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Welcome from the PSCI Program Head

Welcome to the MACLS program in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences at the University of Texas at Dallas. This masters program in political science is an excellent choice for students who are interesting in law, broadly understood.

Qualified students are encouraged to consider the Ph.D. in Political Science. Such students should meet with Director of Graduate Studies as soon as possible to discuss options.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Master of Arts in Political Science - Constitutional Law Studies degree is to provide students with the reasoning and analytic skills necessary to understand the technical rules of law, legal practices and policies, and law more generally as a social phenomenon. It serves the interests and needs of students who want an intellectually rigorous legal education as preparation for law school, for more advanced graduate learning, or for law-related careers in teaching, journalism, government, policy-making, or the private sector.

Objectives

Students in the Master of Arts in Political Science - Constitutional Law Studies program will:

• Acquire detailed knowledge of the role of the judicial system in the evolution of public policy in the United States.
• Acquire detailed knowledge of the roles played by practicing attorneys in the development and application of public law in the United States.
• Develop competency in the application of theories of the evolution of constitutional law to United States Supreme Court decisions.
• Demonstrate the ability to conduct original research on law and courts using skills in legal research and writing, quantitative research or field research.

Program Requirements

Students seeking a Master of Arts in Political Science - Constitutional Law Studies must complete at least 30 semester credit hours of work in the program, and must maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average to graduate. The curriculum has two components:

(1) Twelve semester hours of required coursework
(2) Eighteen semester hours of prescribed electives

Required Courses (12 hours) All of the following courses:
EPPS 6313 Introduction to Quantitative Methods or EPPS 7313 Descriptive and Inferential Statistics
PSCI 6301 Constitutional Law
PSCI 6311 Proseminar in Law and Courts
PSCI 6350 Logic, Methodology, and Scope of Political Science
Prescribed Electives: 18 semester credit hours. Choose six courses from the following:
EPPS 6316 Applied Regression or EPPS 7316 Regression and Multivariate Analysis
PPPE 6366 Law and Development
PSCI 6304 Internship in Constitutional Law Studies
PSCI 6305 Workshop in Constitutional Law Studies
PSCI 6306 Human Rights and International Law
PSCI 631 Executives, Legislatures and Public Policy
PSCI 6339 Election Law and Electoral Systems
PSCI 6342 Comparative Courts and Law
PSCI 6343 Law and the Policy Process
PSCI 6365 US and International Asylum and Refuge Law
Other courses as approved by the Director of Graduate Studies or Program Head.

Student Ethics and Conduct
Student behavior is expected to conform to the highest academic and professional standards. Students are expected to conduct themselves in an ethical and professional manner. In particular, fraudulent behavior, including cheating and plagiarism, is not tolerated.

Policies and Procedures
The university’s general degree requirements are discussed on the Graduate Policies and Procedures page (catalog.utdallas.edu/2015/graduate/policies/policy).

Transfer Policies
Students who have taken graduate courses in another program may transfer these courses after they have attained nine credit hours in the program. Courses which received a grade of "B" or better may be transferred. Also, students may transfer up to 25% of the required hours for a masters degree from another university. This may consist of up to 6 semester hours.

All students who are interested in transferring courses must meet with the EPPS Masters Advisor and they must complete a “Request for Transfer Credit” form. The form is available in the Graduate Program Office. The completed form, transcript, and syllabus are forwarded for the approval of the Dean of Graduate Studies. If approved, then the courses appear as transfer credits on the student's record.

Grading Policy
Students seeking a Master of Arts in Political Science - Constitutional Law Studies must complete at least 30 semester credit hours of work in the program, must receive a grade of B- or better in all required courses, and must maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average to graduate.

Helpful Hints
Before the start of each semester, the EPPS Masters Advisors will email students with suggested classes for the core and prescribed electives. Students are also strongly encouraged
to consult the degree plan when choosing their classes to maximize efficiency and to promote rapid progress through the program.

**Registration**

Once admitted, students will be primarily advised by the EPPS Masters Advisors. Please contact either Nora Hernandez (GR 2.701) 972-883-4524 (nora.hernandez@utdallas.edu) or Christina Rhodes (GR 2.703) 972 883 4239 (christina.rhodes@utdallas.edu).

The standard (and minimum) course load for a full-time graduate student during the Fall or Spring semester is 9 hours. The maximum is 15 hours, although it is rare for students to be able to successfully manage this workload. Students who have work, family, or other nonacademic obligations should consult with the EPPS Masters advisor on strategies for fulfilling program requirements.

Courses in the PSCI MACLS program are currently listed under PSCI, PPPE or EPPS in the university’s course schedule (available on-line in Course Lookup). The EPPS Advisor will also email the Political Science Masters listserve with suggested courses that would fulfill core and concentration requirements prior to registration each semester.

Students are expected to maintain continuous registration (excluding Summer) of at least three semester credit hours in the program. Such registration includes, but is not limited to, the semester of graduation. A student who does not maintain registration and has not requested and received permission for a leave of absence, must apply for readmission. All requests for leave of absence must be sent to the PSCI Program Head, who will forward the request to the Dean of Graduate Studies. The student is subject to the Graduate Catalog in effect at the time of readmission. Since the Catalog is revised biennially, students taking leaves may be required to satisfy different degree requirements than were in effect prior to their leave. And thus may need additional time to complete the program.

**PSCI MACLS Advising Protocol**

All Students are required to contact the EPPS Masters Advisor before enrolling in classes for the first time. They will be given advice for the first year of courses. Afterwards, students can register online for classes through Orion (http://www.utdallas.edu/orion/). Most advising can be handled via e-mail correspondence.

**Future advising and registration**

- The EPPS Masters Advisor will circulate list of courses and identify where they fit in the degree plan to facilitate registration and planning.
- At the end of each semester and as you register for the next, enter all the relevant courses you have taken, including semester completed and grade received, on the excel spreadsheet degree plan. This information is available from your transcripts, which can be accessed from Orion. Students are to choose their courses, update their degree plan, and send the degree plan to the EPPS Masters Advisor for approval.
• Simple clarifications can be handled via email with a completed degree plan. However you will need an updated degree plan on file with the EPPS Masters Advisor at least once a year (by 8/1) or you will have an advising hold placed on your account
• Please email us with questions or concerns.
• Please note that all email correspondence must be via your official UTD email.

What we expect from students
• Responsible for degree plan, which is the basis for advising
• Send email from your UTD email
• Familiarity with academic calendar and academic catalog; deadlines, requirements

What to expect from the EPPS Masters Advisor
• Review the updated degree plan
• Answer any questions/concerns raised

Periodically, the Program Head and Director of Graduate Studies will provide more in-depth information and announcements of opportunities. These meetings and other opportunities will be announced via email, through the Political Science Masters student list. Therefore, it is important that you check your UTD email.

PSCI MACLS Degree Plan

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>SEMESTER</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required Courses (12 hours)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Prescribed Electives (18 hours)</strong></td>
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