Contents

3  Foreword
4  Department Contact Information
5  Welcome to Political Science
6  Undergraduate Academic Advising
9  Requirements for Major
    General Political Science
    Political Science Prelaw
    Public Policy
    World Politics
23  Political Science Courses
25  Honors Program
28  Teaching Minor
29  Degree Enhancements (minor, additional major, second degree)
30  Awards and Scholarships
31  Study Abroad/Study Away Opportunities
32  Internship Program
34  Independent Study
35  Career Services
37  Faculty
40  Campus Resources
This handbook outlines the degree requirements for students who declared their major in Fall 2016, Spring 2017 and Summer 2017. It summarizes and explains departmental requirements, policies, and resources.
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Welcome

Political Science is a social science concerned with the description and analysis of political, and especially governmental, institutions and processes. Increasingly, the emphasis is being placed on how governments deal with specific policy problems, such as war and peace, poverty, crime, education, energy, pollution, or inter-group relations, and on the factors that affect these problems. The study of political science provides one with the concepts, theories and methods necessary to analyze these policy problems scientifically. Because of the complexities of modern legislation and current political changes, political science is considered an essential component of a broad education for today's world.

The Department of Political Science at MSU offers four majors: General Political Science, Political Science Pre-law, Public Policy, and World Politics. Each of these majors is designed to offer a well-rounded liberal education for our students. Our academic program was created with the flexibility for students to pursue academic specializations and/or additional majors, with little or no extra time required to complete their college degree.

GENERAL POLITICAL SCIENCE
Students wanting to enter politics, journalism, business or teaching, and students wanting to pursue graduate studies in political science or who want to prepare for employment in international agencies concerned with foreign affairs normally choose the General Political Science program. The flexibility of this program makes it a logical choice for those who wish to sample a wide variety of courses within the political science discipline.

POLITICAL SCIENCE PRE-LAW
This program is highly recommended for political science students who want to enter law school or to prepare for paralegal careers. It is designed to introduce students to the study of law and judicial process and also provides a general orientation for law school. This program is also ideal for those seeking careers in intelligence or law enforcement.

PUBLIC POLICY
For students interested in administrative positions with local, state or federal governments or with public agencies, universities or volunteer organizations, such as labor unions, farm organizations, chambers of commerce and civil rights groups, this program provides an excellent background.

WORLD POLITICS
This program is designed to educate students about governments and political systems of many different nations and the interactions among them. It will prepare students for careers in international affairs in the public, private, and non-profit spheres. The program allows students to study the regions of the world that most interest them but also provides broad coverage of international relations and comparative politics.
Academic Advising

The department recommends you take advantage of all the services the university and college provide you to keep track of your degree requirements and to monitor your academic progress.

Department Website
www.polisci.msu.edu (We highly recommend that you bookmark this page and visit often. Hopefully, answers to many of your questions can be found here).

When to See an Advisor
Your advisor is here to help answer questions – although the primary focus is on departmental academics, your advisor can field many questions you have about MSU.

Appointments
All appointments are scheduled through MSU’s (NEW) online advising appointment system. Please log-in at https://msu.campus.eab.com/ to schedule an appointment. Appointment times are generally posted 1-2 weeks in advance, so if there aren’t any compatible appointment times, please check back in a few days.

Expectations
It is your responsibility to become familiar with your graduation requirements; your advisor is here to provide information and insight, to answer questions and give guidance – but your degree is ultimately your responsibility. Please make use of the many resources available to you to ensure that you get the most out of your time at MSU.

You should meet with an advisor at least once a year to plan your schedule for the following academic year. Enrollment usually begins in early April, so it is recommended that you schedule an appointment early in Spring semester (February). It is often a good idea to meet with an advisor to discuss dropping or adding classes, study abroad programs, graduate school or law school, internships and career options. You are required to meet with your advisor in the semester prior to graduation to ensure that you have met all the necessary requirements.

