

Civics Honors (BA)

Bachelor of Arts

The Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree with a major in Civics Honors is an honors program that provides a unique and challenging interdisciplinary program of study for a limited number of students whose academic records indicate strong potential and motivation. The Civics Honors major draws on the American constitutional tradition and the texts and ideas that shape western civilization to prepare students to lead in a free society. The degree develops skills in deep reading, writing, speaking and statistical analysis. Students in the degree integrate insights from philosophy, political theory, economics, and the American experience of constitutional self-government. The degree culminates in a formative internship experience and independent thesis to prepare students for lives of leadership and purpose in a variety of fields including public service, business, entrepreneurship, and law.

Application materials and information about deadlines are available online at <https://admissions.utexas.edu/apply>.

Students who wish to pursue a Civics Honors major in the School of Civic Leadership must meet all degree requirements as well as maintain a University grade point average of at least 3.0. All students whose grade point average falls below 3.0 but not below 2.5 will be put on academic review. Students whose grade point average falls below 2.5 at any point after their first semester will be dismissed from the program. Lastly, students who are not enrolled at The University of Texas at Austin for four consecutive long semesters and therefore fail to make satisfactory progress toward the degree will be automatically dismissed from the BA with a major in Civic Honors. Students may appeal these stipulations, and the Dean of the School of Civic Leadership may make exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

Total Hours Required: 120

Plan of Study

The Plan of Study is a suggested four-year course sequence to support academic planning and serves as a helpful guide. Currently enrolled students should meet with their academic advisor to tailor their course selections and timelines to their individual goals and circumstances.

Course	Title	Hours
Year 1		
Semester 1		
CIV 301	Perennial Problems in Civic Thought	3
RHE 306	Rhetoric and Writing	3
CIV 304	Foundations of Research Methods for Civics	3
HIS 315K	The United States, 1492-1865	3
First-Year Signature Course (090)		3
Hours		15
Semester 2		
CIV 305	Excellence of Character: The Virtues	3
ECO 304K	Introduction to Microeconomics	3
CIV 312P	Constitutional Principles: Core Texts	3
Communication (010)		3
Humanities (040)		3
Hours		15
Year 2		
Semester 1		
CIV 303J	Origins of American Institutions	3
HIS 315L	The United States since 1865	3
American and Texas Government (070)		3

Foreign Language other than English, Intermediate Proficiency		6
Hours		15
Semester 2		
CIV 302	Truth and Persuasion	3
CIV 303K	Democracy and Capitalism	3
Natural Science and Technology, Part I (030)		3
Foreign Language other than English, Intermediate Proficiency		6
Hours		15
Year 3		
Semester 1		
CIV (area A)		3
CIV (area B)		3
CIV (area C)		3
Natural Science and Technology, Part I (030)		3
Free Elective		3
Hours		15
Semester 2		
CIV (area A)		3
CIV (area B)		3
CIV (area C)		3
Free Elective		3
Any area A, B, or C course		3
Hours		15
Year 4		
Semester 1		
Any area A, B, or C course		6
Free Elective		3
CIV 379	Internship in Civic Leadership	3
CIV 379J	Thesis I	3
Hours		15
Semester 2		
Visual and Performing Arts (050)		3
Natural Science and Technology, Part II (093)		3
Any area A, B, or C course		6
CIV 379K	Thesis II	3
Hours		15
Total Hours		120

Requirements

All requirements are listed below, starting with the most specialized moving to the most general. Additional requirements may follow the table, so be sure to read the entire page. Some required courses listed below may also satisfy [General Education](#) requirements, including [Core Curriculum](#).

Code	Title	Hours
Major		
ECO 304K	Introduction to Microeconomics (satisfies Social and Behavioral Sciences (080))	3
CIV 312P	Constitutional Principles: Core Texts (satisfies half of American and Texas Government (070) requirement when taken with GOV 310L or CIV 303C)	3
CIV 304	Foundations of Research Methods for Civics (satisfies Mathematics (020))	3
CIV 302	Truth and Persuasion	3
CIV 301	Perennial Problems in Civic Thought	3
CIV 303J	Origins of American Institutions	3
CIV 303K	Democracy and Capitalism	3
CIV 305	Excellence of Character: The Virtues	3
Area Courses		
CIV Hours chosen from: Constitutionalism Course List		6

CIV Hours chosen from: Western Civilization Course List	6
CIV Hours chosen from: Civic Leadership Course List	6
Any Hours chosen from: Area Course Lists	12
Foreign Language other than English, Intermediate Proficiency	12
<i>Internship & Thesis</i>	
CIV 375 Internship	3
or CIV 379 Internship in Civic Leadership	
Hours chosen from:	6
CIV 379J Thesis I	
CIV 379K Thesis II	
<i>Subtotal</i>	75
General Education	
Remaining Core Curriculum (42 hours total)	33
Free electives: Additional coursework to reach total hours required.	12
<i>Subtotal</i>	45
<u>College Requirements - Civic Leadership</u>	
<u>General University Requirements</u>	
Total Hours	120

Additional Requirements and Policies

For the Tools and Intellectual Foundations courses, although there is no mandatory sequence for these courses, the four-year degree plan encourages students to take these classes during their first two years. This process enhances comradery, builds community, and gives students shared intellectual experiences within the School of Civic Leadership.

