Department of Political Science and Geography

The Department of Political Science and Geography offers a Master of Arts Degree in Political Science and a Master of Arts Degree in Geography.

- M.A. in Geography (p. 1)
- M.A. in Political Science (p. 2)

Master of Arts Degree in Geography

The M.A. in Geography degree is designed to give graduate students the opportunity to analyze social processes and the physical environment across a range of cultures and historical periods, using appropriate methodologies and data management techniques. The degree gives students the chance to explore the many challenges of achieving more just sustainability through a critical overview of environmentally and socially sustainable countries, regions, cities, and communities. The program is especially designed to give students insights into a variety of regional social, environmental, and economic problems, and to exploit the strong international connections that the geography faculty have established. The program aims to provide rigorous training that prepares Master's students for entry into doctoral programs at UTSA and elsewhere, and to offer career advancement for terminal Master's students from the city and region. Faculty will encourage students to become involved in professional geography through pertinent internships, conference presentations, publication, and membership in the Association of American Geographers.

Program Admission Requirements

Students wishing to apply to the Master of Arts program in Geography must submit the following materials to the Graduate Admissions office:

1. an application form (available online at http://graduateschool.utsa.edu)
2. an application fee
3. official transcripts from all collegiate institutions attended including community colleges
4. a statement of purpose (750-1000 words) indicating your interests and goals in studying geography
5. two letters of recommendation from references who can speak to your qualifications for the graduate program (at least one of these must be from a college or university professor who can discuss and evaluate specifically your academic qualifications and potential for graduate-level study).

Applicants must satisfy all University wide requirements and must have completed 18 semester credit hours (12 at the upper-division or graduate-level) in Geography or a related field. These should include an undergraduate methods course and a GIS course prior to taking the cognate graduate courses. For entry as a degree-seeking student, applicants should have at least a 3.0 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) in the last 60 hours of undergraduate and graduate coursework. All applications are evaluated by an internal review committee to determine compliance with University and program requirements. Admission is competitive; thus, satisfying the requirements does not guarantee admission.

Returning Students

Master's students who have not been in attendance for two full years will have their status changed to inactive. An inactive student may reapply to the program but must file a new application for graduate admission, along with a nonrefundable application fee, by the application deadline and meet the catalog requirements and admission conditions in effect at the time of reapplication. All returning students will be subject to a full course review in the program. Courses over six years old may need to be repeated (see section “Repeating Courses” in Chapter 2, General Academic Regulations, in this catalog).

Students who wish to take courses in the program without earning credit toward a Master’s degree may apply as non-degree-seeking students. Upon admission to the Graduate Program, all students must meet with the Graduate Advisor of Record for the department as well as their Faculty Subfield Advisor (assigned at time of admission) before enrolling in coursework.

Additionally, all graduate students should attend the Department’s Graduate Program Orientation held at the beginning of each semester.

Degree Requirements

The minimum number of semester credit hours required for the degree is 36 for the nonthesis option, and 33 for the thesis option. To be able to graduate in the minimum time period (two years) students should plan ahead and take all the GRG courses as they are offered each semester.

All degree candidates must complete the following requirements:

Nonthesis Option

A. 9 semester credit hours of required courses:
   - GRG 5003 Research Design and Spatial Analysis
   - GRG 5013 Geographic Thought
   - GRG 5913 Design and Management of Geographic Information Systems

B. 18 semester credit hours of prescribed elective courses in geography from the following:
   - GRG 5323 Seminar in Urban Geography
   - GRG 5403 Seminar in Biogeography
   - GRG 5413 Climatology
   - GRG 5423 Physiography
   - GRG 5433 Environmental Landscape Management
   - GRG 5513 Geography and Culture
   - GRG 5543 Gender and Cities: An introduction to Feminist Geography
   - GRG 5553 Global Urban Sustainability
   - GRG 5563 Applied Sustainability
   - GRG 5753 The Geography of Development and Underdevelopment
   - GRG 5903 Seminar in Political Geography

C. 9 hours of free electives (inside or outside geography) that may include the following:
   - ANT 5483 Landscape and Settlement
   - ANT 6653 Spatial Techniques in Anthropology
   - ANT 6723 Seminar in Culture, Environment, and Conservation
   - CE 6113 Global Change
   - GEO 6513 Advanced GIS
### Master of Arts Degree in Political Science

The Master of Arts degree in Political Science offers students the opportunity to develop and expand their understanding of political theories, methodologies, and substantive political affairs. The program prepares students for possible careers in city, state and federal government, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, public opinion polling, campaign management, community college teaching and other related occupations. The program also provides excellent preparation for law school and doctoral studies. Students may specialize in American Government, International Politics, or Political Theory and Public Law.

### Program Admission Requirements

Students wishing to apply to the Master of Arts program in Political Science must submit the following materials to the Graduate Admissions office:

1. completed application (available online at [http://graduateschool.utsa.edu](http://graduateschool.utsa.edu))
2. application fee
3. grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher in the last 60 hours of coursework
4. official transcripts from all collegiate institutions attended including community colleges
5. a statement of purpose (roughly 500 words or two typed pages) indicating your interests and goals in studying political science
6. three letters of recommendation from references who can speak to your qualifications for the graduate program (at least two of these must be from a college or university professor who can discuss and evaluate specifically your academic qualifications and potential for graduate-level study).

