

POLITICAL SCIENCE, BACHELOR OF ARTS

The political science degree requires thirty nine additional semester hours beyond the General Education requirements and the College of Arts and Humanities foreign language requirement.

Curriculum

Program Requirements

In the General Education requirements, political science majors are required to take:

Code	Title	Hours
HIST 2003	United States History to 1877	3
HIST 2013	United States History since 1877	3
Select one of the following:		3
HIST 1513	World History since 1500	
HIST 1503	World History to 1500	
GEOG 2013	Regional Geography of the World	
Select one of the following:		3
SOC 1003	Introductory Sociology	
PSY 2003	General Psychology	
ECON 2003	Principles of Macroeconomics	

Political science majors are required to take six hours of beginning foreign language courses or obtain the appropriate waiver for high school language study.

The thirty nine semester hours required for the political science degree include:

Code	Title	Hours
POLS 2003	American Government	3
POLS 2253	Survey of Western Political Thought	3
POLS 2513	Research Design	3
POLS 2403	Comparative Government	3
POLS 2413	International Relations	3
or POLS 2153	Introduction to Strategic Studies	
POLS 4963	Senior Seminar	3
21 additional elective credits in political science, 18 of which are upper level political courses		21
Total Hours		39

Program Recommendations

It is recommended students pursue one of the six career tracks below based on the types of jobs that are most appealing to them. It is also recommended students work with their advisor to do an internship within their track to give them first-hand experience in a career in their track.

Law School Track

Recommended for students interested in earning their Juris Doctorate in law. It is recommended students pursuing this track take at least 18 of their 21 political science credits from the following list of courses:

Code	Title	Hours
POLS 3023	Judicial Process	3
POLS 3043	Judicial Politics	3
POLS 3063	Modern Political Thought	3
POLS 3253	Classical Political Thought	3
POLS 4043	American Constitutional Law	3
POLS 4973	Internship	3
POLS 4983	Political Science Seminar	3

Public Policy/Administration Track

Recommended for students interested in political careers in bureaucratic agencies at the local, state or federal level of government, as well as non-profit organizations that lobby government. It is recommended students pursuing this track take at least 18 of their 21 political science credits from the following list of courses:

Code	Title	Hours
POLS 3033	American State and Local Government	3
POLS 3043	Judicial Politics	3
POLS 3053	Introduction to Public Administration	3
POLS 3083	Political Parties and Interest Groups	3
POLS 3093		3
POLS 3143	The United States Presidency	3
POLS 4973	Internship	3
POLS 4983	Political Science Seminar	3

International Relations/Studies Track

Recommended for students interested in careers with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like the Red Cross, Amnesty International, etc.; political careers working for or with organizations like the United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), etc.; or diplomatic careers. It is recommended students pursuing this track take at least 18 of their 21 political science credits from the following list of courses:

Code	Title	Hours
POLS 3063	Modern Political Thought	3
POLS 3423	Problems in International Affairs	3
POLS 3433	United Nations	3
POLS 3473	National Security Policy	3
POLS 4973	Internship	3
POLS 4983	Political Science Seminar	3

Strategic Studies Track

Recommended for students interested in military studies and careers. These courses are very popular with students pursuing an ROTC program. It is recommended students pursuing this track take at least 18 of their 21 political science credits from the following list of courses:

Code	Title	Hours
POLS 2153	Introduction to Strategic Studies	3
POLS 3013	Recent American Foreign and Military Policy	3
POLS 3063	Modern Political Thought	3
POLS 3423	Problems in International Affairs	3
POLS 3433	United Nations	3
POLS 3473	National Security Policy	3

POLS 4973	Internship	3
POLS 4983	Political Science Seminar	3

American Politics, Campaigns & Elections Track

Recommended for students interested in careers working on political campaigns, for political parties, for interest groups, or in any of the branches of government at the local, state and federal level. It is recommended students pursuing this track take at least 18 of their 21 political science credits from the following list of courses:

