

MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Web Site: <https://twu.edu/political-science/graduate-programs/master-of-arts-in-political-science/>

The Master of Arts in Political Sciences provides a multicultural view of politics, law, and public policy. Our graduate course offerings in the sub-fields of American Politics, Public Policy, Global Politics, Political Theory, and Gender & Politics emphasize the diverse experiences of women, men, and children of varied races, ethnicities, and socio-economic backgrounds. Our program challenges students to further develop critical and analytical thinking skills, to not just learn about political science, but to become an active practitioners of the discipline.

Marketable Skills

Defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's 60x30 Strategic Plan (<https://reportcenter.highered.texas.gov/agency-publication/miscellaneous/thecb-60x30-strategic-plan/>) as, "Those skills valued by employers that can be applied in a variety of work settings, including interpersonal, cognitive, and applied skills areas. These skills can be either primary or complementary to a major and are acquired by students through education, including curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities."

1. Solid writing and compositional skills. The M.A. in Political Science develops this skill by requiring students to engage in clear, persuasive, grammatically, and stylistically correct writing projects (primarily although not exclusively research papers).
2. Work independently on projects. The M.A. in Political Science develops this skill by requiring all students to complete an independent, original piece of scholarship in the form of a Master's thesis or professional paper.
3. Synthesize large concepts into succinct language. The M.A. in Political Science develops these skills by requiring students to take a required course in research methods which involves reading the extensive literature on a topic in politics (e.g., voting behavior or literature on democratization), synthesizing the concepts presented, analyzing data and arguments, and discussing this orally in a public forum and/or in written form (reaction papers, summaries, literature reviews, etc.).

Admissions

All students must meet the University requirements as outlined in the Admission to the TWU Graduate School (<https://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/graduate-school/admission-graduate-school/>) section of the catalog.

The academic program may have additional admission criteria that must also be completed as outlined on the program's website.

Degree Requirements

Total Semester Credit Hours Required

30-39 semester credit hours (SCH) minimum with at least 21 SCH of course work in the major.

Students must take one course in Research Methods, in addition to the three-course distribution requirement, with at least one course in U.S. Politics & Public Policy; Global Politics & Theory; and Gender & Politics.

Thesis Option

Minimum of 30 semester credit hours, including 6 SCH for the thesis.

Code	Title	SCHs
U.S. Politics & Public Policy		
Choose one of the following		3
POLS 5023	State and Local Politics	
POLS 5043	Seminar in American Politics	
POLS 5063	America's National Parks and Public Lands: History, Culture, and Law	
POLS 5083	Popular Culture and American Politics	
POLS 5153	Seminar in Public Policy	
Global Politics & Theory		
Choose one of the following		3
POLS 5003	Comparative Politics	
POLS 5313	Dilemmas in Immigration Policy	
POLS 5523	American International Relations	
POLS 5723	Seminar in Political Theory	
Gender & Politics		
Choose one of the following		3
POLS 5093	Law, Gender, and Sexuality	
POLS 5133	Leadership and Women	
POLS 5163	Women in Politics	
POLS 5183	Women of Color in Politics	
POLS 5263	Women, Elections, and Strategy	
Electives		
12 SCH can be chosen from any of the classes listed above plus		12
POLS 5903	Special Topics (Can be used for any category depending on the subject)	
POLS 5911	Independent Study	
POLS 5913	Independent Study	
POLS 5933	Internship	
or POLS 5936 Internship		
Required Courses		
POLS 5033	Research Methods in Government	3
POLS 5983	Thesis	3
POLS 5993	Thesis	3
Total SCHs		30

Professional Paper/Project Option

Minimum of 30 semester credit hours, including 3 SCH for the professional paper/project.

Code	Title	SCHs
U.S. Politics & Public Policy		
Choose one of the following		3
POLS 5023	State and Local Politics	
POLS 5043	Seminar in American Politics	
POLS 5063	America's National Parks and Public Lands: History, Culture, and Law	
POLS 5083	Popular Culture and American Politics	

POLS 5153	Seminar in Public Policy	
Global Politics & Theory		
Choose one of the following		3
POLS 5003	Comparative Politics	
POLS 5313	Dilemmas in Immigration Policy	
POLS 5523	American International Relations	
POLS 5723	Seminar in Political Theory	
Gender & Politics		
Choose one of the following		3
POLS 5093	Law, Gender, and Sexuality	
POLS 5133	Leadership and Women	
POLS 5163	Women in Politics	
POLS 5183	Women of Color in Politics	
POLS 5263	Women, Elections, and Strategy	
Electives		
15 SCH can be chosen from any of the classes listed above plus		15
POLS 5903	Special Topics (Can be used for any category depending on the subject.)	
POLS 5911	Independent Study	
POLS 5913	Independent Study	
POLS 5933	Internship	
or POLS 5936 Internship		
Required Courses		
POLS 5033	Research Methods in Government	3
POLS 5973	Professional Paper/Project	3
Total SCHs		30

Public Affairs Option

Minimum of 30 semester credit hours, including 3 SCH for the professional paper/project.

