

ACCELERATED B.S./M.A. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE (LEGAL STUDIES)

Web Site: <https://twu.edu/political-science/undergraduate-programs/accelerated-bachelors-to-masters-degrees-in-political-science/>

The Accelerated Bachelor of Arts/Master of Arts in Political Science provides exceptional undergraduate students in the Political Science program an avenue toward accelerated completion of a Master's degree. This degree program mirrors the curricular and assessment requirements of the existing Master's degree program and allows undergraduates to begin taking graduate-level courses when they have completed 90 credit hours toward their baccalaureate degree, thus reducing the calendar time necessary to complete the degree. No undergraduate course may count toward the accelerated Master's degree. The Accelerated Bachelor of Arts/Master of Arts in Political Science is a highly competitive program.

Marketable Skills

Defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's 60x30 Strategic Plan (<http://www.60x30tx.com/>) 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 who can work collaboratively in groups. The B.A. in Political Science develops these skills by requiring students to work on group projects (presented in front of the instructor and peers), identify clear roles within the group (e.g., spokespersons/team leaders), and present the findings of the group in a public forum. The M.A. in Political Science further develops this skill.
2. Employers want employees who have solid writing and compositional skills. The B.A. in Political Science develops this skill by requiring students to engage in clear, persuasive, and grammatically and stylistically correct writing projects (research papers, policy briefs, reaction papers, memos, position papers, etc.). The M.A. in Political Science further develops this skill, for example through developing literature reviews in their graduate classes.
3. Employers want employees who have solid oral communication skills. The B.A. in Political Science develops these skills by requiring students to present their research in a public forum (that is, in front of a class of peers and the instructor) using visual aids (slides, charts, graphs, etc.) and/or to role-play in a public forum requiring extensive research on that role. The M.A. in Political Science further develops this skill.
4. Employers want employees who can 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.
5. Employers want employees who can synthesize information (facts/data, concepts, terminology) 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 applicants must meet the general undergraduate admission requirements (<http://catalog.twu.edu/undergraduate/admission-information/>).

Program Contact

Dr. Parker Hevron, POLS Program Director and Graduate Director for History and Political Science

Application Deadlines for the Accelerated Degree Program

Fall: March 1st
Spring: November 1st
No summer admissions

Admission Requirements

To apply to the program, students must:

- be a current TWU Political Science major.
- have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher.
- have successfully completed a minimum of 72 but no more than 90 hours of coursework toward the BA.
- have a minimum of 12 hours remaining in political science courses toward the major.

How to Apply

Students interested in applying to the accelerated program in Political Science are encouraged to contact Dr. Parker Hevron prior to applying.

- Complete the application form.
- Applicants must submit the following materials in a single email to Dr. Parker Hevron. Submit as PDFs; include the student's name and "Political Science Accelerated Master's Degree" in the subject line.
 - a statement of purpose
 - an academic writing sample of 10-15 pages (double spaced). Writing samples should demonstrate the ability to make well-researched arguments with effective proofs; to use clear, articulate prose; and to employ a standard style such as MLA or APA to document sources.
- Applicants must provide one recommendation letter in support of application from a current History or Political Science faculty member in the TWU department. Recommenders should include the applicant's name and "Political Science Accelerated Master's Degree" in the subject line.
- Once admitted by the department, apply to the Graduate School (<http://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/graduate-school/admission-graduate-school/>). Students cannot enroll in graduate-level coursework until accepted by the Graduate School.
- Students interested in a graduate assistantship should also submit an application to the POLS Department Chair in the semester they complete the bachelor's degree.

Degree Requirements

Total Semester Credit Hours (SCH): 120

Major: 27-33 SCH

Program Code: POLSCIENCE.BA.MA.LEGAL CIP Code: 45.1001.00

Texas Core Curriculum

Code	Title	SCHs
ENG 1013	Composition I	3
ENG 1023	Composition II	3
Mathematics		3
Life & Physical Sciences		6
Language, Philosophy, & Culture		3
Creative Arts		3
HIST 1013	History of the United States, 1492-1865	3
HIST 1023	History of the United States, 1865 to the Present	3
POLS 2013	U.S. National Government	3
POLS 2023	Texas Government	3
Social & Behavioral Sciences		3
CAO: Women's Studies		3
CAO: First Year Seminar, Wellness or Mathematics		3
Total SCHs		42