Code	Title	Hours
POLS 3033	American State and Local Government	3
POLS 3083	Political Parties and Interest Groups	3
POLS 3093		3
POLS 3123	American Political Behavior	3
POLS 3133	United States Congress	3
POLS 3143	The United States Presidency	3
Select one of the following:		3
POLS 3513	Research Methods	
SOC 2053	Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences	
STAT 3153	Applied Statistics	
POLS 4976	Internship	6
POLS 4983	Political Science Seminar	3

Political Science Graduate School Track

Recommended for students interested in seeking a master's or doctorate's degree in political science. It is recommended students pursuing this track take at least 18 of their 21 political science credits as follows:

Code	Title	Hours
Select one of the following:		3
POLS 3513	Research Methods	
SOC 2053	Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences	
STAT 3153	Applied Statistics	
15 credits distributed as follows among these three blocks:		15
American Government Course - 6 credits		
International Relations Course - 6 credits		
Political Theory Course - 3 credits		

American Government Course

(6 credits)

Code	Title	Hours
POLS 3023	Judicial Process	3
POLS 3043	Judicial Politics	3
POLS 3053	Introduction to Public Administration	3
POLS 3083	Political Parties and Interest Groups	3
POLS 3093		3
POLS 3123	American Political Behavior	3
POLS 3133	United States Congress	3
POLS 3143	The United States Presidency	3

International Relations Course

(6 credits)

Code	Title	Hours
POLS 3013	Recent American Foreign and Military Policy	3
POLS 3423	Problems in International Affairs	3
POLS 3433	United Nations	3
POLS 3473	National Security Policy	3

Political Theory Course

(3 credits)

Code	Title	Hours
POLS 3063	Modern Political Thought	3
POLS 3253	Classical Political Thought	3
POLS 4043	American Constitutional Law	3
POLS 4973	Internship	3
POLS 4983	Political Science Seminar	3

Curriculum

The matrix below is a sample plan for all coursework required for this program.

Course	Title	Hours
Freshman		
Fall		
ENGL 1013	Composition I ¹	3
FAH 1XXX	Fine Arts and Humanities Courses ¹	3
MATH XXXX	Mathematics ¹	3
Select one of the following:		3
HIST 1503	World History to 1500	
HIST 1513	World History since 1500	
GEOG 2013	Regional Geography of the World	
Select one of the following:		3
SOC 1003	Introductory Sociology	
PSY 2003	General Psychology	
ECON 2003	Principles of Macroeconomics	
TECH 1001	Orientation to the University	1
		Hours
		16
Spring		
ENGL 1023	Composition II ¹	3
SCIL 1XXX	Science with Laboratory ¹	4
HIST 2003	United States History to 1877	3
POLS 2003	American Government	3
Elective ²		3
		Hours
		16
Sophomore		
Fall		
HIST 2013	United States History since 1877	3
SCIL 1XXX	Science with Laboratory ¹	4
Beginning Language I ³		3
POLS 2253	Survey of Western Political Thought	3
POLS 2513	Research Design	3
		Hours
		16
Spring		
FAH 1XXX	Fine Arts and Humanities Courses ¹	3
Beginning Language II ³		3
POLS Elective ⁴		6
Elective ²		3
		Hours
		15
Junior		
Fall		
POLS 2403	Comparative Government	3

POLS Elective ⁴		3
Elective ²		9
Hours		15
Spring		
POLS 2413 or POLS 2153	International Relations or Introduction to Strategic Studies	3
POLS Elective ⁴		3
Elective ²		9
Hours		15
Senior		
Fall		
POLS Elective ⁴		9
Elective ²		6
Hours		15
Spring		
POLS 4963	Senior Seminar	3
Elective ²		9
Hours		12
Total Hours		120

¹ See appropriate alternatives or substitutions in "General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.atu.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/>)."

² At least 40 of the total hours required for graduation must be 3000 - 4000 level courses.

³ Must be in one language. Students may waive three hours of language requirement for every one year of language study in high school with grades of "C" or better.

⁴ Majors are also required to take 21 additional elective credits in political science, 18 of which are upper level political courses. It is recommended students pursue one of the six career tracks below based on the types of jobs that are most appealing to them:

Law School Track

Public Policy/Administration Track

International Relations/Studies Track

Strategic Studies Track

American Politics, Campaigns & Elections Track

Political Science Graduate School Track