

Public Affairs (BAPubAff)

Bachelor of Arts in Public Affairs

The Bachelor of Arts in Public Affairs is an multidisciplinary degree that prepares students for careers in the public, non-profit and private sectors. The major provides students with the substantive knowledge, analytical skills and informed perspectives needed to tackle social problems with innovative public policy solutions that promote the public good. The degree is designed to develop skills in leadership, decision-making, collaboration and team-management; economic, political and statistical analysis; financial management and budgeting; and policy design, evaluation and implementation.

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		
UGS 016	First-Year Interest Group Seminar	0
<u>First-Year Signature Course (090)</u>		3
RHE 306	Rhetoric and Writing	3
<u>American and Texas Government (070)</u>		3
ECO 304K	Introduction to Microeconomics	3
P A 301	Foundations of Public Affairs	3
Hours		15
Semester 2		
<u>U.S. History (060)</u>		3
P A 305	Analysis of Policy Adoption and Implementation	3
<u>American and Texas Government (070)</u>		3
SDS 320E or SDS 302F	Elements of Statistics or Foundations of Data Analysis	3
P A 309	Introductory Topics in Policy	3
Hours		15
Year 2		
Semester 1		
<u>U.S. History (060)</u>		3
<u>Humanities (040)</u>		3
P A 320	Communication for Public Affairs	3
P A 325	Topics in Policy	3
P A 311N	Quantitative Methods for Public Affairs	3
Hours		15
Semester 2		
<u>Natural Science and Technology, Part I (030)</u>		3
P A 311L	Qualitative Methods for Public Affairs	3
P A 315	Economic Analysis for Public Affairs	3
Free Elective		3
P A 325	Topics in Policy	3
P A 136	Professional Development	1
Hours		16
Year 3		
Semester 1		
<u>Natural Science and Technology, Part I (030)</u>		3
<u>Visual and Performing Arts (050)</u>		3

P A 325 or P A 355	Topics in Policy or Advanced Topics in Policy Analysis Skills and Methods	3
Minor/Certificate course		3
Free Elective		3
Hours		15
Semester 2		
<u>Natural Science and Technology, Part II (093)</u>		3
P A 137	Leadership Laboratory	1
P A 345	Advanced Topics in Policy	3
Minor/Certificate course		3
Minor/Certificate course		3
Free Elective		3
Hours		16
Year 4		
Semester 1		
Hours chosen from:		3
P A 325	Topics in Policy	
P A 345	Advanced Topics in Policy	
P A 355	Advanced Topics in Policy Analysis Skills and Methods	
Minor/Certificate course		3
Free Elective		3
Free Elective		3
Free Elective		3
Hours		15
Semester 2		
P A 168	Policy Simulation	1
Minor/Certificate course		3
Free Elective		3
Free Elective		3
Free Elective		3
Hours		13
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
Degree		
P A 301	Foundations of Public Affairs	3
P A 305	Analysis of Policy Adoption and Implementation	3
P A 311L	Qualitative Methods for Public Affairs	3
P A 311N	Quantitative Methods for Public Affairs	3
P A 315	Economic Analysis for Public Affairs	3
P A 136	Professional Development	1
P A 137	Leadership Laboratory	1
P A 168	Policy Simulation	1
P A 320	Communication for Public Affairs	3
P A 345	Advanced Topics in Policy (any topic)	3
ECO 304K	Introduction to Microeconomics	3
SDS 302F	Foundations of Data Analysis	3
or SDS 320E	Elements of Statistics	
Hours chosen from:		12
P A 309	Introductory Topics in Policy (any topic)	
P A 325	Topics in Policy (any topic)	
P A 345	Advanced Topics in Policy (any topic)	

P A 355	Advanced Topics in Policy Analysis Skills and Methods (any topic)	
Minor or Certificate		15
<u>Transcript-recognized minor or certificate</u>		
or second major		
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>57</i>
Free electives: Additional coursework to reach total hours required.		30
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>30</i>
<u>General Education</u>		
<u>Remaining Core Curriculum (42 hours total)</u>		33
<u>Foreign Language other than English, Beginning Proficiency</u>		
<u>Subtotal</u>		
<u>College Requirements - Public Affairs</u>		
<u>General University Requirements</u>		
Total Hours		120

Additional Requirements and Policy

Two writing courses beyond RHE 306 or its equivalent, including one upper-division course are required.