

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND GEOGRAPHY

Signature Experience

The Signature Experience in the Department of Political Science and Geography is designed to recognize and promote student excellence by rewarding leadership, research activity, and personal development beyond the classroom. Many of the activities associated with the Signature Experience provide opportunities for you to work closely with faculty while others involve you directly in professional or competitive environments, all key predictors of student success.

How do I qualify for the Signature Experience?

The Signature Experience is open to any declared major in one of the Department's degree programs. Students will be designated as having completed the Signature Experience if they fulfill at least three criteria from the following list:

- Active leadership in a DPSG-related student organization (e.g., Undergraduate Political Science Association, Pi Sigma Alpha, etc.)
- Significant research activity beyond class assignments related to the major (e.g., research assistance, co-authorship, conference participation, field research, editorial work for a journal, research practicum)
- GIS lab assistance
- Participation in a study abroad program
- Completion of an internship through the department
- Participation in intercollegiate Moot Court competition
- Participation in Model UN Society and Conference

How do I certify completion of the Signature Experience?

The process of certifying completion of the Signature Experience is administered by Andrea Aleman (andrea.aleman@utsa.edu), the department's Undergraduate Advisor of Record (UGAR). To certify completion, you should obtain a Qualifying Activity Certification form for each qualifying activity. On the form, you will provide a summary of the qualifying activity and obtain a signature from the relevant faculty member (e.g., the department internship coordinator, organization's faculty advisor, leader of study abroad, or faculty with whom research was conducted) certifying completion. Each form will then be given to the UGAR, who will notify the chair that you should be designated as having completed the Signature Experience.