Courses Required for Major

Code	Title	SCHs
POLS 3153	Law, Politics, and Public Policy	3
POLS 3173	Introduction to Comparative Politics	3
POLS 3723	Modern Political Thought	3
POLS 4073	Constitutional Law: Governmental Structure	3
POLS 4533	International Relations	3
POLS 4833	Political Science: Scope and Methods	3
POLS 4933	Senior Seminar	3
Select 6-12 SCH from the following		6-12
POLS 2223	Criminal Investigation	
POLS 3243	Criminal Law	
POLS 3253	Criminal Evidence and Procedure	
POLS 3303	The American Legislative Process	
POLS 3393	Gender, Identity, and the Law	
POLS 4083	Constitutional Law: Individual Rights	
POLS 4093	Constitutional Rights and Criminal Justice	
POLS 4263	Women, Elections, and Strategy	
POLS 4563	Global Law and Legal Systems	
POLS 4603	Legal Studies Internship	
POLS 4606	Legal Studies Internship	
Total SCHs		27-33

Departmental Requirements

Code	Title	SCHs
	English Literature (2000 level or higher)	3
	Global Perspectives	3
	Electives (select with academic advisor)	36
Total SCHs		42

Master's Level Courses

Code	Title	SCHs
Select 6-12 SCH from the following		
POLS 5003	Comparative Politics	
POLS 5723	Seminar in Political Theory	
POLS 5013	American National Defense Policy or POLS 5053 The Presidency and Public Policy	
POLS 5073	Issues in Constitutional Law or POLS 5093 Law, Gender, and Sexuality or POLS 5133 Leadership and Women or POLS 5163 Women in Politics or POLS 5263 Women, Elections, and Strategy or POLS 5303 Problems in the Legislative Process or POLS 5473 Vietnam War: Culture, History, and Law or POLS 5493 Women As Citizens	
POLS 5903	Special Topics	
POLS 5911	Independent Study	
POLS 5913	Independent Study	
POLS 5033	Research Methods in Government	
Total SCHs		6-12

Recommended Plan of Study

*The example below is only a suggestion. It is recommended to see an advisor for a personalized Plan of Study.

First Year

Fall	TCCN	SCHs
ENG 1013	Composition I	ENGL 1301 3
HIST 1013	History of the United States, 1492-1865	HIST 1301 3
UNIV 1231	Learning Frameworks: The First Year Experience	EDUC 1100, EDUC 1200, EDUC 1300 1

Social/Behavioral Science Core	3
CAO: Wellness or Mathematics Core	2
Creative Arts Core	3
SCHs	15

Spring	TCCN	SCHs
ENG 1023	Composition II	ENGL 1302 3
HIST 1023	History of the United States, 1865 to the Present	HIST 1302 3

Mathematics Core	3
CAO: Multicultural Women's Studies Core	3
Elective (Global Perspectives course)	3
SCHs	15

Second Year

Fall	TCCN	SCHs
POLS 2013	U.S. National Government	GOVT 2305 3
English Literature	3	
Life & Physical Science Core	3	
Elective	3	
Elective (or minor)	3	
SCHs	15	

Spring		TCCN	
POLS 2023	Texas Government	GOVT 2306	3
Language, Philosophy, & Culture Core			3
Life & Physical Science Core			3
Elective			3
Elective (or minor)			3
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SCHs			15
Third Year			
Fall		TCCN	
POLS 3173	Introduction to Comparative Politics		3
POLS 4533	International Relations		3
Elective			3
Elective			3
Elective (or minor)			3
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SCHs			15
Spring		TCCN	
POLS 3723	Modern Political Thought		3
POLS 4073	Constitutional Law: Governmental Structure		3
POLS Elective			3
Elective (or minor)			3
Elective			3
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SCHs			15
Fourth Year			
Fall		TCCN	
POLS 3153	Law, Politics, and Public Policy		3
POLS 4833	Political Science: Scope and Methods		3
Master's Level Course			3
Master's Level Course			3
Elective			3
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SCHs			15
Spring		TCCN	
POLS 4933	Senior Seminar		3
Elective (or minor)			3
Master's Level Course			3
Master's Level Course			3
Elective			3
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SCHs			15
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Total SCHs:			120