

Abilene Approval Chart for Curriculum Changes

A = Approve I = Information Item R = Respond In Writing

Degree Plan(s): Our department seeks approval to make major revisions to the **Political Science, BA** program moving it from (1) a traditional menu-based approach with both a general and IR track where students take one or more classes in all subdisciplines, to (2) a smaller set of core classes for all students along with three more career-oriented, skill-based tracks. We'd also like to add a degree-specific Math course to better prepare our students for research and move from a BA to a BS to better align with other Social Science programs in our college. Finally, we want to change the name of the degree to better align with state leaders in this area (e.g. UT), and tie the degree to an area of employment and a subject recognized by prospective students. Specifically, we'd like to make the following course revisions:

- 1) Change from BA to BS
- 2) Change the name of the degree to "Government"*
- 3) Adopt a new twelve-hour degree core made up of one new course and three existing courses:
 - a) New introductory course for all majors (Politics, Citizenship, and Community - See Separate Course Proposal)
 - b) GOVT 315 - Government and Criminal Justice Research (See Separate Name Change Proposal)
 - c) GOVT 490 - Ancient Political Theory (See Separate Name Change Proposal)
 - d) GOVT 499 - Public Service Internship
- 4) Divide the general "Political Science" track into separate "Politics and Public Policy" and "Government and Economic Development" tracks^
- 4) Revise the "International Relations and Comparative Politics" (IRCP) certificate to the "International Relations and Foreign Services" Track^
- 5) Add a new Supplemental Requirement math course (Math 123: Elementary Statistics)

*Department name change currently under Provost review ("Department of Government and Criminal Justice")

^Please see the specifics on the attached chart (Attachment A)

		Dept./School	College	Dean	TBC	AIAC/Grad	Provost
	Campus-Level Academic Review¹						
	Change to a Course Include signatures from all chairs/program directors for cross-listed courses. ¹						
1.	Title (description unchanged)	A	A	A	I	I	I
2.	Description (not affecting content)	A	A	A	I	I	I
3.	Course term(s)	A	I	A	I	I	I
4.	Content (change of course outcomes)	A	A	A	I	I	A
5.	Number of credit hours	A	A	A	A	A	A
6.	Course number within the hundred	A	A	I	I	I	I
7.	Course number beyond the hundred	A	A	A	A	A	A

8.	Prerequisites	A	A	A	I	I	I
9.	Course restriction (e.g., majors only, junior standing)	A	A	A	A	A	A
10.	Level change (U to G or G to U)	A	A	A	A	A	A
11.	Cross list course	A	A	A	A	A	A
12.	Department of record	A	A	A	A	A	A
13.	Open or close a course	A	A	A	A	A	A
	Change to a Degree Plan						
14.	Educational Program — Revise	A	A	A	A	A	A
15.	Educational Program — Adopt/revise admission requirements	A	A	A	A	A	A
16.	GPA — Revise program-required GPA	A	A	A	A	A	A
17.	Minor — Revise	A	A	A	A	A	A

		Dept./School	College	Dean	TEC	AUAC/Grad	Provost	Campus Faculty	Senior VPAA	President
	Full Review									
	Change to Catalog Information (for Campus)									
18.	General requirements for Bachelor's and Associate Degrees	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I
19.	Policies governing academic probation and suspension	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I
20.	Requirements for graduating with honors	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I
	Change to a Degree Plan									
21.	Educational Program — Add or Discontinue ²³	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	I
22.	Educational Program — Discontinue (Provost-proposed)	R	-	R	A	A	A	A	A	I
23.	Minor — Add or Discontinue	A	A	A	A	A	A	-	A	I
24.	Minor — Discontinue (Provost-proposed)	R	-	R	A	A	A	-	A	I
25.	Degree — Add or Discontinue	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	I
26.	Degree — Discontinue (Provost-proposed)	R	-	R	A	A	A	A	A	I

