

POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

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

Marketable Skills

Defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's 60x30 Strategic Plan (<https://reportcenter.highered.texas.gov/agency-publication/miscellaneous/theccb-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.