

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GOVERNMENT DEGREE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE/SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS CHAPTER IN THE *UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2018-2020* or *LAW SCHOOL CATALOG 2018-2020*

TYPE OF CHANGE:¹ Academic Change
 Degree Program Change (THECB² form required)

PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION:³ Exclusive General Major

1. IF THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IS YES, THE COLLEGE MUST CONSULT LINDA DICKENS, DIRECTOR OF ACCREDITATION AND ASSESSMENT, TO DETERMINE IF SACSCOC APPROVAL IS REQUIRED.

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|--|---|
| • Is this a new degree program? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| • Is this program being deleted? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| • Does the program offer courses that will be taught off campus? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| • Will courses in this program be delivered electronically? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

2. EXPLAIN CHANGE TO DEGREE PROGRAM AND GIVE A DETAILED RATIONALE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL CHANGE:

As part of our curriculum reform effort, the Dept. of Government established a Curriculum Reform Committee in January 2016. The Curriculum Reform Committee met with students and faculty throughout spring semester of 2016 to discuss a variety of reform ideas. Some of those ideas, including the expansion of our professional internship program and the creation of a pre-law certificate, are still under discussion, but two proposals have already been approved by the Dept. as a whole.

The first of these proposals would create an undergraduate field in research methods. Methods is not currently an undergraduate field, although it is a graduate one, and most methods courses are listed in the Political Theory field, which makes no logical sense. Creating a methods field would separate the methods courses from the political theory field, with which they have little in common, and would make it easier for students to understand which courses count toward the methods of inquiry track discussed below. It would also enable students who opt for the traditional GOV major to use methods courses to satisfy the requirement that they take courses in three fields. This might encourage more students to take methods courses, which are a growing and important part of the discipline.

The second of these proposals would create an optional system of four tracks. Each of these tracks, except for the research methods track, would combine two current undergraduate GOV fields:

- Political and Legal Thought (Political Theory and Public Law)
- U.S. Politics and Policy (American Government and Public Policy)
- World Politics (Comparative Government and International Relations)
- Methods of Inquiry (Research Methods)

Students who opted to do a GOV track would have to take twelve hours of courses in that track. Upper as well as lower division courses other than GOV 310 and 312 would count toward the hours in a track. Students who preferred not to do a track, however, could satisfy the requirements of the major in the traditional manner, by taking at least one course in three out of the seven GOV undergraduate fields.

The aim of the optional track system is to provide GOV students with more specialized training and expertise. We believe that the tracks will provide helpful guidance to students and give them a more coherent plan of study. In addition, the tracks will map on to specific substantive interests, research paths, and potential careers, providing students with skills and knowledge that will be an asset to them personally and professionally. Our faculty and the undergraduate advising staff will encourage students to choose tracks appropriate for their academic and professional interests. For example, we will encourage students to take the World Politics track if they are interested in international affairs or careers in the foreign service, Third World development, or international commerce. The

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political and legal thought track, meanwhile, would be appropriate for students interested in law school, human rights advocacy, and ethics.

3. THIS PROPOSAL INVOLVES: (Please check all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Courses in other colleges | <input type="checkbox"/> Courses in proposer's college that are frequently taken by students in other colleges | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flags |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Course in the core curriculum | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in course sequencing for an existing program | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Courses that have to be added to the inventory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change in admission requirements (external or internal) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirements not explicit in the catalog language (e.g., lists of acceptable courses maintained by department office) | |

4. SCOPE OF PROPOSED CHANGE:

- a. Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools? Yes No
If yes, then how would you do so?
- b. Do you anticipate a net change in the number of students in your college? Yes No
If yes, how many more (or fewer) students do you expect?
- c. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from outside of your college taking classes in your college? Yes No
If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.
- d. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from your college taking courses in other colleges? Yes No
If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.

If 4 a, b, c, or d was answered with yes, please answer the following questions:

If the proposal has potential budgetary impacts for another college/school, such as requiring new sections or a non-negligible increase in the number of seats offered, at least one contact must be at the college-level.

How many students do you expect to be impacted?

Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included:

Person communicated with:

Date of communication:

Response:

- e. Does this proposal involve changes to the core curriculum or other basic education requirements (42-hour core, signature courses, flags)? If yes, explain:

If yes, Undergraduate Studies must be informed of the proposed changes and their response included:

Person communicated with:

Date of communication:

Response:

- f. Will this proposal change the number of hours required for degree completion?