President
Senior VPAA
University Faculty
UCBEC
Provost
AUAC
Dean
College
Dept./School
Change to General Education Requirements for Undergraduates (System)

27.	Change course outcomes of an included course	A	A	A	A	A	A	-	A	I
28.	Add or drop a required course from the General Education Requirements	A	-	A	-	A	A	A	A	I
29.	Add or drop a course from a menu within the General Education Requirements	A	-	A	-	A	A	-	A	I
30.	Comprehensive revision of General Education Requirements	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I

Notes

² Any change to a cross-listed course requires the signature of both department chairs or program directors overseeing the course to ensure that the courses stay in sync. This includes courses taught at other campuses (e.g. BIBL 101 and BIBO 101).

³ For undergraduate majors, a minimum of 30 hours is required. These programs must have a minimum of 6 elective hours, unless the requirements of external accrediting bodies make it impossible. Master's programs must include a minimum of 30 hours, and doctoral programs must include a minimum of 30 hours beyond the master's.

⁴ When a department/school or dean proposes closing a program, approval routing follows the typical process beginning with the department/school. An administrative proposal by the provost or senior vice president for academic affairs would follow the "provost-proposed" routing on the chart.

Updated 8/1/2023

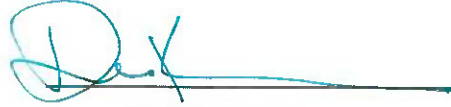
Department/School(s)

 Chair Signature Date

 Chair/Program Director Signature Date

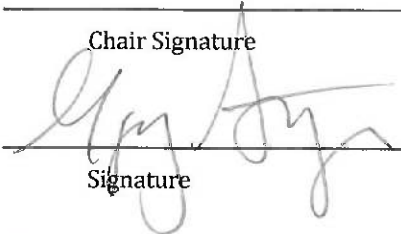
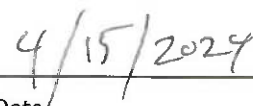
College Academic Council(s)

 Chair Signature Date

 Chair Signature Date

Dean(s)

 Signature Date

 Signature Date

Teacher Education Council

Signature

Date

**Campus Academic Council:
Abilene Undergraduate or Abilene Graduate**

Signature

Date

Provost

Signature

Date

University General Education Council

Signature

Date

University Faculty

Abilene Faculty Senate Chair signature

Date

Dallas Faculty Council Chair signature

Date

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Signature

Date

President

Signature

Date

Attachment A
Existing and Revised Degree Comparison

BA in Political Science (74 Credit Hours)	BS in Government (74 Credit Hours)
Non-Advanced Course Work (3) • POLS 225 - National Government* • POLS 226 - States and Federal Systems <u>or</u> • POLS 227 - Intro to International Relations Advanced Course Selections (30) American (choose 2): • POLS 341 - American Public Policy • POLS 381 - American Political Process • POLS 382 - American Presidency • POLS 383 - Congress and Legislative • POLS 385 - American Foreign Policy Public Administration (choose 1): • POLS 395 - Public Administration (recommended) • POLS 494 - Public Administration Management • POLS 497 - Topics in Public Administration	Core Requirements (12) • GOVT 120 - Politics, Citizenship, and Community • GOVT 315 - Government and Criminal Justice Research Methods • GOVT 490 - Ancient Political Theory • GOVT 499 - Public Service Internship Supplements to the Major • BIBP 486 - Ethics* • MATH 123 - Elementary Statistics* *Hours may also fulfill general education requirements and are not included in total major hours. Electives (29) All majors select one of the following tracks:
International Relations (choose 1) • POLS 484 - International Law and Organizations • POLS 485 - International Political Economy • POLS 487 - Terrorism Studies • POLS 488 - Topics in International Politics Comparative Politics (choose 1): • POLS 344 - Comparative Politics • POLS 345 - Comparative Public Policy • POLS 357 - West European Politics • POLS 358 - CIS and East European • POLS 360 - Politics of Developing Countries • POLS 361 - Politics of the Middle East Political Theory (choose 2): • POLS 393 - Peace, Power and Politics • POLS 490 - Early Political Theory • POLS 491 - Recent Political Theory • POLS 492 - American Political • POLS 493 - Topics in Contemporary	Politics and Public Policy Track (33) • GOVT 225 - National Government <u>or</u> • GOVT 226 - States and Federal Systems • GOVT 341 - American Public Policy • GOVT 382 - American Presidency • GOVT 383 - Congress and Legislative Process • GOVT 395 - Public Administration • GOVT 431 - Constitutional Laws: Powers • GOVT 492 - American Political Thought • ECON 260 - Macro Economics <u>Choose 1:</u> • GOVT 491 - Modern Political Theory, • GOVT 493 - Contemporary Political Thought <u>or</u> • GOVT 371 - Women in Politics <u>Choose 2:</u> • Advanced Foreign Languages Courses • MATH 377 - Statistical Methods 1 • ENGL 326 - Business and Professional Writing • COMM 343 - Business and Professional Communications • COMM 310 - Civil Discourse

