M.A. in Political Science

UTEP's location at the intersection of political systems, nationalities, and cultures provides many fascinating and unique opportunities to study American Politics, Border Politics, Comparative Politics, and International Relations. Our master's degree is useful for many different career paths. UTEP graduates have gone on to jobs in government service, teaching, business, and non-profit organizations. Some of our MA graduates have subsequently completed doctoral programs. We offer two degree plans in the MA program:

1. **Degree Plan Thesis Option** consists of 30 credit hours, including six (6) thesis credit hours, and is designed for students planning to pursue a doctoral degree or otherwise would like to develop an area of research expertise; and
2. **Degree Plan Non-Thesis Option** requires 36 credit hours, including a final paper project.

Students in our MA program can apply for teaching and research assistantships. The early deadline to apply for funding assistantship consideration is March 31 for Fall admission, and November 15 for Spring admission.

**Admission Requirements**

Admission is based on the entire record of the applicant and not a single criterion.

1. Completed application (available online) for the Graduate School.
2. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in the U.S. or proof of equivalent education at a foreign institution in Political Science, or a related area. Transcripts are required from the bachelor's degree and any other graduate or professional degree programs, including law school.
3. Two letters of recommendation, preferably from former professors in either the bachelor's degree program or previous graduate programs.
4. A statement of purpose outlining one's interest in the program and career objectives. If the applicant's undergraduate GPA is below 3.0, any extenuating circumstances must be explained.
5. The results of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). For graduates of institutions outside of the United States where English is not the first language, the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is also required. Official test scores from both GRE and TOEFL should be sent directly from the testing agency to the Graduate School.
6. Other evidence of background and experience that might be available.

**Additional Policies**

1. Independent studies are limited to three (3) hours of graduate coursework, taken with the permission of the instructor and the Director of Graduate Studies and justified with a proposal from the student outlining the objectives of the project by the end of the drop/add period.
2. No more than six (6) credit hours of upper-division undergraduate classes can count toward the graduate degree. To use an undergraduate course for graduate credit, the following additional work is required: reading of original scholarly books and articles above and beyond textbooks; and additional written work, such as research on specific theories, literature reviews, or identification of issues in specific areas. Undergraduate courses can count for graduate credit only with the permission of the instructor and the Director of Graduate Studies.
3. No student can register for a graduate course in the Department of Political Science without the advice and approval of the Director of Graduate studies. This applies to the initial registration, and also to all subsequent enrollments.
4. Satisfactory performance in the MA program is defined as maintaining a 3.0 GPA. A grade of B or better must be earned in all the mandatory courses required in both degree plans, including:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLS 5300</td>
<td>Sem In Quant Rsch Methods I</td>
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<td>POLS 5301</td>
<td>Sem in Qual Resrch Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 5302</td>
<td>Sem Quant Research Methods II</td>
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**Degree Plan**

**Thesis Option**

Required Credits: 30

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<tr>
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<td>MA in Political Science (All courses require a grade of C or better)</td>
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<td>Required Courses:</td>
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<td>or POLS 5302</td>
<td>Sem Quant Research Methods II</td>
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**Political Science Subfields:**
Select one course from three of the four subfields below:

**American Institutions and Processes:**
- POLS 5310 Seminar in Am. Pol. Behavior
- POLS 5320 Seminar In Public Law
- POLS 5364 Seminar-Public Policy Analysis

**Border Politics:**
- POLS 5336 Sem-Southwestern Border Politi
- POLS 5343 Seminar in Border Politics
- POLS 5344 Seminar in Border Theory

**Comparative Politics:**
- POLS 5334 Seminar-Comparative Pol. Dev.
- POLS 5345 Comparative Electoral Systems
- POLS 5346 Sem in Pol Econ of Developmt
- POLS 5348 Sem in Politics of Latin Amer
- POLS 5370 Field Analysis Seminar

