Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

The Bachelor of Arts in Political Science is designed to provide students with the substantive and analytical skills necessary to study important questions about how citizens influence government, its responsibilities and effectiveness, and the consequences of what public institutions and officials do for individual and community well-being. Course work explores Congress, the Supreme Court and other institutions, international relations, law, political behavior, political economy, political institutions, political theory, and public policy. The program provides students with the foundation 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, consulting, teaching, non-profit management, government relations, 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 a 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 helping students connect with campus recruiters, among other services.

Political Science at UT Dallas

The BA in political science degree requires 120 semester credit hours to graduate: 42 semester credit hours from the University's core curriculum, 57 semester credit hours from the major and 21 semester credit 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, students have the opportunity to spend a semester in Washington, D.C. through the Archer Fellow program, completing an internship and taking classes. Archer is highly competitive and open to the entire UT System, but UT Dallas students routinely earn a disproportionate number of slots. Pi Sigma Alpha is the political science honor society, and students also participate in a number of other political- or law-related organizations.
Every new generation inherits an increasingly complex world, which prompts a need for new thinking about public policies that impact people's lives. In the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences (EPPS), we examine the implications of innovation and change for individuals and communities.

As an undergraduate in EPPS, you will have the chance 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.

**Degrees Offered**

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

**Master of Science**: Applied sociology, criminology, economics, geospatial information sciences, international political economy, justice administration and leadership, social data analytics and research

**Master of Arts**: Political science, political science-constitutional law, 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

**Contact Information**

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