Political Thought Public Law (choose 1): • POLS 384 - American Judicial Process • POLS 431 - Constitutional Law: Powers • POLS 432 - Constitutional Law: Civil Rights • POLS 493 - Topics in Contemporary Political Thought Research Methods • POLS 315 - Political Science and Criminal Justice Research Methods (writing-intensive course) <i>or</i> • SOCI 415 - Social Research (writing-intensive course) Capstone • POLS 499 - Public Service Internship (capstone course) Supplements to Major (12 Hours) • BIBP 486 - Ethics* • ECON 260 - Principles of Macroeconomics • ECON 261 - Principles of Microeconomics • FLLA 221 - Intermediate Latin I • FLLA 222 - Intermediate Latin II • <i>or</i> • FREN 221 - Intermediate French I • FREN 222 - Intermediate French II • <i>or</i> • GER 221 - Intermediate German I • GER 222 - Intermediate German II • <i>or</i> • SPAN 221 - Intermediate Spanish I • SPAN 222 - Intermediate Spanish II *Hours may also fulfill general education requirements and are not included in total major hours Electives (29 Hours) BA in Political Science, International Relations and Comparative Politics (74) Non-Advanced Course Work (3) • POLS 225 - National Government* • POLS 227 - Intro to International Relations	• COMM 322 - Argumentation and Debate • COMM 408 - Crisis Management • COMM 415 - Political Communication; • COMM 430 - Conflict Management • COMM 475 - Persuasion • ACCT 210 - Financial Accounting • BMIS 345 - Understanding Culture in Global Context International Relations and Foreign Service Track (33) • GOVT 227 - Introduction to International Relations • GOVT 385 - American Foreign Policy • GOVT 484 - International Law and Organizations • GOVT 488 - Terrorism Studies • GOVT 344 - Comparative Politics • GOVT 393 - Peace, Power, and Politics • GOVT 491 - Recent Political Theory <u>Choose 2:</u> • GOVT 271 - Latin American Politics • GOVT 281 - Politics of Asia • GOVT 262 - Politics of Israel • GOVT 361 - Politics of the Middle East • GOVT 357 - West European Politics • GOVT 358 - Russia and East European Politics • GOVT 360 - Politics of Developing Countries <u>Choose 1:</u> • Advanced Foreign Language <u>Choose 1:</u> • Advanced Foreign Language • MATH 377 - Statistical Methods 1 • ENGL 326 - Business and Professional Writing • COMM 343 - Business and Professional Communications • COMM 310 Civil Discourse • COMM 322 - Argumentation and Debate • COMM 408 - Crisis Management • COMM 415 - Political Communication • COMM 430 - Conflict Management • COMM 475 - Persuasion • ACCT 210 - Financial Accounting • BMIS 345 - Understanding Culture in Global Context Government and Economic Development Track • GOVT 225 - Government and Economics • GOVT 344 - Comparative Politics • GOVT 341 - American Public Policy
--	---