How do I make an appointment? Log onto the online advising appointment system. (https://msu.campus.eab.com/) You'll need your MSUNetID and password to log in. Be sure to write down the time and date for which you've scheduled your appointment. If you know in advance you will be unable to make it to an appointment you've scheduled, please log back into the system and cancel it. This allows us to give all of our students the best possible service.

How do I drop a course?
Anytime prior to the start of classes, through the middle of the semester you can drop your own classes on the Student Enrollment System (http://webenroll.msu.edu/). After the middle of the semester you need to pick up a late drop form in 201 Berkey Hall, complete it, and schedule an appointment with the Director or Assistant Director of Student Affairs – call 355-6676.
How do I get an override?
Sometimes, courses you want to add to your schedule are full or restricted for other reasons. In this case, you might try to obtain an override. **Overrides are granted at the discretion of the instructor or department offering the specific course.** For Political Science classes, you must contact the instructor directly and ask if they are willing to grant the override. Once you have instructor approval, students can forward the email from the instructor granting you permission to join the class to Sarah Krause (skrause@msu.edu), PLS Department secretary. For other subjects, you may want to contact the department directly ([www.msu.edu/academics/areas.html](http://www.msu.edu/academics/areas.html)) to inquire about their override policy.

What is a late add and how do I get one?
The term “late add” applies to adding any course after 5pm on the last day of the “Open Add” period. For Political Science courses, you need a form filled out by the instructor giving you permission to add the class. You take this form to the Department Office that teaches the course and they will add you to the class. For other subjects, you should contact the department directly to inquire about their late add policy.

What are the prerequisites for a class?
Check out the [Schedule of Courses](http://www.schedule.msu.edu) or the [Description of Courses](http://www.reg.msu.edu/Courses/Search.asp) for information on classes, including prerequisites, restrictions, descriptions, and semester offerings.

How do I apply to the College of Social Science?
You don't need to apply to the College of Social Science. Once you have declared a major within the college, you will be automatically considered for acceptance upon reaching junior status (56 credits). Everyone currently in good academic standing (min 2.0 GPA) is normally admitted to the College of Social Science.

How can I tell who is teaching a specific course?
Use the [Schedule of Courses](http://www.schedule.msu.edu) to find the professor for a class. If no professor is shown, you can contact the department to see if more information is available. The department location and phone number is indicated in the top right corner.

Can I get a minor?
Some departments offer minors. You will have to ask your advisor or call the department in which you are interested. Currently, you can earn a teaching minor in Political Science only if you are a student within the College of Education; however, MSU does offer a number of ways to enhance your academic experience. Here is the list for the MSU [Minors](http://www.msu.edu/academics/areas.html).
You can also complete an [additional major](http://www.msu.edu/academics/areas.html) (in most cases, you will still only need 120/123 credits to graduate) or a [second degree](http://www.msu.edu/academics/areas.html) (150/153 credits to graduate in most cases). It is a good idea to visit an academic adviser in the major you are considering to determine what courses you would need to complete a specialization, additional major, or second degree.
How do I change my major?
If you are a Freshman (0-27 credits), you need to go to a Neighborhood Student Success Collaborative office [https://msu.edu/dept/uud/advising.html#majorChange](https://msu.edu/dept/uud/advising.html#majorChange) to change your major. Students are designated to offices based on where they live. If you are a Sophomore, Junior or Senior (28 credits or more), the major change can be requested with the College of Social Science Student Affairs Office in 201 Berkey Hall or with your advisor.

Should I complete an internship?
Absolutely! Not all programs of study require internship experience to graduate, but this can be an invaluable opportunity to network, gain experience, and check out different career paths. Internship credits can also sometimes be used to meet other requirements within your major (like a 300-level PLS course). See [http://polisci.msu.edu/index.php/undergraduate-program/internship-program](http://polisci.msu.edu/index.php/undergraduate-program/internship-program) and the Internship Program section of this handbook for more information about the PLS Internship Program.

