

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:

Code	Title	Hours
POLS 5300	Sem In Quant Rsrch Methods I	3
POLS 5301	Sem in Qual Resrch Methods	3
POLS 5302	Sem Quant Research Methods II	3

Degree Plan

Thesis Option

Required Credits: 30

Code	Title	Hours
MA in Political Science (All courses require a grade of C or better)		
Required Courses:		
POLS 5300	Sem In Quant Rsrch Methods I ^B	3
Seminar:		
POLS 5301 or POLS 5302	Sem in Qual Resrch Methods ^B Sem Quant Research Methods II	3
Political Science Subfields:		

Select one course from three of the four subfields below:

9

American Institutions and Processes:

POLS 5310	Seminar in Am. Pol. Behavior
POLS 5315	Sem. In Am. Inst. & Proc.
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 5339	Sem. Comp. Pol. Institutions
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:

9

POLS 5301	Sem in Qual Resrch Methods
POLS 5302	Sem Quant Research Methods II
POLS 5310	Seminar in Am. Pol. Behavior
POLS 5315	Sem. In Am. Inst. & Proc.
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 5339	Sem. Comp. Pol. Institutions
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:

POLS 5398 & POLS 5399	Thesis and Thesis	6
Total Hours		30

B Course requires a grade of B or better.

Non-Thesis Option

Code	Title	Hours
MA in Political Science (All courses require a grade of C or better)		
Required Courses:		
POLS 5300	Sem In Quant Rsrch Methods I	3
Seminar		
POLS 5301 or POLS 5302	Sem in Qual Resrch Methods Sem Quant Research Methods II	3
Political Science Subfields:		
POLS 5393	Final Paper Project	3
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:		12
American Institutions and Processes:		
POLS 5310	Seminar in Am. Pol. Behavior	
POLS 5315	Sem. In Am. Inst. & Proc.	
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 5339	Sem. Comp. Pol. Institutions	
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:		15
POLS 5301	Sem in Qual Resrch Methods	
POLS 5302	Sem Quant Research Methods II	
POLS 5310	Seminar in Am. Pol. Behavior	
POLS 5315	Sem. In Am. Inst. & Proc.	
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 5339	Sem. Comp. Pol. Institutions
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

Total Hours**36**