Advanced Course Selections (33)**American (choose 1):**

- POLS 341 - American Public Policy
- POLS 381 - American Political Process
- POLS 382 - American Presidency
- POLS 383 - Congress and Legislative
- POLS 385 - American Foreign Policy

Public Administration:

- POLS 395 - Public Administration

International Relations (choose 2)

- POLS 484 - International Law and Organizations
- POLS 485 - International Political Economy
- POLS 487 - Terrorism Studies
- POLS488 - Topics in International Politics

Comparative Politics:

- POLS 344 - Comparative Politics

Choose 2:

- POLS 345 - Comparative Public
- POLS 357 - West European Politics
- POLS 358 - CIS and East European Politics
- POLS 360 - Politics of Developing Countries
- POLS 361 - Politics of the Middle East

Political Theory (choose 2):

- POLS 393 - Peace, Power and Politics
- POLS 490 - Early Political Theory
- POLS 491 - Recent Political Theory
- POLS 492 - American Political Thought
- POLS 493 - Topics in Contemporary Political Thought

Public Law (choose 1):

- POLS 384 - American Judicial Process
- POLS 431 - Constitutional Law: Powers
- POLS 432 - Constitutional Law: Civil Rights
- POLS 493 - Topics in Contemporary Political Thought

Research Methods

- POLS 315 - Political Science and Criminal

- GOVT 395 - Public Administration

Choose two:

- GOVT 357 - West European Politics
- GOVT 358 - Russia and East European Politics
- GOVT 360 - Politics of Developing Countries
- GOVT 361 - Politics of Israel
- GOVT 271 - Latin American Politics
- POLS 493 - Contemporary Political Thought
- ECON 260 - Macro Economic
- ECON 261 - Micro Economics

Choose 1:

- FIN 311 - Money and Banking
- ECON 463 - Managerial Economic
- ECON 438 - International Poverty and Development

Choose 2:

- Advanced Foreign Languages Courses
- MATH 377 - Statistical Methods 1
- ENGL 326 - Business and Professional Writing
- COMM 343 - Business and Professional Communications
- COMM 310 - Civil Discourse
- COMM 322 - Argumentation and Debate
- COMM 408 - Crisis Management
- COMM 415 - Political Communication
- COMM 430 - Conflict Management
- COMM 475 - Persuasion
- ACCT 210 - Financial Accounting
- BMIS 345 - Understanding Culture in Global Context

Justice Research Methods (writing-intensive course) <i>or</i> • SOCI 415 - Social Research (writing-intensive course) Capstone • POLS 499 - Public Service Internship (capstone course) Supplements to Major (18 Hours) • BIBP 486 - Ethics* • ECON 260 - Principles of Macroeconomics • ECON 261 - Principles of Microeconomics • FLLA 221 - Intermediate Latin I • FLLA 222 - Intermediate Latin II • <i>or</i> • FREN 221 - Intermediate French I • FREN 222 - Intermediate French II • <i>or</i> • GER 221 - Intermediate German I • GER 222 - Intermediate German II • <i>or</i> • SPAN 221 - Intermediate Spanish I • SPAN 222 - Intermediate Spanish II <i>Choose 2:</i> • FREN 300-499, SPAN 300-499 *Hours may also fulfill general education requirements and are not included in total major hours ACU Study Abroad Program Participation Electives (20 Hours)	
--	--

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Dana Kennamer
FROM: Neal Coates, Chair Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice
DATE: March 7, 2024
RE: Department and Curriculum Changes

Summary

The faculty in the Department of Political Science & Criminal Justice have been working on significant curriculum changes aimed at making our POLS program more career-focused and friendly to double majors and new minors. We also attempted not to create a significant number of new courses based on existing course loads and assignments, and have recently closed several courses and have two more to close. The Department thought of also making our regional courses more accessible to all students by reclassifying them as 200-level.