Foreign Language

Students must demonstrate an intermediate level of proficiency in a language other than English. An intermediate level of proficiency may be determined by the completion of any one of the following options:

- A passing grade in the requisite credit hours necessary to satisfy intermediate proficiency level in the language.
- Certified proficiency on a placement or credit-by-exam test.
- Students with previous experience in the language they plan to use to meet the language requirement must take a language placement test. A student may not select for credit a language course below this placement level without permission of the dean's office.

Constitutionalism

Code	Title	Hours
CIV 121	Topics in Constitutional History and Principles Research	1
CIV 124	Topics in Rights, Freedoms, and the Rule of Law Research	1
CIV 320	Constitutionalism: Ancient and Modern	3
CIV 321J	Economics and Constitutionalism	3
CIV 360	Advanced Topics in Constitutional History and Principles	3
CIV 372	Topics in Independent Research in Constitutionalism	3
CIV 363	Advanced Topics in Rights, Freedoms, and the Rule of Law	3
CIV X57L/ GOV X57N/ AMS X22C	Amending the United States Constitution	3
GOV 320K	United States Constitutional Development: Structures	3

GOV 320N	United States Constitutional Development: Rights	3
GOV 335R	Intellectual World of the American Founders	3
GOV X57C/ CTI X26C	Constitutional Interpretation	3
GOV X57D/ CTI X26L	Civil Liberties	3
GOV X57F/ CTI X26S	Constitutional Structure of Power	3
GOV 357G	Structure of Individual Liberties	3
HIS 317L.13	Origins of American Revolution (Topic 13)	3
HIS 317L.15	Establishing America, 1565-1815 (Topic 15)	3
HIS 355S	United States Constitutional History	3
PHL 347	Philosophy of Law	3
PHL 375M.4	Philosophy of the First Amendment (Topic 4)	3

Western Civilization

Code	Title	Hours
CIV 122	Topics in Western Civilization Research	1
CIV 322J	The Quest for Community	3
CIV 322K	Politics and the Transcendent	3
CIV 125	Topics in Civic Thought and Culture Research	1
CIV 364	Advanced Topics in Civic Thought and Culture	3
CIV 361	Advanced Topics in Western Civilization	3
CIV 373	Topics in Independent Research in Western Civilization	3
CTI X02/ GOV X14E/ CIV X02C	Classics of Social and Political Thought	3
GOV X35D/ PHL X42	Natural Law Theory	3
GOV X51C/ CTI X20	The Classical Quest for Justice	3
GOV X51D/ CTI X21	The Theoretical Foundations of Modern Politics	3
GOV X51G/ CTI X22	Critics of Modern Liberalism	3
GOV X51J/ CTI X23	Might and Right among Nations	3
GOV X51L/ CTI X25	Morality and Politics	3
GOV X79G/ CTI X30J	Jerusalem and Athens	3
PHL 342P	Four Modern Political Theories	3
PHL 356C	Contemporary Christian Philosophy	3
PHL X56D/ CTI X35C	History of Christian Philosophy	3
PHL 329K	History of Ancient Philosophy	3
PHL 342	Topics in Political Philosophy	3
PHL 349	History of Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy	3
C C X48E/ PHL X29C	Plato and His Philosophy	3
R S 315C	The Bible and Its Interpreters	3

Civic Leadership

Code	Title	Hours
CIV 123	Topics in Ethics and Leadership Research	1
CIV 323J	Ethical Analysis for Civic Leaders	3

CIV 325K	Economic Analysis for Civic Leaders	3
CIV 126	Topics in Strategy and Statecraft Research	1
CIV 331F	American Political Economy	3
CIV 337	Policy Research Lab	3
CIV 362	Advanced Topics in Ethics and Leadership	3
CIV 365	Advanced Topics in Strategy and Statecraft	3
CIV 374	Topics in Independent Research in Civic Leadership	3
ECO 354M	Experimental Economics	3
HIS 365G	Topics in United States History	3
HIS 333L	United States Foreign Relations, 1776-1914	3
LEB 320F	Foundations of Business Law and Ethics	3
MAN 320F	Foundations of Management and Organizational Behavior	3
MAN 327	Innovation and Entrepreneurship	3
PHL 322K	History of Ethics	3
PHL 325K	Ethical Theories	3
PHL 325N	Organizational Ethics	3
PPE 301	Introduction to Philosophy, Politics, and Economics	3
PPE 320	Foundations of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics	3
PPE 379	Capstone Course	3