MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
(M.A.P.S.)
ADVISING GUIDE
2015 - 2016

Political Science Program
University of Texas at Dallas
School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences
Mail Station GR31
800 West Campbell Road
Richardson, TX 75080-3021
http://epps.utdallas.edu/polsci/
Last Updated: May 2015

For General Information or Extra Assistance
Political Science Graduate Program Assistant, Cheryl Berry
cheryl.berry@utdallas.edu or 972-883-2932

Prospective students should contact one of the following
PSCI Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Banks Miller
millerbp@utdallas.edu or 972-883-2930

PSCI Program Head, Dr. Jennifer Holmes
jholmes@utdallas.edu or 972 883 6843

Table of Contents

Welcome from the PSCI Program Head 2
Mission Statement and Objectives 2
Degree Requirements 2
Student Ethics and Conduct 3
General Policies and Procedures 3
  Transfer Credit 3
  Grading Policy 3
  Helpful Hints 3
Registration 4
Advising Protocol 4
Sample Degree Plan 5
Welcome from the PSCI Program Head

Welcome to the MAPS 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 exploring further education in political science with various career options.

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

The mission of the Master of Arts in Political Science (MAPS) degree is to offer advanced instruction in the social science literature and theories about politics, citizenship, and governance. The program serves the interests and needs of talented students who can commit initially to a 30-semester credit hour program but may be attracted subsequently to the PhD program, as well as those who can commit initially to the doctoral program but subsequently decide not to complete the program.

Objectives

Students in the Master of Arts in Political Science program will:

• Develop a competency in one of the fields of Comparative Politics and International Relations; Political Institutions and American Politics; or Law and Courts.
• Develop skills in professional communication appropriate to political science research and analysis.
• Develop competency in analysis, evaluation, and research design relevant to political science research and analysis.

Degree Requirements

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

Students seeking a Master of Arts in Political Science 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. The curriculum has two components:

1. Fifteen semester credit hours of required coursework
2. Fifteen semester credit hours of prescribed electives

Required Courses: 15 semester credit hours.

All students should complete the core courses as soon as possible.
EPPS 6313 Introduction to Quantitative Methods or EPPS 7313 Descriptive and Inferential Statistics
PSCI 6300 Proseminar in Comparative Politics and International Relations
PSCI 6311 Proseminar in Law and Courts
PSCI 6347 Proseminar on Political Institutions and American Politics
PSCI 6350 Logic, Methodology, and Scope of Political Science
**Prescribed Electives: 15 semester credit hours**
Two additional courses at the 6000 or 7000 level in one of the following fields: Comparative Politics and International Relations; Political Institutions and American Politics; or Law and Courts.

Three additional political science courses at the 6000 or 7000 level, or EPPS methods courses offered throughout the School, or internship. Students may write an optional thesis by registering for three semester credit hours of independent study.

**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 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 MAPS program are currently listed under PSCI or EPPS in the university’s course schedule (available on-line in Course Lookup). The EPPS Advisor will also email the Political Science Masters listserv 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 MAPS 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 MAPS Degree Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>SEMESTER</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required Courses (15 hours)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPPS 6313</td>
<td>Intro to Quantitative Methods or EPPS 7313</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or EPPS 7313</td>
<td>Descriptive and Inferential Statistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 6350</td>
<td>Logic, Methodology, and Scope of Political Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 6300</td>
<td>Proseminar in Comparative Politics and International Relations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 6311</td>
<td>Proseminar in Law and Courts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 6347</td>
<td>Proseminar in Political Institutions and American Politics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed Electives (15 hours)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two courses in one field of the following fields: Comparative Politics and International Relations; Political Institutions and American Politics; or Law and Courts.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three additional political science courses at the 6000 or 7000 level, or EPPS methods courses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>