Thank you to Chris Riley, Acting Chair for our department during the fall semester, who formulated much of this work plan and generated faculty input while I was on sabbatical.

We have some “minor” changes regarding our CJ courses (pre-reqs, etc.) to be submitted separately.

Outline of Major Changes

Our work resulted in the changes outlined below along with the rationale for the change:

Change	Rationale
Change the name of the department to Department of Government & Criminal Justice	Based on (1) “Government” connecting more closely with potential career destinations, (2) other leading departments continue to use “Government” instead of “Political Science” (e.g., UT and A&M Bush School of Government and Public Service), and (3) negative connotation with the term.
Change BA in POLS to BS in Government	Same as above; also moving to BS better aligns with other BS/Social Science degrees in CAHSS (i.e., JMC, Sociology, Communication, CJ); makes dual majors more obtainable without required foreign language. This will require POLS prefixes to change to GOVT.

New First-Year Course	To better engage our new students and help them understand career options early, we will introduce a new first-year course that was piloted F23 (Politics, Citizenship, and Community). This also allows the Department to have an entry-level course in POLS as we already do in POLC – Introduction to Criminal Justice.	
Change from two general tracks to three more career-focused tracks	As opposed to a traditional (our current) menus-based approach, which asks students to take one or two courses from several disciplinary subfields whether they are interested in those courses, this change allows students to focus on courses directly related to their career interests and path. This will aid the Department in helping students identify specific career tracks and outcomes and talk about those as soon as the first year.	
	Current tracks: 1) Political Science 2) International Relations and Comparative Politics	New tracks: 1) Government and Economic Development 2) Politics and Public Policy 3) International Relations and Foreign Service (similar to former IRCP certificate)
Require all students to take Math 123 – Elementary Statistics	Requiring statistics for students' GE math requirement will better prepare them for the required Research Methods course as well as their careers.	
Introduction of Skills Menu	Each of the tracks incorporates a six-hour skills menu aimed at providing students with opportunities to develop job-ready skills.	
Add one new career-specific minor	This new minor reflects part of the career-based tracks being introduced. We think it will also pair well with other majors. It also provides students more freedom to create Liberal Studies programs designed to their specific interests. Finally, the Department will consider next school year a new minor in International Relations and Foreign Service, revised from our former IRCP certificate. • <i>Policy and Public Service (New, revised from Political Science)</i> • <i>Public Service (only for Pope Fellows)(Existing minor)</i>	

	• Criminal Justice (Existing minor) • Legal Studies (Existing minor)
Add additional regional/topic specific courses	Foreign service officer and other USG and professional positions need specific knowledge of particular areas and the topics associated. These include 281 Politics of Asia, 262 Politics of Israel, 271 Gov't. & Politics in Latin America, 371 Women in Politics. These courses have been taught as special topics. Having 281 and 258 (described below) allows ACU students to have courses specific to China and Russia. 271 supports the LA minor in HIST. 262 is a country-specific course often found in colleges.
Change existing region-specific courses to 200-level	Along with the new regional courses, make these existing courses more accessible to students: 357 to 257 West European Politics, 358 to 258 Russia & East European Politics, 361 to 261 Middle East Politics.
Close two courses	POLS 485 Int'l Political Economy will be replaced with Economics, Int'l Pov. and Dev.; POLS 494 Public Admin. Management is left from a former masters program.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Terry Baggs
FROM: Chris Riley, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Criminal Justice
CC: Neal Coates, Department Chair
DATE: January 22, 2023
RE: Department Name Change

Over the fall semester, the faculty in the Department of Political Science (POLS) and Criminal Justice have been working on significant curriculum changes aimed at making POLS more career-focused and friendly to double majors and new minors. This work was based on new approaches in the discipline, like the attached article, attempting to reverse the national downward trend in the number of POLS majors.