Applicants must satisfy all University requirements and must have completed 18 semester credit hours in upper-division undergraduate or graduate-level courses in Political Science or directly related fields in the social and/or behavioral sciences. An overall grade point average of 3.0 in Political Science courses is also required. All applications are

### Thesis Option

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. 9 semester credit hours of required courses:</th>
<th>9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRG 5003 Research Design and Spatial Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRG 5013 Geographic Thought</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRG 5913 Design and Management of Geographic Information Systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B. 12 semester credit hours of prescribed elective courses in geography from the following:</th>
<th>12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRG 5323 Seminar in Urban Geography</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRG 5403 Seminar in Biogeography</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRG 5413 Climatology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRG 5423 Physiography</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRG 5433 Environmental Landscape Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRG 5513 Geography and Culture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRG 5543 Gender and Cities: An introduction to Feminist Geography</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRG 5553 Global Urban Sustainability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRG 5563 Applied Sustainability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRG 5753 The Geography of Development and Underdevelopment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRG 5903 Seminar in Political Geography</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C. 6 hours of free electives (inside or outside geography) that may include the following:</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANT 5483 Landscape and Settlement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANT 6653 Spatial Techniques in Anthropology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANT 6723 Seminar in Culture, Environment, and Conservation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE 6113 Global Change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEM 7093 GIS for Population Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEO 6513 Advanced GIS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAD 5503 Urban Planning and Society</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POL 5793 International Political Economy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 6043 Immigration and Society</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URP 5363 Urban Planning Methods I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Other free electives may be approved with the approval of the Geography Graduate Program Committee. | |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>D. Thesis</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRG 6893 Master's Thesis Proposal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRG 6983 Master's Thesis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Comprehensive Examination

Enrollment in GRG 6961 Comprehensive Examination will be required in the semester the comprehensive examination is taken, if registered for no other courses that semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Credit Hours</th>
<th>36</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRG 6961 Comprehensive Examination</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
evaluated by an internal review committee to determine compliance with University and program requirements. Admission is competitive thus satisfying the requirements does not guarantee admission.

Returning Students

Master’s students who have not been in attendance for two full years will have their status changed to inactive. An inactive student may reapply to the program, but they must file a new application for graduate admission, along with a nonrefundable application fee, by the application deadline and meet the catalog requirements and admission conditions in effect at the time of reapplication. All returning students will be subject to a full course review in the program. Courses over six years old may need to be repeated (see section “Repeating Courses” in Chapter 2, General Academic Regulations, in this catalog). GRE or LSAT scores will be waived for returning students who have GRE scores on file with the department.

Students who wish to take courses in the program without earning credit toward a Master’s degree may apply as non-degree-seeking students.

Upon admission to the Graduate Program, all students must meet with the Graduate Advisor of Record for the department as well as their Faculty Subfield Advisor (assigned at time of admission) before enrolling in coursework. Additionally, all graduate students should attend the Department’s Graduate Program Orientation held at the beginning of each semester and review the materials contained in the Department’s Graduate Program Handbook.

Degree Requirements

The minimum number of semester credit hours required for the degree is 36.

Degree candidates must complete the following requirements:

A. 6 semester credit hours of methodological core courses: 6
   - POL 5003 Political Inquiry
   - POL 5013 Research Methods
Plus 6 semester credit hours of breadth core courses from the following: 6
   - POL 5043 International Politics
   - POL 5063 Political Philosophy
   - POL 5153 American Government and Politics

B. 18 semester credit hours of designated elective courses in consultation with the faculty advisor 18

Students may receive up to 6 semester credit hours for courses taken outside of political science after consultation with their advisor.

Students specializing in American Government must complete:
   - POL 5153 American Government and Politics
Select at least 9 semester credit hours from the following:
   - POL 5023 Political Economy
   - POL 5033 Political Communications and Behavior
   - POL 5103 Topics in American Politics
   - POL 5113 Latino/a Politics
   - POL 5133 Gender and Elections
   - POL 5163 American Political Development
   - POL 5183 Congress
   - POL 5193 Presidency
   - POL 5233 Political Creativity

C. Students must complete core course requirements within the first 18 hours of coursework and immediately thereafter participate in a required assessment of progress in the program. Included in the assessment, the student must submit a plan of action for completing the remaining hours of coursework and an estimated date of program completion. Enrollment in POL 6893, Research Proposal will only be approved upon successful completion of the assessment.

D. Research Proposal 3
   - POL 6893 Research Proposal

   All students must successfully complete this course before enrolling in POL 6993, Master’s Research Project, or POL 6983, Master’s Thesis. Upon completion of POL 6893, students must pass an oral comprehensive examination that will include a defense of the research proposal conducted by a three-person faculty committee.

E. In consultation with their committee, students must select 3 semester credit hours from the following: 3
   - POL 6983 Master’s Thesis
   - OR
   - POL 6993 Master’s Research Project

Total Credit Hours 36