honor society, and students also participate in a number of other political- or law-related organizations.

Pre-Law Program

The Pre-Law Advising and Resource Center at UT Dallas, which is directed by a political science faculty member, works with students interested in pursuing a legal career. Their guidance begins in the students’ early years at the University and continues through preparation for the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). Many pre-law students at UT Dallas are admitted to the nation’s top 10 law schools, and the majority earns admission to law school on their first attempt.

Political science faculty and graduate students coach the moot court and mock trial teams, which students can take as classes. Undergraduates also may enroll in classes included in the school’s new master’s program in constitutional law studies.

Fast-Track

UT Dallas undergraduates who meet the requirements for admission to graduate school and have at least a 3.25 UT Dallas cumulative GPA should consider the Fast-Track option. Fast-Track allows students to take up to 15 credit hours of graduate courses their senior year that can be applied toward both their bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree. Students who successfully complete the Fast-Track requirements are not required to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) before entering the master’s program.
School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences (EPPS)

Every new generation inherits a world more complex than that of its predecessors, which prompts a need for new thinking about public policies that impact people’s daily lives. While our colleagues in the Naveen Jindal School of Management or the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science are creating new managerial or technological systems, we in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences (EPPS) examine the implications of innovation and change for individuals and communities.

As an undergraduate in EPPS, you will have the opportunity to work with professors who are probing issues that will affect your future. You will develop the vital skills you need to thrive in a rapidly evolving, highly competitive job market. EPPS will prepare you for careers in government, non-profits and the private sector that enable you to make a real difference in the world of today and tomorrow.

EPPS is at the forefront of leadership, ethics and innovation in the public and nonprofit sectors. Our students and faculty look forward to new opportunities to study and address the complex and evolving issues of the future.

Research informs much of the instruction. The school has seven centers of excellence:

- Center for Crime and Justice Studies
- Center for Global Collective Action
- Center for the Study of Texas Politics
- Institute of Public Affairs
- Institute for Urban Policy Research
- Texas Schools Project
- The Negotiations Center

Degrees Offered

Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts: Criminology, economics, geospatial information sciences, international political economy, political science, public affairs, sociology

Master of Science: Applied sociology, criminology, economics, geospatial information sciences, international political economy, justice administration and leadership

Master of Arts: Political science, political science-constitutional law studies, political science-legislative studies

Master of Public Affairs: Public affairs

Master of Public Policy: Public policy

Doctor of Philosophy: Criminology, economics, geospatial information sciences, political science, public affairs, public policy and political economy

Certificates

EPPS offers the following graduate certificates, which generally can be completed in one year of part-time evening classes:

Geographic Information Systems (GISc): a 15-hour graduate-level certificate focusing on the application of GIS in government, private sector and scientific areas, which can be completed in one year of part-time evening classes.

Remote Sensing: a 15-hour for-credit graduate certificate focusing on remote sensing and digital image processing, which can be completed in one year of part-time evening study.

Geospatial Intelligence: a 15-hour graduate certificate focusing on the application of geospatial ideas and techniques to national security and other intelligence activity.

Local Government Management: a 15-hour graduate certificate focusing on the application of geospatial ideas and techniques to national security and other intelligence activity.

Nonprofit Management: a 15-hour graduate certificate designed to provide an overview of the nature and context of nonprofit organizations and develop competencies needed by nonprofit managers.

Contact Information

EPPS Advising
EPPSadvising@utdallas.edu
School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences
The University of Texas at Dallas
800 West Campbell Road GR 31
Richardson, TX 75080-3021

Office of Admission and Enrollment
800 West Campbell Road ROC11
Richardson, TX 75080-3021
Phone: 972-883-2270 or 1-800-889-2443
E-mail: interest@utdallas.edu
Website: utdallas.edu/enroll