How and when do I apply for graduation?
There is an online graduation application on the Registrar's website ([www.reg.msu.edu](http://www.reg.msu.edu)). Fall Semester graduates need to apply to graduate by the end of the first week of Fall Semester, and Spring and Summer graduates need to apply to graduate by the end of the first week of Spring Semester.

Can I take classes at another school to meet my MSU requirements?
Yes. Check out the Transfer Credit Equivalency System ([www.transfer.msu.edu](http://www.transfer.msu.edu)) to see how courses from different schools transfer back to Michigan State. Be careful though—once you have earned 56 credits (at MSU or anywhere else) you can no longer transfer credit from community college— it must come from an accredited, 4 year institution.
Political Science Major
General Program

Department Requirements

1. A minimum of 37 PLS credits.

2. 2.0 GPA or higher in PLS coursework.

3. Two of the following courses: PLS 100, 140, 160, 170.

4. All three of the following courses: PLS 200, PLS 201, and PLS 392.

5. Five additional PLS courses at the 300 or 400 level (but no more than one course equivalent of either PLS 494 Internship or PLS 495 Independent Study). Note: the Tier II Writing course, required in #7 below, does not count as one of these 5 courses.

6. Distribution requirement: of the above courses, at least two must be in American Politics, two in Political Science Methods, two in Political Philosophy, and two in International/Comparative Politics.

- American Government & Politics: PLS 100 and PLS 301-339
- Methods of Political Analysis: PLS 200 and 201
- Political Theory & Philosophy: PLS 170 and 370-379
- International/Comparative Politics: PLS 140, 160, 342-359, and 361-369

7. One Tier II Writing course within the department.

Tier II Writing (W): PLS 420, 421, 422, 440, 441, 460, 461, or 470

College Requirements
Complete coursework in Social Science, Arts and Letters, and Natural Sciences.

a. In Social Science, students must complete 15 credits from any of the following departments: ANP, CJ, EC, GEO, HDFS, HST, PSY, SOC, SW, or UP.

b. In Arts & Letters, students must complete 9 credits from any of the following departments or courses: AMS, CLA, ENG, HA, LIN, LL, MUS, PHL, REL, STA, THR, WRA 200+, WS, foreign languages, CEP 341, 441 A + B, or 442 A + B.

c. In Natural Science students must complete 6 credits from any of the following departments or courses: AST, BCH, BS, CEM, ENT, GLG, MMG, MTH, PHY, PLB, PLP, PSL, STT, ZOL, ANP 206, CSE 101, GEO 203, GEO 206, HNF 150, or HST 250.
University Requirements

Integrative Studies
Each student must complete a minimum of 24 Integrative Studies credits, including 8 credits in each of the following three areas: Arts and Humanities (IAH); Biological and Physical Sciences (ISB, ISP) including 2 credits of lab; and Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (ISS).

Tier I Writing
Each student must either:
   a. Secure a waiver by receiving a 3 on the Advanced Placement Exam in English or earn course credit by receiving a 4 on the exam, or
   b. Complete one 4-credit Tier I writing course (WRA 1xx). In some cases, based on the English placement exam, a student may be required to complete developmental writing courses (WRA 0102 and 1004) prior to enrolling in a Tier I writing course.

University Math
A student may meet the mathematics requirement by:
   a. Obtaining a Mathematics Placement Service Exam score of at least 19 on a proctored exam, or
   b. Completing one of the following at MSU
      1. One course from MTH 110, 112, 116, 124, 132, 152H, and 201, or
      2. Both MTH 103 and MTH 114, or
      3. Either STT 200 or STT 201.
      4. Both MTH 101 and MTH 102

Additional
Students must also:
   a. Complete a minimum of 120 credits (123 if MTH 1825 is required);
   b. Earn a minimum 2.0 cumulative and major GPA;
   c. Not exceed 20 repeat credits;
   d. Earn at least 30 credits from MSU;
   e. Earn 27 credits on the East Lansing campus after junior status; and
   f. Transfer only 10 of last 30 credits earned.
Political Science Degree Requirements Check Sheet