**International Politics:**
- POLS 5330 Seminar-International Politics
- POLS 5331 Semina-Intn'l Organ/Intn'l Law
- POLS 5332 Sem-Foreign Policy Dec Making
- POLS 5338 Sem. In Int. Pol. Econ.
- POLS 5347 Sem in International Security
- POLS 5368 Seminar in Conflict Analysis

**Political Science Electives:**
Select nine hours from the following:

- POLS 5301 Sem in Qual Resrch Methods
- POLS 5302 Sem Quant Research Methods II
- POLS 5310 Seminar in Am. Pol. Behavior
- POLS 5320 Seminar In Public Law
- POLS 5330 Seminar-International Politics
- POLS 5331 Semina-Intn'l Organ/Intn'l Law
- POLS 5332 Sem-Foreign Policy Dec Making
- POLS 5334 Seminar-Comparative Pol. Dev.
- POLS 5336 Sem-Southwestern Border Politi
- POLS 5338 Sem. In Int. Pol. Econ.
- POLS 5343 Seminar in Border Politics
- POLS 5344 Seminar in Border Theory
- POLS 5345 Comparative Electoral Systems
- POLS 5346 Sem in Pol Econ of Developmt
- POLS 5347 Sem in International Security
- POLS 5348 Sem in Politics of Latin Amer
- POLS 5349 Seminar in Political Thought
- POLS 5364 Seminar-Public Policy Analysis
- POLS 5368 Seminar in Conflict Analysis
- POLS 5370 Field Analysis Seminar
- POLS 5380 Selected Problems-Government
- POLS 5393 Final Paper Project

**Thesis:**
# M.A. in Political Science

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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**B**

Course requires a grade of B or better.

## Non-Thesis Option

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<td>POLS 501</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 502</td>
<td>Sem in Qual Resrch Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 5393</td>
<td>Final Paper Project</td>
<td>3</td>
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Select 12 hours, with one course each in the categories of American Institutions and Processes, Border Politics, Comparative Politics, or International Politics, from the following:

### American Institutions and Processes:
- POLS 5310 Seminar in Am. Pol. Behavior
- POLS 5320 Seminar In Public Law
- POLS 5364 Seminar-Public Policy Analysis

### Border Politics:
- POLS 5336 Sem-Southwestern Border Politi
- POLS 5343 Seminar in Border Politics
- POLS 5344 Seminar in Border Theory

### Comparative Politics:
- POLS 5334 Seminar-Comparative Pol. Dev.
- POLS 5345 Comparative Electoral Systems
- POLS 5346 Sem in Pol Econ of Developmt
- POLS 5348 Sem in Politics of Latin Amer
- POLS 5370 Field Analysis Seminar

### International Politics:
- POLS 5330 Seminar-International Politics
- POLS 5331 Semina-Intn’l Organ/Intn’l Law
- POLS 5332 Sem-Foreign Policy Dec Making
- POLS 5338 Sem. In Int. Pol. Econ.
- POLS 5347 Sem in International Security
- POLS 5368 Seminar in Conflict Analysis

### Political Science Electives:
Select 15 hours from the following:
- POLS 500  Sem in Qual Rsrch Methods
- POLS 502  Sem Quant Research Methods II
- POLS 5310 Seminar in Am. Pol. Behavior
- POLS 5320 Seminar In Public Law
- POLS 5330 Seminar-International Politics
- POLS 5331 Semina-Intn’l Organ/Intn’l Law
- POLS 5332 Sem-Foreign Policy Dec Making
- POLS 5334 Seminar-Comparative Pol. Dev.
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 5336</td>
<td>Sem-Southwestern Border Politi</td>
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<td>POLS 5338</td>
<td>Sem. In Int. Pol. Econ.</td>
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<td>POLS 5339</td>
<td>Sem. Comp. Pol. Institutions</td>
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<td>POLS 5380</td>
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**Total Hours**: 36