

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Web Site: <https://twu.edu/certificate-women-in-politics/>

Our Graduate Certificate in Political Science is ideally suited for:

- 1. Texas high school teachers who have an M.A. in a field other than political science and want to teach political science in the dual credit classroom.
- 2. Teachers who have an M.A. in a field other than political science and want to teach political science in the community college classroom.
- 3. Individuals who are interested in graduate work in political science but aren't ready to fully commit to a graduate program.

A prior M.A. is not required for admission. However, Texas state law mandates that dual credit and community college teachers hold an M.A. in any field AND 18 hours in the subject they are teaching. Our Graduate Certificate Program in Political Science meets the 18-hour requirement to teach. If you do not hold a master's degree and are interested in teaching political science in either the community college or dual credit classroom, please visit our M.A. in Political Science program page (<https://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/arts-sciences/political-science/government-ma/>).

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. Employers want employees with solid writing and compositional skills. The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate 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. Employers want employees with the ability to work independently on projects. The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Political Science develops this skill by requiring all students to complete an independent, original piece of scholarship in the form of a certificate portfolio.
- 3. Employers want employees to be able to synthesize large concepts into succinct language. The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate 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.).
- 4. For potential Dual-credit teachers, knowledge to competently teach Political Science/Government at the community college or dual credit level must be demonstrated. The Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Political Science develops this skill by requiring all students to take 18 semester credit hours in Political Science. These hours,

combined with a Master's Degree (in any field) meet the state of Texas requirements for community college or (if certified) dual credit teachers. Importantly, the diverse historical subjects and time periods covered in the certificate's coursework prepare students to teach introductory Political Science/Government courses.

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

18 semester credit hours (SCH).

Code	Title	SCHs
Required Courses		
POLS 5033	Research Methods in Government	3
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		
One elective may be chosen from the classes listed above, plus		6
POLS 5903	Special Topics (May be used for any category depending on the subject.)	
POLS 5911	Independent Study	
POLS 5913	Independent Study	
POLS 5933	Internship	
Capstone written portfolio and oral defense		
Total SCHs		18