



Political Science at UNT Dallas

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The political science major at UNT Dallas offers traditional and innovative approaches to preparing graduates for work, further study and participation in government, law and communications. The program blends the study of government and human political behavior in a major that is designed to be interdisciplinary, using insights from sociology, psychology, economics and the management sciences in addition to providing foundational knowledge about political theory, political institutions and international affairs.

Political science has a deeper relevance to modern life: students will acquire knowledge at the macro level about how the world is structured and works, but students will also cultivate and understanding of how politics functions in the workplace, neighborhoods and small groups. Political science majors will become discerning consumers of political messages and understand the importance of political context in communication.

The value of an undergraduate political science degree in the job market is considerable. Political science majors find jobs in:

- Federal, state and local government.
- Political campaigns.
- Public affairs communications.;
- Lobbying for interest groups, non-governmental organizations and corporations.
- Law.
- Journalism.

A political science major is also good preparation for professional degree programs in:

- Law (JD)
- Public Administration (MPA)
- Policy-based programs in business, health and education (MBA, MPH etc.).
- Journalism (MJ).

Sequences in political science will include:

- Public and Constitutional Law – this track will provide preparation for law school, but it is also useful to those involved in criminal justice programs.
- Urban politics – UNT Dallas is an urban university that seeks to prepare students for careers in city government and politics.
- Elections and campaigns – Understanding the mechanics of public opinion and party and candidate campaigns is important to the survival of modern democracies.
- International relations – Politics among nations is different from local, state and national politics and warrants its own type of analysis. UNT Dallas hopes to eventually develop area study programs that will focus on Mexico and other nations in Central and South America.

The UNT Dallas political science major requires students to take three foundational courses and a capstone course. The three foundational courses are Democratic Theory, Quantitative Research Design and Analysis, and Introduction to Public Administration. The foundational courses provide theoretical, analytical and management underpinnings for courses in the major. The required courses are three credit hours each but are yet to be numbered.

Political science encompasses four major subfields: American Government (A), International Affairs and Comparative Government(R), Public Law (L) , and Political Behavior (B). Political science majors will be required to take at least one 3-hour course from each subfield. Because UNT Dallas is an urban university, we suggest all political science majors take PSCI 4220 Urban Politics to satisfy the American Government field requirement.

Another 12 elective hours of Political Science courses must be completed by majors, giving graduates 36 hours of upper level political science courses. Majors must maintain a 2.5 grade-point average to graduate.

A minor in political science requires 18 hours: PSCI 1040 and PSCI 1050 (3 semester hours each), plus 12 semester hours in political science (PSCI) that include 6 hours from advanced courses.

Political Science, BA

- 1. Hours Required and General/College Requirements:** A minimum of 120 semester hours, of which 42 must be advanced, and fulfillment of degree requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree.
- 2. Major Requirements:** Completion of a minimum of 42 hours from Political Science Child Development of which 36 must be advanced. Students should complete at least 27 hours of 3000D- and 4000D-level courses before enrolling in the 4000-level capstone.
- 3. Minor Requirements:** A minor in political science requires 18 hours: PSCI 1040 and PSCI 1050 (3 semester hours each), plus 12 semester hours in political science (PSCI) that include 6 hours from advanced courses (3000-4000).
- 4. Electives:** To ensure that graduates have a broad context in evaluating public affairs and policy matters, 42 hours of electives are designated. History, sociology, criminal justice and policy studies courses in other disciplines are strongly recommended to meet this requirement.
- 5. Other Requirements:** All students entering the Political Science program must have a cumulative Grade Point Average of at least 2.0 and be in good academic standing.

Curriculum

Students will earn 42 hours in CORE curriculum courses, 36 hours of major requirements and 42 hours of electives, 36 of which must be in advanced (3000-4000 level) courses. Students may petition to include lower level courses transferred from other colleges and universities.

Political Science Major Core (all four courses required)

PSCI 3320 – Democratic Theory

PSCI 3XXX – Introduction to Public Administration

PSCI 3XXX – Quantitative Research Design and Analysis*

PSCI 4XXX – Advanced Seminar in Political Science (capstone) *Enroll in final semester. Prerequisites: completion of Political Science Major Core and Political Science Distribution Courses with 2.5 GPA.*

*Quantitative research design and analysis courses from related social science programs (SOCL, PSYC and CJUS) are accepted.

Political Science Distribution (one course from each area)

American Politics (A) : PSCI 4020, 3100, 3110, 3130, 3160, 3200 3210, 4100, 4120 or 4140

International Affairs and Comparative Government (R): PSCI 3XXX (International Relations) or PSCI 4520

Public Law (L): PSCI 3200, 3210, 4200, 4210, 4220 or 4520

Political Behavior (B): PSCI 3120, 3160 or 4120

Political Science Electives (12 hours: at least six hours must be from one distribution area)

PSCI 3100	Topics in American Government (A)
PSCI 3110	The Legislative Process (A)
PSCI 3120	Women In Politics (B)
PSCI 3130	Interest Groups (A)
PSCI 3160	Mass Media in American Politics (AB)
PSCI 3200	The American Legal System(AL)
PSCI 3210	The U.S. Supreme Court (AL)
PSCI 4020	Urban Politics (AB)
PSCI 4100	Political Parties (A)
PSCI 4120	Public Opinion and Participation (AB)
PSCI 4140	The Presidency (A)
PSCI 4200	Constitutional Law: Discrimination and Powers (L)
PSCI 4210	Constitutional Law: Rights and Liberties (L)
PSCI 4220	Jurisprudence (L)
PSCI 4520	International Human Rights (RL)
PSCI 3300	International Relations (R)

General Electives (36 hours: history, sociology, criminal justice, economics and policy courses recommended)

HIST 4150	Mexican Immigration and the Chicano Community (AR)
HIST 4172	Modern Latin America - 1801-present (R)
HIST 4490	The American Revolution, 1763-1789.(A)
HIST 4700	Texas History (A)
PADM 3700	Introduction to Public Administration (AB)
PSYC XXXX	Political Psychology (B)
CJUS/SOCI 2100	US Crime/Justice (AB)
CJUS/SOCI 3630	Drugs, Crime and Society (AB)
CJUS 3201	Criminal Law (L)
CJUS 3210	Judicial Law (L)
SOCI 3300	Urban Sociology (B)
SOCI 3550	Collective Behavior (B)
SOCI 4160	Developing Societies (R)
SOCI/HSML 4350	Community Organization (B)
SOCI 4540	Race and Ethnic Minorities (B)
SOCI 4750	World Population Trends and Problems (R)
MGMT 4350	Organizational Behavior (B)