

# BACHELOR OF ARTS, MAJOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

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

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Bachelor of Arts, Major in Political Science</b>		
<b>Core Curriculum</b> ( <a href="https://catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degree-requirements-academic-guidelines/core-curriculum/">https://catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degree-requirements-academic-guidelines/core-curriculum/</a> )		
Component Area I (Communication)		6
Component Area II (Mathematics) <sup>1</sup>		3
Component Area III (Life and Physical Science)		8
Component Area IV (Language, Philosophy, and Culture) <sup>2</sup>		3
Component Area V (Creative Arts)		3
Component Area VI (U.S. History)		6
Component Area VII (Political Science/Government)		6
Component Area VIII (Social and Behavioral Sciences)		3
Component Area IX (Component Area Option) <sup>2, 3</sup>		4
<b>Degree Specific Requirements</b>		
Foreign Language <sup>2</sup>		14
<b>Major: Foundation</b>		
POLS 2304	Introduction to Political Science	3
POLS 3302	Introduction to Public Policy	3
POLS 3330	American Politics	3
POLS 3365	Introduction to Comparative Politics	3
POLS 3374	Quantitative Methods for Political Science	3
POLS 3377	Survey of Political Theory	3
POLS 3379	Research and Writing in Political Science	3
POLS 3380	Introduction to International Relations	3
<b>Major: Prescribed Electives</b> <sup>3</sup>		
POLS Electives		9
<b>Electives: General</b> <sup>4</sup>		
General Electives		13
<b>Minor: Required</b> <sup>5</sup>		<b>18</b>
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>120</b>

<sup>1</sup> MATH 1332 or MATH 1342 is recommended.

<sup>2</sup> Four Foreign Language courses in one language required. If a student uses the last two foreign language courses to satisfy Component Area IV and Component Area IX in core curriculum in addition to the degree specific requirements, additional elective credit will be needed to reach the minimum 120 credits.

<sup>3</sup> All 9 POLS Elective hours must be advanced. Courses in the Major Foundation are not allowed to apply in this area. POLS 2305, and POLS 2306 are not allowed to apply in this area.

<sup>4</sup> For students interested in law school, the department recommends PHIL 2303 and/or PHIL 2352.

<sup>5</sup> The following minor cannot be paired with this degree program: Minor in Political Science.

## Notes

Students must earn a 2.0 minimum overall GPA in all coursework.

Students must meet a 2.0 minimum overall major GPA in all major coursework.

Students must earn a 2.0 minimum SHSU GPA in all coursework.

Students must meet a 2.0 minimum SHSU major GPA in all major coursework.

## Additional Requirements:

- No grade below a C in a Political Science course will count toward the major.
- Students must have 42 advanced hours; at least 15 hours of POLS must be advanced.

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

### First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
Component Area II ( <a href="https://catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degree-requirements-academic-guidelines/core-curriculum/#componentareaii">https://catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degree-requirements-academic-guidelines/core-curriculum/#componentareaii</a> ) <sup>1</sup>		3 Component Area V ( <a href="https://catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degree-requirements-academic-guidelines/core-curriculum/#componentareav">https://catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degree-requirements-academic-guidelines/core-curriculum/#componentareav</a> )	3
Component Area VII ( <a href="https://catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degree-requirements-academic-guidelines/core-curriculum/#componentareavii">https://catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degree-requirements-academic-guidelines/core-curriculum/#componentareavii</a> )		3 Component Area VII ( <a href="https://catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degree-requirements-academic-guidelines/core-curriculum/#componentareavii">https://catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degree-requirements-academic-guidelines/core-curriculum/#componentareavii</a> )	3
ENGL 1301 <sup>2</sup>		3 ENGL 1302 <sup>2</sup>	3
Foreign Language <sup>3</sup>		4 Foreign Language <sup>3</sup>	4
HSTY 1301 <sup>4</sup>		3 HSTY 1302 <sup>4</sup>	3
		<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>

### Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
Component Area III ( <a href="https://catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degree-requirements-academic-guidelines/core-curriculum/#componentareaiii">https://catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degree-requirements-academic-guidelines/core-curriculum/#componentareaiii</a> )		4 Component Area III ( <a href="https://catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degree-requirements-academic-guidelines/core-curriculum/#componentareaiii">https://catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degree-requirements-academic-guidelines/core-curriculum/#componentareaiii</a> )	4
Component Area IV ( <a href="https://catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degree-requirements-academic-guidelines/core-curriculum/#componentareaiiv">https://catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degree-requirements-academic-guidelines/core-curriculum/#componentareaiiv</a> )		3 Component Area IX ( <a href="https://catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degree-requirements-academic-guidelines/core-curriculum/#componentareaix">https://catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degree-requirements-academic-guidelines/core-curriculum/#componentareaix</a> )	3
Component Area VIII ( <a href="https://catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degree-requirements-academic-guidelines/core-curriculum/#componentareaviii">https://catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degree-requirements-academic-guidelines/core-curriculum/#componentareaviii</a> )		3 Component Area IX ( <a href="https://catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degree-requirements-academic-guidelines/core-curriculum/#componentareaix">https://catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degree-requirements-academic-guidelines/core-curriculum/#componentareaix</a> )	1
Foreign Language <sup>3</sup>		3 Foreign Language <sup>3</sup>	3
POLS 2304		3 POLS 3379	3
		<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>

### Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
Minor <sup>5</sup>		3 Minor <sup>5</sup>	3
POLS 3302		3 POLS 3365	3
POLS 3330		3 POLS 3380	3
POLS 3374		3 POLS 3377	3
		POLS Electives <sup>6</sup>	3
		<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>

### Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
General Electives <sup>7</sup>		3 General Electives <sup>7</sup>	3
Minor <sup>5</sup>		3 General Electives <sup>7</sup>	3
Minor <sup>5</sup>		3 General Electives	4
Minor <sup>5</sup>		3 Minor <sup>5</sup>	3
POLS Electives <sup>6</sup>		3 POLS Electives <sup>6</sup>	3
		<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>

**Total Hours: 120**

<sup>1</sup> MATH 1332 or MATH 1342 is recommended.

- <sup>2</sup> Satisfies Core Curriculum requirement for Component Area I (Communications).
- <sup>3</sup> Four Foreign Language courses in one language required. If a student uses the last two foreign language courses to satisfy Component Area IV and Component Area IX in core curriculum in addition to the degree specific requirements, additional elective credit will be needed to reach the minimum 120 credits.
- <sup>4</sup> Satisfies Core Curriculum requirement for Component Area VI (U.S. History).
- <sup>5</sup> The following minor cannot be paired with this degree program: Minor in Political Science.
- <sup>6</sup> All 9 POLS Elective hours must be advanced. Courses in the Major Foundation are not allowed to apply in this area. POLS 2305 (<https://catalog.shsu.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=POLS%202305>), and POLS 2306 (<https://catalog.shsu.edu/archives/2025-2026/search/?P=POLS%202306>) are not allowed to apply in this area.
- <sup>7</sup> For students interested in law school, the department recommends PHIL 2303 and/or PHIL 2352.

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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 BA in Political Science is designed to provide graduates with the following marketable skills:

- Analytical, writing, speaking, interpersonal, and professional skills.
- Work as effective members of a team.
- Utilize technology to solve problems and accomplish goals.
- Prepare students for professional careers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Prepare students to make meaningful contributions to local, state, national, and global communities.