**Integrative Studies and University Requirements**

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<tr>
<th>Biological/Physical Science</th>
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**College and Department Requirements**

**College of Social Science** (15 credits – ANP, CJ, EC, GEO, HDFS, HST, PSY, SOC, SW, UP)

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<th>Course</th>
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**College of Arts & Letters** (9 credits – AMS, CLA, ENG, HA, LIN, LL, MUS, PHL, REL, STA, THR, WRA 200+, WS, foreign languages)

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**Political Science Requirements**

Students are required to complete 37 credits of PLS coursework; at least two courses each in A, M, P, I categories.

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<th>Course</th>
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**American Politics (A):** PLS 100, PLS 301-339

**Political Methods (M):** PLS 200, 201

**Political Philosophy (P):** PLS 170, PLS 370-379

**International/Comparative Politics (I):** PLS 140, 160, 342-359, 361-369

**Tier II Writing (W):** PLS 421, 422

**Note:** Most 400-level PLS courses may substitute for 300-level coursework, but only one course equivalent of PLS 494 (internship) or PLS 495 (independent study) can count toward the major requirements.

**Electives**

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<th>Course</th>
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**Other Graduation Requirements**

- Maximum 20 repeat credits
- 120 total credits (123– if MTH 1825 is required)
- Minimum 2.0 GPA (cumulative and major)
- Minimum 30 credits @ 300/400 level
- Transfer only 10 of last 30 credits
- Minimum 30 credits taken at MSU
- 27 cr. on EL campus after junior status
Political Science Major
Prelaw

Department Requirements

1. A minimum of 37 PLS credits.
2. 2.0 GPA or higher in PLS coursework.
3. PLS 100 and one of the following courses: 140, 160, 170.
4. All three of the following courses: PLS 200, PLS 201, and PLS 392.
5. PLS 320 or PLS 321.
6. Four additional PLS courses at the 300 or 400 level (but no more than one course equivalent of either PLS 494 Internship or PLS 495 Independent Study). Note: the Tier II Writing course, required in #8 below, does not count as one of these three courses.
7. Distribution requirement: of the above courses, at least two must be in American Politics, two in Political Science Methods, two in Political Philosophy, and two in International/Comparative Politics.* (One course taken to satisfy the International/Comparative Politics requirement may be selected from an approved list of courses outside of the PLS Department.

- American Government & Politics: PLS 100 and PLS 301-339
- Methods of Political Analysis: PLS 200 and 201
- Political Theory & Philosophy: PLS 170 and 370-379

- International/Comparative Politics: PLS 140, 160, 342-359, and 361-369
8. One Tier II Writing course within the department.

Tier II Writing (W): PLS 420, 421, 422, 440, 441, 460, 461, or 470

College Requirements

Complete coursework in Social Science, Arts and Letters, and Natural Sciences.

a. In Social Science, students must complete 15 credits from any of the following departments: ANP, CJ, EC, GEO, HDFS, HST, PSY, SOC, SW, or UP.

b. In Arts & Letters, students must complete 9 credits from any of the following departments and courses: AMS, CLA, ENG, HA, LIN, LL, MUS, PHL, REL, STA, THR, WRA 200+, WS, foreign languages.

c. In Natural Science students must complete 6 credits from any of the following departments and courses: AST, BMB, BS, CEM, ENT, GLG, MMG, MTH, PHY,
PLB, PLP, PSL, STT, ZOL, ANP 206, CSE 101, GEO 203, GEO 206, HNF 150, or HST 250.

University Requirements

Integrative Studies
Each student must complete a minimum of 24 Integrative Studies credits, including 8 credits in each of the following three areas: Arts and Humanities (IAH); Biological and Physical Sciences (ISB, ISP) including 2 credits of lab; and Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (ISS).

