

# ACCELERATED B.S. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE (POLITICS, POLICY, & PUBLIC SERVICE)/M.A. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

**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."

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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](mailto:phevron@twu.edu)

### Application Deadlines

- Fall - March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Spring - November 1<sup>st</sup>
- 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:

- Complete the Accelerated Program in Political Science application form. (link coming in July).
- 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 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.
- 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.
- 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):** 123

**Major:** 30-36

**Program Code:** POLSCIENCE.BA.MA **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         |
| <b>Total SCHs</b>                                | <b>42</b> |

## Courses Required for Major

| Code                               | Title                                      | SCHs         |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| POLS 3173                          | Introduction to Comparative Politics       | 3            |
| POLS 3303                          | The American Legislative Process           | 3            |
| POLS 3723                          | Modern Political Thought                   | 3            |
| POLS 4533                          | International Relations                    | 3            |
| POLS 4813                          | Seminar in Public Policy                   | 3            |
| POLS 4933                          | Senior Seminar                             | 3            |
| POLS 4803                          | Government Internship                      | 3            |
| or POLS 4806                       | Government Internship                      |              |
| POLS 4903                          | Special Topics                             | 3            |
| Select 6-12 SCH from the following |  | 6-12         |
| POLS 3013                          | Community Conversation in Sustainability   |              |
| POLS 3053                          | The American Presidency                    |              |
| POLS 3063                          | Women in Politics                          |              |
| POLS 3153                          | Law, Politics, and Public Policy           |              |
| POLS 3163                          | Media and Politics                         |              |
| POLS 3233                          | Police, Policies, and Practices            |              |
| POLS 3513                          | Japanese Culture and Politics              |              |
| POLS 3613                          | The Politics of Food in America            |              |
| POLS 4073                          | Constitutional Law: Governmental Structure |              |
| POLS 4113                          | Public Administration                      |              |
| POLS 4133                          | Women in Leadership                        |              |
| POLS 4553                          | Modern Nationalism                         |              |
| POLS 4563                          | Global Law and Legal Systems               |              |
| POLS 4613                          | Comparative Government: Europe             |              |
| POLS 4653                          | German Politics Since 1945 Through Film    |              |
| <b>Total SCHs</b>                  |  | <b>30-36</b> |

## Departmental Requirements

| Code              | Title                                     | SCHs      |
|-------------------|---|-----------|
|                   | English Literature (2000 level or higher) | 3         |
|                   | Global Perspectives                       | 3         |
|                   | Electives (select with academic advisor)  | 36        |
| <b>Total SCHs</b> |   | <b>42</b> |

## 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 |             |
| POLS 5073                          | Issues in Constitutional Law     |             |
| POLS 5903                          | Special Topics                   |             |
| POLS 5911                          | Independent Study                |             |
| POLS 5913                          | Independent Study                |             |
| POLS 5033                          | Research Methods in Government   |             |
| <b>Total SCHs</b>                  |                                  | <b>6-12</b> |

## Recommended Plan of Study

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

|                                       |   |                                 |           |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>First Year</b>                     |   |                                 |           |
| <b>Fall</b>                           | <b>TCCN</b>                                       | <b>SCHs</b>                     |           |
| 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         |
| Creative Arts Core                    |   |                                 | 3         |
| CAO: Wellness or Mathematics Core     |   |                                 | 2         |
| Elective                              |   |                                 | 3         |
| <b>SCHs</b>                           |   |                                 | <b>15</b> |
| <b>Spring</b>                         | <b>TCCN</b>                                       |                                 |           |
| 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         |
| Elective                              |   |                                 | 3         |
| <b>SCHs</b>                           |   |                                 | <b>15</b> |
| <b>Second Year</b>                    |   |                                 |           |
| <b>Fall</b>                           | <b>TCCN</b>                                       |                                 |           |
| POLS 2013                             | U.S. National Government                          | GOVT 2305                       | 3         |
| English Literature                    |   |                                 | 3         |
| Elective                              |   |                                 | 3         |
| Life & Physical Science Core          |   |                                 | 3         |
| Social & Behavioral Science Core      |   |                                 | 3         |
| <b>SCHs</b>                           |   |                                 | <b>15</b> |
| <b>Spring</b>                         | <b>TCCN</b>                                       |                                 |           |
| POLS 2023                             | Texas Government                                  | GOVT 2306                       | 3         |
| Elective                              |   |                                 | 3         |
| Language, Philosophy, & Culture Core  |   |                                 | 3         |
| Life & Physical Science Core          |   |                                 | 3         |
| CAO: Multicultural Women's Core       |   |                                 | 3         |
| <b>SCHs</b>                           |   |                                 | <b>15</b> |
| <b>Third Year</b>                     |   |                                 |           |
| <b>Fall</b>                           | <b>TCCN</b>                                       |                                 |           |
| POLS 3173                             | Introduction to Comparative Politics              |                                 | 3         |
| Elective                              |   |                                 | 3         |
| Elective                              |   |                                 | 3         |
| Elective                              |   |                                 | 3         |
|                                       |   |                                 | 3         |
| POLS 4533                             | International Relations                           |                                 | 3         |
| <b>SCHs</b>                           |   |                                 | <b>18</b> |
| <b>Spring</b>                         | <b>TCCN</b>                                       |                                 |           |
| POLS 3723                             | Modern Political Thought                          |                                 | 3         |
| Elective                              |   |                                 | 3         |
| POLS 4813                             | Seminar in Public Policy                          |                                 | 3         |
| Elective                              |   |                                 | 3         |

|                       |                                      |  |            |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|------------|
| Elective              |                                      |  | 3          |
| <b>SCHs</b>           |                                      |  | <b>15</b>  |
| <b>Fourth Year</b>    |                                      |  |            |
| <b>Fall</b>           | <b>TCCN</b>                          |  |            |
| POLS 3303             | The American Legislative Process     |  | 3          |
| POLS 4833             | Political Science: Scope and Methods |  | 3          |
| Master's Level Course |                                      |  | 3          |
| Master's Level Course |                                      |  | 3          |
| Elective              |                                      |  | 3          |
| <b>SCHs</b>           |                                      |  | <b>15</b>  |
| <b>Spring</b>         | <b>TCCN</b>                          |  |            |
| POLS 4933             | Senior Seminar                       |  | 3          |
| POLS Elective         |                                      |  | 3          |
| Master's Level Course |                                      |  | 3          |
| Master's Level Course |                                      |  | 3          |
| Elective              |                                      |  | 3          |
| <b>SCHs</b>           |                                      |  | <b>15</b>  |
| <b>Total SCHs:</b>    |                                      |  | <b>123</b> |