

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, 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 and law school. 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 who would like to develop in-depth research expertise in a specialized area; and
2. **Degree Plan Non-Thesis Option** requires 36 credit hours, including a final paper project, and is designed for students who would like to develop broad knowledge in Political Science.

Students in our MA program can apply for teaching and research assistantships. The early deadline for international students and students seeking funding assistantship consideration is March 31 for Fall admission, and September 30th for Spring admission. General admission deadlines are November 15 for Spring admission and July 15th for Fall 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 following applicants to the MA in Political Science program are not required to submit GRE scores:
 - Applicants holding a UTEP degree in political science or related fields, obtained in the last six years
 - Applicants currently enrolled in a UTEP undergraduate program that participates in the MA Political Science Fast Track program
6. Applicants from countries where English is not the first language are required to demonstrate English proficiency. Please consult the graduate school (<http://catalog.utep.edu/admissions/graduate/graduate-student/>) website for required scores.
7. 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 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.
3. 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

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 5338 Sem. In Int. Pol. Econ.

POLS 5339 Sem. Comp. Pol. Institutions

POLS 5343 Seminar in Border Politics

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 Thesis
& POLS 5399 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 at least one course each in the categories of American Institutions and Processes, 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	
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 5338	Sem. In Int. Pol. Econ.	
POLS 5339	Sem. Comp. Pol. Institutions	
POLS 5343	Seminar in Border Politics	
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