SMU: Transferring as a Political Science Major

SMU’s Political Science Department
The Political Science Department offers an unusually broad curriculum covering the United States, Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America, focusing on topics including international politics, domestic and international political economy, executive and legislative politics, and constitutional law.

Classes are limited to thirty-five students at the introductory level and thirty at the advanced level. All faculty members teach introductory courses, and all introductory courses are taught by faculty rather than graduate students. The quality of the Department’s teaching is high, and the Department has an active, productive research faculty. Students study with nationally visible faculty, are given the opportunity to become involved in significant research projects, and are eligible for summer or semester internships in Washington, D.C.

The John Goodwin Tower Center
The John Goodwin Tower Center provides undergraduates with unique opportunities to meet and interact with experts in international relations and comparative politics. The Center brings a distinguished diplomat to campus each year. Its primary mission is to promote the study of politics and international affairs and to stimulate an interest in ethical public service. The Center also sponsors internships and research fellowships for undergraduate students. More information about the Tower Center is found at smu.edu/towercenter.

Political Science Graduates
Previous graduates have gone on to law schools, to graduate programs in political science and international or area studies, to journalism, to MBA programs, and to government agencies such as the State Department and the Defense Department.

An SMU Degree
A degree from SMU is typically comprised of a minimum of 122 hours, 60 of which must be completed at SMU. Components of the degree include:

• Courses in your major
• Courses required for the University Curriculum (UC)
• Elective courses. These electives may also be used to add a second major or minor

The University Curriculum (UC)
The UC is required of all undergraduate students and consists of two main components: 1. Foundations (6 hours of Discernment and Discourse courses, 3 hours of Quantitative Foundation courses, 2 hours of Personal Responsibility and Wellness courses, proficiency in a second language and 3 hours of Ways of Knowing courses); and 2. Breadth and Depth courses (7 Breadth and 3 Depth courses which may double count with majors and minors). Additionally, all students must complete 6 Proficiencies and Experiences requirements, met through Breadth and Depth coursework or approved, noncredit activities. Complete information about the UC can be found at smu.edu/theuc.

Majoring in Political Science
The Political Science Department offers undergraduate courses in four subfields: American Government and Politics, Comparative Politics, Political Theory, and International Relations.

The total requirement for the major is thirty-three (33) semester hours, including 6 hours of courses at the introductory level in two subfields. Students may also take one or more special studies courses – Internship, Directed Readings, and Distinction Thesis – at the discretion of individual instructors.

Each student majoring in Political Science is assigned a faculty advisor who must approve course registrations and withdrawals. Thus, students visit with advisors at least once a semester. Students are encouraged to seek both curricular and postgraduate/career advice from faculty advisors and, when appropriate, from other faculty in the Department.

Minoring in Political Science
In addition to the major, the Department offers five minors in Political Science:
• General Minor in Political Science (18 hours)
• Minor in Political Thought (18 hours)
• Minor in Comparative and International Politics (18 hours)
• Minor in American Politics (18 hours)
• Minor in Law and Legal Reasoning (minimum of 21 hours)

Preparation for a Smooth Transfer
A seamless transfer to SMU and the Political Science major requires planning. Transfer students who take time to prepare for their move to SMU are some of our most successful students. The following are a few important points to remember:
• Completion of one or two introductory political science courses prior to transfer is strongly recommended.
• The second language requirement of the University Curriculum may be satisfied by 1) transferring two terms of college courses in the same world language, 2) placing out of four terms of world language by taking a SMU placement test or through AP or IB credit, or 3) being literate in a native language other than English.
• SMU accepts AP scores of 4 or 5.
• Work on the University Curriculum prior to transfer is highly encouraged.
• Compare course descriptions found in SMU’s University Catalog (smu.edu/catalogs) to course descriptions at your current institution to maximize your awarded transfer credits.

For more information about transferring to SMU, please go to smu.edu/transfer or call 214-768-3417.
Semester Preparation Sequences for Transferring as a Political Science Major

The below semester sequences are suggested courses to take in your semesters prior to transferring to SMU as a political science major. Texas Common Course Numbers (TCCNS) and SMU course numbers are listed, when available. Please refer to SMU’s Undergraduate Catalog at smu.edu/catalogs for corresponding course descriptions which may be used to select/compare courses at your current institution. UC listings refer to SMU’s University Curriculum, which all undergraduates are required to complete. Course listings for the UC are located at smu.edu/theuc.

### B.A. in Political Science

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<tr>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Semester 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TCCNS</td>
<td>SMU</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 1301 Composition I</td>
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<td>PLSC 1320</td>
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<td>UC Math Course*</td>
<td>UC Breadth Course*</td>
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<td>World Language Course**</td>
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<th>Semester 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>TCCNS</td>
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<td>ECO 1311 PRW 10XX</td>
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<td>1 hr PE course</td>
<td>UC Breadth Course*</td>
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<tr>
<td>UC Breadth Course - Science w/lab*</td>
<td>2nd major or minor course</td>
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*A list of UC Breadth Courses is found at smu.edu/transfer under “Prospective Students” and “Pathway Guides.”

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**Minors in Political Science** The Political Science Department offers four, 18-hour minor concentrations, one general in nature and three specifically focused. They are: General Minor in Political Science; Minor in Political Thought; Minor in Comparative and International Politics; and Minor in American Politics. The basic requirement is 18 semester hours of Political Science distributed among introductory courses and upper-level subfield courses.

**Minor in Law and Legal Reasoning** The minor in law and legal reasoning provides a coherent grouping of courses from different disciplines, examining the foundations and applications of the law. Specifically, the minor is designed to provide students with the knowledge of substantive law, along with the following skills: legal analysis and reasoning, oral advocacy, research and writing. PLSC 1320, Introduction to American Politics and Government, is a prerequisite to the minor. In addition to taking PLSC 1320, students must take a minimum of 18 hours.

For additional information on the Political Science major, visit smu.edu/politicalscience or call 214-768-4171.