

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Graduate Certificate in Political Science is designed for high school and community college instructors who wish to obtain 18 hours of graduate coursework relevant to key fields in the discipline of political science, such as the field of American Politics. Course offerings allow students to complete the certificate in one year if students take two courses per semester including summer.

This Graduate Certificate is eligible to receive Title IV funding – Direct Unsubsidized Loans and Graduate PLUS loans by request. To be considered for aid, students need to submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Additional information: Reference the Program Landing Page (<https://www.shsu.edu/programs/certificate/political-science/>) for additional information, such as cost, delivery format, contact information, or to schedule a visit.

Those wishing to pursue the certificate should hold a graduate degree from an accredited college or university and submit the following to the Office of Graduate Admissions (<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-admissions/prospective-students.html>):

- An application with accompanying application fee to the Sam Houston State University Office of Graduate Studies.
- Transcripts documenting all prior degrees.
- Names and contact information for at least two individuals who can speak to applicant’s academic and professional potential.
- A letter of interest that specifically addresses at least the following three elements: a) why they are applying to the program; b) how their experience (academic, work, etc.) has prepared them to enter the program; and c) what they plan to do professionally after completing the program.
- A current resume or curriculum vitae.

Note: Applicants may submit unofficial transcripts for review by the admissions committee. However, under university policy, admission decisions are contingent upon receipt of official transcripts.

Code	Title	Hours
Graduate Certificate in Political Science		
Required Courses		3
POLS 5301	Scope & Methods of Political Science	
Students must take 15 hours from the following: ¹		15
POLS 5078	Problems in Political Science	
POLS 5319	Women in Politics	
POLS 5330	American Politics	
POLS 5332	State Governments, Policies, and Politics	
POLS 5334	Judicial Politics	
POLS 5336	The United States Presidency	
POLS 5337	The United States Congress	
POLS 5339	American Political Parties	
POLS 5340	Political Attitudes & Behavior	
POLS 5360	Seminar in American Politics	
POLS 5362	Seminar in Political Theory	
POLS 5364	Media & Politics	
POLS 5367	Seminar in International Relations	
POLS 5371	Comparative Politics	
POLS 5372	Seminar in Comparative Politics	
POLS 5373	International Relations	
POLS 5379	Workshop in Teaching Political Science	
POLS 5385	Public Policy	
Total Hours		18

¹ It is strongly recommended that students contact their employer, prior to registration, to request a credentialing review for elective courses.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) marketable skills initiative is part of the state's 60x30TX plan and was designed to help students articulate their skills to employers. Marketable skills are those skills valued by employers and/or graduate programs that can be applied in a variety of work or education settings and may include interpersonal, cognitive, and applied skill areas.

The Graduate Certificate in Political Science is designed to provide graduates with the following marketable skills:

- Problem solving: Critical, analytical, and evaluative thinking.
- Communication: Professional expression of ideas through written, verbal, and visual work.
- Leadership: Effective engagement as professional educators in local, state, national, and global communities.