Note: THECB Semester Credit Hour Change Form required, download from URL:

<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/DocFetch.cfm?DocID=2419&format=doc>

If yes, explain:

5. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS

Department approval date: 5/31/16 and 3/28/17 Approved by whom: GOV department faculty.

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College approval date: 04/19/17

Approved by whom: COLA Curriculum Design &
Assessment Cmte

Dean approval date: 06/05/17

Approved by whom: COLA Faculty

PROPOSED NEW CATALOG TEXT:⁴

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Major

30 semester hours of government, at least 18 of which must be upper-division ~~[, including]~~

Students may satisfy the requirements of the major by taking one of the following two sequences:

I. At least one upper-division course from each of three of the ~~[six]~~ seven fields into which the department's work is divided:

- (1) political theory
- (2) American government and politics
- (3) public and comparative law
- (4) public policy
- (5) comparative politics
- (6) international relations
- (7) research methods

II. At least twelve hours in one of four tracks:

- (1) political and legal thought
- (2) U.S. politics and policy
- (3) world politics
- (4) methods of inquiry

The political and legal thought track includes courses in fields 1 and 3; the U.S. politics and policy track includes courses in fields 2 and 4; the world politics track includes courses in fields 5 and 6; and the methods of inquiry track includes courses in field 7.

Lower division hours other than GOV 310 and 312 may be used to satisfy the required twelve hours in a track.

Government majors must also take at least one three hour research seminar or internship course in Government.

All Government courses that satisfy the Independent Inquiry Flag count as Government research seminars.

Government internship courses include Government 362L, *Government Research Internship*; Government 662L, *Government Research Internship-DC*; Government 371N, *Administrative Internship*; GOV 372N, *Campaigns and Elections Internship*; GOV 373N, *Legislative Internship*; and GOV 374N, *Political Internship*.

Government majors must also complete at least three semester hours in a tools course, chosen from Government 339L, *Research Methods in Government*; Government 341M, *Decision Theory*; Government 342N, *Public Choice*; and Government 350K, *Statistical Analysis in Political Science*.

Students may choose to satisfy the tools course requirement by completing one of the following non-government course options; these courses may not be counted toward the semester hours and grade point average required for the major.

- Three semester hours of statistics chosen from Economics 329; Educational Psychology 371; ~~Mathematics 346;~~ Psychology 418; Social Work 318; Sociology 317L; Statistics 309; Statistics and Data Sciences 301, 302, 304, 305, 306
- Three semester hours of logic, chosen from Philosophy 312, 313, 313K, 313Q; Tutorial Course 310 (for Plan II students)

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- Six semester hours of upper-division coursework in one foreign language, excluding courses conducted in English

All government majors must earn a grade of at least C- in each course counted toward fulfillment of the major requirements. A minimum grade point average of 2.00 in courses taken at the University and counted toward the major is also required.

No more than six hours of internship coursework may be counted toward the major, including transfer credit earned in internship courses at other institutions of higher education.

No student may register for more than nine semester hours of government in one semester without the consent of an undergraduate adviser in the Department of Government.

¹ See <https://facultycouncil.utexas.edu/degree-program-changes> for detailed explanations.

² Submit required Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board forms to the provost's office (lydia.cornell@austin.utexas.edu); downloadable from URL <https://facultycouncil.utexas.edu/theCb-forms>

³ **EXCLUSIVE:** of *exclusive* application and of primary interest only to a single college or school ("no protest" period is *seven calendar days*); **GENERAL:** of *general* interest to more than one college or school (but not for submission to the General Faculty) ("no protest" period is *fourteen calendar days*); *major* legislation must be submitted to the General Faculty for adoption ("no protest" period is *fourteen calendar days*).

⁴ The proposed text should be based on the text of the current catalog available at:

<http://catalog.utexas.edu/undergraduate/>

Strike through and replace (with underlines) only the specific language to be changed. Do NOT use track changes, and do not include hyperlinks in the catalog copy. Submit form electronically to the Office of the General Faculty and Faculty Council at fc@austin.utexas.edu. For questions on completing this section, please contact Victoria Cervantes, fc@austin.utexas.edu, 471-5934 or Brenda Schumann, brenda.schumann@austin.utexas.edu, 475-7654.