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Certificate Programs

The School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences offers six certificate programs for both degree and non-degree seeking students. Certificate programs are a valuable component of the School's educational mission and can be an important resource for both mid-career professionals and others seeking to advance their knowledge and expertise. The Certificates are offered in: Crime and Justice Analysis, Evaluation Research, Financial Economics., Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Nonprofit Management and Quantitative Analysis of Social and Economic Data (QASED).

Certificate in Crime and Justice Analysis

This program introduces students to graduate study and the field of criminology. The certificate in Crime and Justice Analysis is available to both non-degree and degree-seeking students. Professionals employed in positions within criminal justice agencies and related private organizations pursue the certificate to obtain additional education related to their jobs. Other students obtain the certificate while progressing toward a master's or doctoral degree. This fifteen-credit hour certificate is designed to introduce students to a variety of foundation courses and the substantive areas that comprise the field of criminology.

The certificate program allows students to choose courses within four designated areas.

1. Foundation courses (3 hours):

POEC 6300 Crime, Criminals and Societal Responses;
POEC 6303 Etiology of Crime and Criminality;
POEC 6311 Crime and Justice Policy.

2. Nature and Distribution of Crime courses (3 hours):

POEC 6307 Extent of Crime and Criminals;
POEC 6308 Victimology;
POEC 6309 Communities and Crime;
POEC 6324 Correlates of Crime and Justice;

3. Criminal Justice and Policy courses (3 hours):

POEC 6305 Law and Social Control;
POEC 6310 Delinquency and Juvenile Justice;
POEC 6313 Corrections;
POEC 6314 Policing;
POEC 6317 Courts;
POEC 6322 Crime Prevention.

4. Research Methods courses (6 hours):

All students are required to take POEC 5313 Descriptive and Inferential Statistics and choose one of the following:

POEC 6332 GIS Applications in Criminology;
POEC 6340 Qualitative Criminology.

Students can also receive credit for other courses that are relevant to one of the above substantive areas and are offered on a periodic basis. Students should consult the coordinator for the Graduate Program for additional information.

Certificate in Economic and Demographic Data Analysis

The School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences also offers a certificate in the quantitative analysis of demographic and economic data. The certificate may be acquired by graduate degree-seeking and non-degree-seeking students. For the certificate, students must complete 15 graduate hours (5 courses). Students are required to take (A) POEC 5313 Descriptive and Inferential Statistics and POEC 5316 Advanced Regression Analysis. (B) Students must choose at least one of the following courses: ECO 5311 Applied Econometrics or POEC 6318 Structural Equation Modeling or POEC 6344 Categorical and Limited Dependent Variables. (C) In addition, two other empirically oriented courses must be completed. Students should check with the Director of the Certificate Program or the program office for details as to the list of acceptable courses.

Students seeking the certificate who do not plan to seek a degree should (1) submit an application and (2) an undergraduate transcript. No GRE score is required. Note: (a) up to 15 hours of coursework taken as a non-degree seeking student can be applied later to a graduate degree. (b) a maximum of 6 hours may be formally transferred from another institution with the approval of the certificate director. Students with equivalent knowledge, but no formal transfer, may substitute an additional course for Descriptive and Inferential Statistical with the approval of the certificate director. (c) Currently enrolled students may use up to 9 hours of courses required for their degree for the certificate.

Certificate in Evaluation Research

A graduate-level certificate program in Evaluation Research is offered jointly by the Schools of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences and Behavioral and Brain Sciences. Students who complete this program will have an opportunity to gain competencies in the design and implementation of program evaluations in fields such as education, health care, human services, criminal justice, and economic development. The Certificate in Evaluation Research program may be incorporated into graduate degree programs in the Schools of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences or Behavioral and Brain Sciences, or may be taken on its own by non-degree seeking students. Students in the Evaluation Research certificate program are normally expected to have completed undergraduate courses in social statistics and research design; students lacking appropriate preparation may be asked to take needed courses prior to admission to the program.

In order to receive the certificate, students must successfully complete three required courses and a two-semester long evaluation research project that culminates in a final report. The courses in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences leading to the Certificate in Evaluation Research are POEC 5313 Descriptive and Inferential Statistics for the Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, POEC 6352 Evaluation Research Methods in the Economic, Political and Policy Sciences. An elective course approved by the Evaluation Research certificate program coordinator, and POEC 6V91 Evaluation Research (six credit hours) for a total of 15 semester credit hours. With permission of the Evaluation Research program coordinator, students may substitute appropriate courses from the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences or prior coursework taken at other institutions. This is discussed in the Behavioral and Brain Sciences section of the catalog.

Students interested in applying for admission to the Certificate in Evaluation Research program should consult the graduate advising office in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences or the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences.

Certificate in Financial Economics

The Certificate in Financial Economics is a 12-hour program that provides students with the fundamentals necessary to prepare them for a career path in financial economics. Students wishing to complete the Certificate take POEC 5313 Descriptive and Inferential Statistics, ECO 6321 and ECO 6322 (Financial Economics I and II, respectively) or alternatives, subject to approval by Director of Economic Programs, and AIM 6333 Advanced Financial Reporting. Students should be aware that the AIM 6333 course is available only for degree-seeking students.

