

PLS Scholars Program Description and Application

The Department of Political Science has established the **Political Science Scholar Program** to recognize the achievements and potential of a small number of our best students (approximately 20 per year). The program provides each scholar with opportunities to enhance his or her undergraduate education including:

- Assignment to a **faculty mentor** who will provide expert advice on courses and the discipline of political science. In addition, mentors can provide advice to matching coursework with long-term goals, opportunities for post-graduate studies in political science and law, and possible job opportunities available to talented undergraduate students. This advice will be over and above that offered by the Department's regular advisor and (if applicable) the Honors advisor.
- Opportunities to compete for paid positions to develop **undergraduate research projects** with faculty members with a view to presenting the research at the University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF) at Michigan State and other venues.
- Access by competitive application to **funding support for enhancement activities**, including especially research support, travel to professional conferences, and for other purposes (e.g., study abroad scholarships, scholarships to support internship opportunities, etc.).
- Opportunities to serve as paid **Undergraduate Learning Assistants (ULA)** in political science classes.
- Opportunities to **meet in small group settings with distinguished alums** of the department and university and to participate in activities sponsored by the Governor Jim Blanchard Public Service Forum.
- Invitation (and expectation) to participate in a **Day at the Capitol** program, organized in collaboration with alumni supporters. This will be an opportunity to meet legislators, lobbyists, and policy professionals in the State Capitol for career and professional advice.
- Eligibility to compete for attractive **internships**, in Lansing, Detroit and Washington DC, identified by internship coordinators and alumni supporters.
- Access in informal settings to **visiting scholars** who come to MSU by invitation of the Department and by invitation of the Symposium on Science, Reason, & Modern Democracy, the Workshop on Conflict, and other institutions in the Department.
- Guaranteed admission to **honors sections** and **study abroad programs** offered by the Department, including PLS 481H, "Undergraduate Research Seminar."

We encourage students currently in their sophomore year to apply, although students at other stages will also be considered. Students who are interested in becoming a Political Science Scholar should submit the following materials to Krista Zeig by April 1:

- An application form (see attached)
- An essay (see attached)
- A current resume
- A nomination form from a Political Science Department faculty member (see attached or the PLS department website).

Political Science Scholars Application Form

Name: _____ MSU PID: _____

MSU Email address: _____

Current GPA (*applicants must have a minimum 3.5 GPA*): _____

PLS Major (*select one*): ___ General Political Science ___ Pre-Law ___ World Politics ___ Public Policy

Total number of credits completed: _____ Expected Date of Graduation: _____

PLS faculty nominator: _____

Essay: Describe how you see the study of political science at MSU contributing to your longer-term career plans, and which aspect of the PLS Scholars Program seems most attractive to you. Please limit your essay to no more than 500 words. Use the space below or attach a separate sheet to this form.

Resume: Please paste a brief resume below or attach it to this application.