

**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

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, 2) international relations, 3) comparative politics, 4) public policy/public administration and 5) U.S. politics (For U.S. politics courses, indicate which of following the course fits into a) 3 branches of government, b) electoral politics, and c) voting and public opinion). If a course seems to fit into more than one subfield then please 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 C |
| PSCI 441 | Spring 2010 | A | 5 C |

Portfolio Elements

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

1. **Critical Thinking and Analysis**
Items demonstrating critical thinking/analysis; quantitative reasoning; and problem solving.
2. **Communication Skills**
Items demonstrating oral communication skills, such as assignments involving individual or group projects and presentations.
3. **Skills in Scholarship and Research**
Items demonstrating skills in scholarly research, including bibliographic research, literature reviews, data collection and analysis, and critical analysis of scholarly work.
4. **Multiculturalism**
Items demonstrating exposure to and understanding of global and multicultural perspectives.
5. **Interconnectedness of Knowledge**
Items demonstrating exposure to and understanding of multidisciplinary perspectives, that is, assignments promoting awareness of the interconnectedness of knowledge across academic fields beyond political science.

Students will select at least two elements to represent each category. Those elements may include examinations, 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.

The portfolio should be submitted in a three-ring binder with labeled sections that separate each of the five 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.