

ACCELERATED B.A./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 (<https://reportcenter.highered.texas.gov/agency-publication/miscellaneous/the60x30-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 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

Program Coordinator

Dr. Parker Hevron
 POLS Program Director and Graduate Director for History and Political Science
 940-898-2131
 phevron@twu.edu

Application Deadlines

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

Admission Requirements

To apply to the Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's program in Political Science, students must:

- Be currently enrolled as a 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 bachelor's.
- Have a minimum of 12 hours remaining in political science courses toward the major.

How to Apply to the Accelerated Program

Students interested in applying to the accelerated program in Political Science are encouraged to contact the Program Coordinator prior to applying.

To apply, students must:

1. Complete the Accelerated Program in Political Science application form. (link coming in July).
2. Applicants must submit the following materials as PDFs in a single email to the Program Coordinator. Include the student's name and TWU I.D. number with "Political Science Accelerated Program" in the subject line.
 - a. A statement of purpose.
 - b. 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.
3. One recommendation letter from a current TWU History or Political Science faculty member should be sent directly to the Program Coordinator in support of the student's application. Recommenders should include the applicant's name and "Political Science Accelerated Program" in the subject line.
4. Once admitted to the Accelerated Program students must apply to the graduate M.A. in Political Science program (<https://twu.edu/political-science/graduate-programs/master-of-arts-in-political-science/>). Students cannot enroll in graduate-level coursework until accepted by the Graduate School.

Accelerated Graduate Program Policy Guidelines

Students may apply to the accelerated graduate degree program once they have attained advanced junior standing with at least 72 undergraduate semester credit hours (SCH). Upon admission to an accelerated program, students with senior standing (90 earned SCH) may enroll in graduate courses for credit. Approved courses will apply to both an undergraduate and a graduate degree.

Conditions

- Undergraduate students may enroll in no more than 6 SCH of graduate coursework in each semester or term.
- Minimal criteria for admission will include a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0. The program may set higher GPA requirements as outlined on their TWU graduate program website at the time of graduate application.
- Once admitted to an accelerated program, students must maintain a 3.0 GPA throughout the remainder of their baccalaureate degree, or their admission to the accelerated graduate program may be revoked. Academic components may set additional requirements for their programs.

Graduate Application Process

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

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

Degree Requirements

Total Semester Credit Hours (SCH): 120

Major: 24

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 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 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		24-30

Departmental Requirements

Code	Title	SCHs
English Literature (2000 level or higher)		3
Foreign Language (12 SCH of the same language)		12
Global Perspectives		3
Electives (select with academic advisor)		24
Total SCHs		42

Master's Level Courses

Code	Title	SCHs
Select 6-12 SCH from the following		6-12
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
Elective (Global Perspectives course)			3
CAO: Multicultural Women's Studies Core			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 (or minor)			3
Foreign Language			3
SCHs			15

Spring		TCCN	SCHs
POLS 2023	Texas Government	GOVT 2306	3
Language, Philosophy, & Culture Core			3
Life & Physical Science Core			3
Foreign Language			3
Elective (or minor)			3
SCHs			15

Third Year

Fall		TCCN	SCHs
POLS 3173	Introduction to Comparative Politics		3
POLS 4533	International Relations		3
Foreign Language			3
Elective			3
Elective (or minor)			3
SCHs			15

Spring		TCCN	SCHs
POLS 3723	Modern Political Thought		3
POLS 4073	Constitutional Law: Governmental Structure		3
POLS Elective			3
Elective (or minor)			3

Foreign Language	3
SCHs	15

Fourth Year

Fall		TCCN	SCHs
POLS 3153	Law, Politics, and Public Policy		3
Master's Level Course			3
Master's Level Course			3
Elective (upper level)			3
Elective			3
SCHs			15

Spring		TCCN	SCHs
POLS 4933	Senior Seminar		3
Master's Level Course			3
Master's Level Course			3
Elective (or minor)			3
POLS Elective			3
SCHs			15

Total SCHs:	120
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