

**Graduating Student Portfolio
(General Political Science Emphasis)
Department of Political Science
Texas A&M University-Commerce**

Introduction

The portfolio assignment is designed to assist the Political Science Department in assessing how well students and faculty fulfill the department's academic objectives. As a formal condition of graduation, all Political Science majors must submit a portfolio containing graded assignments from upper-level courses that were completed in the Department.

Candidates for December graduation must submit their materials by November 15 in the graduation year. Candidates for May or August graduation must submit their materials by April 15 in the graduation year. The requirements must be fulfilled in a conscientious fashion and follow the organizational guidelines listed below. Unsatisfactory portfolios and materials will be returned to the student for resubmission and may delay the date of graduation.

Portfolio Guidelines & Format

The portfolio should be submitted in a three-ring binder with labeled sections that separate each of the three categories of submission. Each section should include a page listing the category label or number, the two submitted assignment along with the instructions for the assignment and assignment grade, and a brief summary statement from the student explaining how each of the elements satisfies the parameters of the respective category. Students must also include their completed "Graduating Senior Survey" as part of the portfolio.

Coursework

Students will organize their portfolio using the following structure. The first table included should list all of the courses the student has taken from the department at the upper-division level, the Course Grade received, and the subfield of the course. The list of subfields include: 1) Political Theory and Philosophy, 2) Public Policy, 3) American Political Processes, 4) Comparative Politics, and 5) International Relations. If a course seems to fit into more than one subfield then please list both. Here is an example of how this table should be structured.

Course #/Name, and Professor	Year/Semester Taken	Course Grade	Subfield
PSCI 335	Fall 2009	B	4
PSCI 412	Spring 2010	A	1
PSCI 443	Spring 2009	B	5
PSCI 441	Spring 2010	A	5

Portfolio Elements

In the remainder of the portfolio, the students must submit assignments from completed coursework that reflect or represent work for each the following five categories.

1. Multiculturalism & Globalism Assessment of Artifacts: a) Items demonstrating significant understanding of the important concept of multiculturalism and the ability to understand and analyze political issues from a multicultural perspective; and b) Items demonstrating significant understanding of the important concept of global and the ability to understand and analyze political issues from a global perspective. Students must submit one of each type.

2. American Political Process and Political Behavior: Items demonstrating significant knowledge of American political processes and/or political behavior.

3. Theories of Domestic and/or International Public Policy: Items should demonstrate either a) significant knowledge of national American public policy or b) significant knowledge of international public policy.

4. Communication Skills: Items demonstrating the ability to effectively communicate key ideas, concepts and arguments within political science.

5. Skills in Scholarship and Research: Items demonstrating the ability to analyze scholarly research within the field of political science

Students will select at least two elements to represent each category. Those elements may include research papers, critical analyses, case briefings, applied exercises, or journal entries as elements of their portfolio. Whenever possible, items submitted should include a copy of the course syllabus, assignment instructions as well as comments and grades given by the course's instructor. The student should avoid using the same general type of assignment for most or all of the submitted elements as well as avoid submitting the exact same assignment for more than one category.

Once a student is ready to submit the portfolio, the student must first meet with Dr. King to review the portfolio to ensure that it is correctly formatted and that the included elements adequately demonstrate each of the three categories. Portfolios that are not correctly formatted will not be accepted and students will have to revise the portfolio and meet again with Dr. King.