As a part of this process, we consider this and other material in the field. I also attended the 2023 American Political Science Teaching and Learning Conference, where I participated in the Rethinking the Political Science Education: Recruitment, Retention, and Advising Track, and shared what I learned with the rest of the department. Moreover, we conducted external benchmarking related to this change and sought feedback from emeritus faculty, representatives from ACU's Admissions and Advising offices, and our dean.

Based on that process, there are three major factors supporting this change:

- 1) **Negative connotations with "Politics"** - Based on the current political environment, many prospective students harbor a strong dislike for politics, which some theorize has led to a widespread sentiment of reluctance towards pursuing a major in the field. The prevailing dissatisfaction is rooted in various factors, prompting people to view politics as a contentious and unappealing area of study. Moreover, our goal as a department is not to create politicians or partisans but to help students prepare to engage in public problems through Christian service to the public and in the academy.
- 2) **"Government" is recognized by prospective students and connects more closely with a career destination** - As our partners in Admissions pointed out, while prospective students are largely unfamiliar with the field of Political Science, their Government courses provide a background of what a degree in Government means. Moreover, this renaming can potentially attract more career-focused majors by presenting a clearer and more approachable identity for the department. The term "Government" may resonate better with individuals

seeking practical and applied knowledge in the field of governance. It implies a focus on the mechanisms and operations of governing institutions, which aligns with real-world applications and career opportunities. The name change could help dispel misconceptions or negative perceptions associated with the questions of what you do with a "Political Science" degree. Finally, we hope that this shift might attract students who are interested in actively participating in or contributing to governance and public service, making the department more appealing and accessible to those with a specific career focus in mind.

- 3) **Other leading departments use "Government" instead of POLS** - As we continue to compete with larger Texas universities, we found that while the majority of Texas's Division I schools still use "Political Science, the two flagship universities use the term "Government" (e.g., UT's Department of Government or Texas A&M's Bush School of Government and Public Policy.)

Outline of Curriculum Changes

Finally, we thought it may be helpful to see the other changes we will be bringing through councils this semester to provide context for this potential change. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Change	Rationale
Change BA in POLS to BS in Government	Moving to BS better aligns with other BS/Social Science degrees in CAHSS (i.e., Communication, Sociology, JMC, CJ); makes dual majors easier without requiring a Foreign Language.
New First-Year Course	Currently, the majority of our majors do not take National Government based on AP or Dual Credit Courses meaning we may not engage them in the classroom their first semester. To better engage our new students during their first semester and help them understand their career options early, we will introduce a new first-year cohort-based course that was piloted this fall (Politics, Citizenship, and Community)
Change from two general tracks to three more career-focused tracks	As opposed to our current traditional menus-based approach, which asks students to take one or two courses from several disciplinary subfields (whether they are interested in those courses or not), this allows students to focus on courses directly related to their career interests and path. This will also allow us to help students identify specific career tracks and outcomes and talk about those

	as soon as the first year.	
	Current tracks: 1) Political Science 2) International Relations and Comparative Politics	New tracks: 1) Government and Economic Development 2) Politics and Public Policy 3) International Relations and Foreign Service
Require all students to take Math 123 - Elementary Statistics	We believe requiring statistics for students' GE math requirement will better prepare students for the required Research Methods course as well as their careers.	
Introduction of Skills Menu	Each of the tracks incorporates a six-hour skills menu aimed at providing students with opportunities to develop job-ready skills (including foreign language for those in the IRFS track).	
Add two new career-specific minors:	These two new minors reflect parts of the career-based tracks that we are introducing. We think they will pair well with other majors as well. Moreover, it provides students more freedom to create Liberal Studies programs designed to their specific interests. • <i>Politics and Public Policy (New, revised from Political Science minor)</i> • <i>International Relations and Foreign Service (New, revised from IRCP certificate)</i> • Public Service (only for Jack Pope Fellows)(Existing minor) • Criminal Justice (Existing minor) • Legal Studies (Existing minor)	