Code	Title	SCHs
U.S. Politics & Public Policy		
Choose one of the following		3
POLS 5023	State and Local Politics	
POLS 5043	Seminar in American Politics	
POLS 5063	America's National Parks and Public Lands: History, Culture, and Law	
POLS 5083	Popular Culture and American Politics	
POLS 5153	Seminar in Public Policy	
Global Politics & Theory		
Choose one of the following		3
POLS 5003	Comparative Politics	
POLS 5313	Dilemmas in Immigration Policy	
POLS 5523	American International Relations	
POLS 5723	Seminar in Political Theory	
Gender & Politics		
Choose one of the following		3
POLS 5093	Law, Gender, and Sexuality	
POLS 5133	Leadership and Women	
POLS 5163	Women in Politics	
POLS 5183	Women of Color in Politics	
POLS 5263	Women, Elections, and Strategy	

Electives

Nine SCH can be chosen from any of the classes listed above plus		9
POLS 5903	Special Topics (Can be used for any category depending on the subject)	
POLS 5911	Independent Study	
POLS 5913	Independent Study	
Required Courses		
POLS 5033	Research Methods in Government	3
POLS 5936	Internship	6
POLS 5973	Professional Paper/Project	3
Total SCHs		30

M.A. in Political Science with Graduate Certificate in History

Couples 21 semester credit hours of graduate study in Political Science with 18 SCH of graduate study in History. Graduates of the certificate program write a professional paper/project and receive an M.A. in Political Science but earn a certificate in History and have enough graduate hours to teach in both History and Political Science in Texas community colleges.

Minimum of 39 semester credit hours, including 3 SCH for the professional paper/project.

Code	Title	SCHs
U.S. Politics & Public Policy		
Choose one of the following		3
POLS 5023	State and Local Politics	
POLS 5043	Seminar in American Politics	
POLS 5063	America's National Parks and Public Lands: History, Culture, and Law	
POLS 5083	Popular Culture and American Politics	
POLS 5153	Seminar in Public Policy	
Global Politics & Theory		
Choose one of the following		3
POLS 5003	Comparative Politics	
POLS 5313	Dilemmas in Immigration Policy	
POLS 5523	American International Relations	
POLS 5723	Seminar in Political Theory	
Gender & Politics		
Choose one of the following		3
POLS 5093	Law, Gender, and Sexuality	
POLS 5133	Leadership and Women	
POLS 5163	Women in Politics	
POLS 5183	Women of Color in Politics	
POLS 5263	Women, Elections, and Strategy	
Electives		
Six SCH can be chosen from any of the classes listed above plus		6
POLS 5903	Special Topics (Can be used for any category depending on the subject.)	
POLS 5911	Independent Study	
POLS 5913	Independent Study	
POLS 5933	Internship	
Required Courses		

POLS 5033	Research Methods in Government	3
POLS 5973	Professional Paper/Project	3
Plus the Graduate Certificate in History		
HIST 5033	Research Methods in History	3
U.S. History		
Choose nine SCH from the following		9
HIST 5003	Studies in 19th Century U.S	
HIST 5093	Women in Early America	
HIST 5123	Religion in an Atlantic World, 1450-1776	
HIST 5303	Progressives	
HIST 5403	American Experience in World War II	
HIST 5503	Between the Wars	
HIST 5703	U.S. Since 1945	
Non-US History		
Choose three SCH from the following		3
HIST 5103	Renaissance and Reformations	
HIST 5253	History of France	
HIST 5883	Seminar in European History	
Electives		
Choose three SCH from any of the classes listed above plus		3
HIST 5803	Oral History Methodology	
HIST 5813	Methods in Public History	
HIST 5903	Special Topics	
HIST 5911	Independent Study	
HIST 5913	Independent Study	
HIST 5933	Internship	
	or HIST 5936 Internship	
Capstone written portfolio and oral defense		
Total SCHs		39

Minor

Optional. All minors must be approved by the student's graduate committee and must include six semester credit hours.

Special Requirement

No grade lower than B can be counted toward meeting the minimum number of semester credit hours required. Students enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in History will complete and defend a portfolio that describes their coursework and research in history.

Final Examination

An oral defense of the thesis or professional paper/project is required.