Therefore, this certificate would be appropriate, for instance, for a student in the Master of Science in Applied Economics program or the Ph. D. in Economics.

In addition, the student should have taken ECO 5301 Microeconomics Theory I or an equivalent course at another university.

Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

The School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences offers a certificate in Geographic Information Systems for both novice and experienced GIS professionals. The certificate is available to both graduate degree-seeking and non-degree-seeking students. The certificate requires 15 graduate hours (5 classes). Students must complete GISC 6381 Geographic Information Systems Fundamentals, GISC 6382 Applied GIS, GISC 6383 GIS Management and Implementation, GISC 6387 Geographic Information Systems Workshop, and one course from: GISC 5317 Computer Programming for GIS, GISC 6384 Spatial Analysis and Modeling, GISC 6386 Urban and Environmental Applications of GIS/Remote Sensing, GISC 6388 GIS Application Development, GISC 7360 GIS Pattern Analysis, GISC 7361 Spatial Statistics, GISC 7362 GIS Network Modeling, GISC 7363 Internet Mapping and Information Processing, GISC 7365/GEOS 5326 Remote Sensing Digital Image Processing, GISC 7366 Applied Remote Sensing, GEOS 5325 Introduction to Remote Sensing, GEOS 5322 Global Positioning System Satellite Surveying Techniques, GEOS 5424 3D Data Capture and Ground Lidar or other approved courses in Geosciences, Computer Science, Management or Social Science. All courses applied to the Certificate must have been taken within the three year period prior to the award of the Certificate. No more than two courses can be transferred from another institution.

Admission requirements: Students seeking the GIS certificate must have completed an undergraduate degree. Admissions requirements include (1) an application to U.T. Dallas and (2) an undergraduate transcript. You do not need a GRE (Graduate Records Examination) for the certificate program. Students seeking the GIS certificate should apply as “non-degree-seeking” students to the Master of Science in Geospatial Information Sciences program. Admissions requirements are the same for students who would simply like to take one or more of the related courses without pursuing a certificate.

Certificate in Local Government Management

The School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences offers a Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management for local government professionals and for MPA students who desire to broaden their knowledge of important issues and approaches employed by professional local public administrators. Local governments in the United States play an important role in our democratic system. They are the place in our democratic system where citizens

have the most direct contact with elected and appointed officials on numerous issues.

Local government managers operate in a complex legal and political environment. They are responsible for the provision of varied services directly to citizens, such as land use planning, law enforcement, water and sewer services, and recreation. Both the method and quality of service delivery are greatly influenced by managers who are hired by elected officials. The management of cities and counties has become increasingly professional over the past several decades. How the professional staff delivers services to the public within the political environment in which it works is the topic of many of the courses in this program.

Requirements for admission to the certificate program are the same as for a non-degree seeking graduate student. Completion of fifteen (15) semester credit hours is required to attain the Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management and those hours may count toward a degree if the student completes all requirements for full admission as a graduate student. Required courses in the certificate program are PA 5343 Human Resource Management, PA 5321 Government Financial Management and Budgeting, and PA 6344 Local Government Management. The other two courses may be selected from among courses that pertain to local government offered in the graduate programs of the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences. Permission of the certificate coordinator must be obtained for the two elective courses.

Certificate in Nonprofit Management

Nonprofit organizations constitute an increasingly significant sector of the American economy as well as an essential element in American civic life. Nonprofits are found in such diverse fields as health care, education, human services, and criminal justice, as well as in cultural and civic activities. Faced with resource constraints and rising demands for accountability, nonprofit organizations require professional managers with an understanding of both administrative principles and techniques and of the distinctive legal, economic, and social environment within which nonprofits operate.

The Certificate in Nonprofit Management is designed to provide an overview of the nature and context of nonprofit organizations combined with skill-based courses to develop the competencies needed by nonprofit managers. The Certificate is intended for professionals already working in the nonprofit sector, those working in private for-profit or governmental settings who would like to work or volunteer in the nonprofit sector, and students without professional experience who seek to prepare themselves for nonprofit careers.

Completion of fifteen (15) semester credit hours are required to attain the Certificate in Nonprofit Management, including the core courses SOC 5371 Non Profit Organization and SOC 5372 Non-profit Management and Leadership and three guided electives from the list given below.

Students may petition the program coordinator to include other graduate courses offered by the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences as guided electives; however, courses from other institutions may not be applied to the required fifteen semester credit hours. Courses currently recognized for elective credit are:

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| PA 5315 | Public Management |
| PA 5321 | Government Financial Management and Budgeting |
| PA 6326 | Decision Tools for Managers |
| PA 7315 | Fundraising and Media Relations for Nonprofit Organizations |
| PA 7343 | Human Resource Management |
| SOC 6340 | Domestic Social Policy (Same as POEC 7340) |
| SOC 6352 | |

Evaluation Research Methods in the Economic, Political and Policy Sciences (Same as POEC 6352)
SOC 5390 Policy Research Workshop in Nonprofit Organizations (Same as POEC 7V62)