Tier I Writing
Each student must either
a. Secure a waiver by receiving a 3 on the Advanced Placement Exam in English or earn course credit by receiving a 4 on the exam, or
b. Complete one 4-credit Tier I writing course (WRA 1xx). In some cases, based on the English placement exam, a student may be required to complete developmental writing courses (WRA 0102 and 1004) prior to enrolling in a Tier I writing course.

University Math
A student may meet the mathematics requirement by
a. Obtaining a Mathematics Placement Service Exam score of at least 19 on a proctored exam, or
b. Completing one of the following at MSU:
   1. One course from among MTH 110, 112, 116, 124, 132, 152H, and 201, or
   2. Both MTH 103 and MTH 114, or
   3. Either STT 200 or STT 201.
   4. Both MTH 101 and MTH 102

Additional
Students must also:
a. Complete a minimum of 120 credits (123 if MTH 1825 is required);
b. Earn a minimum 2.0 cumulative and major GPA;
c. Not exceed 20 repeat credits;
d. Earn at least 30 credits from MSU;
e. Earn 27 credits on the East Lansing campus after junior status; and
f. Transfer only 10 of last 30 credits earned.
Political Science - Pre Law Degree Requirements Checksheet

**Integrative Studies and University Requirements**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Biological/Physical Science</th>
<th>ISB 2___</th>
<th>ISP 2___</th>
<th>ISB or ISP Lab 2___</th>
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<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Humanities</td>
<td>IAH 2___</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td>ISS 2___</td>
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<td>Tier I Writing</td>
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<td>Math</td>
<td>MTH ____ (MTH 101 &amp; 102, 110, 112, 116, 120, 124, 132, 152H, 201, or STT 200 or 201)</td>
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</table>

**College and Department Requirements**

- **College of Social Science** (15 credits – ANP, CJ, EC, GEO, HDFS, HST, PSY, SOC, SW, UP)
- **College of Arts & Letters** (9 credits – AMS, CLA, ENG, HA, LIN, LL, MUS, PHL, REL, STA, THR, WRA 200+, WS, foreign languages)
- **College of Natural Science** (6 credits – AST, BMB, BS, CEM, ENT, GLG, MMG, MTH, PHY, PLB, PLP, PSL, STT, ZOL and ANP 206, CSE 101, GEO 203, GEO 206, HNF 150, HST 250)

**Political Science Requirements**

- Students are required to complete 37 credits of PLS coursework; at least two courses each in A, M, P, I categories.
- American Politics (A): PLS 100, PLS 301-339
- Political Methods (M): PLS 200, 201
- Political Philosophy (P): PLS 170, PLS 370-379
- International/Comparative Politics (I): PLS 140, 160, 342-359, 361-369
- Tier II Writing (W): PLS 421, 422

*Note: Most 400-level PLS courses may substitute for 300-level coursework, but only one course equivalent of PLS 494(internship) or PLS 495 (independent study) can count toward the major requirements.*

*One course taken to satisfy the International/Comparative Politics (I) requirement may also be selected from an approved list of courses (see reverse)*

**Electives**

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**Other Graduation Requirements**

- 120 total credits (123– if MTH 1825 is required)
- Minimum 2.0 GPA (cumulative and major)
- Minimum 30 credits @ 300/400 level
- Maximum 20 repeat credits
- Transfer only 10 of last 30 credits
- Minimum 30 credits taken at MSU
- 27 cr. on EL campus after junior status
### Comparative and International Politics Options outside the PLS Department

*One of the courses taken to satisfy International & Comparative Politics (I) requirement may also be selected from an approved list of courses outside of the PLS Department. Some courses have prerequisites, please confirm your eligibility.

<table>
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<tr>
<td>HST 390</td>
<td>History of International Relations (cannot be used for both Int'l &amp; Comparative and HST/PHL req.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANP 410</td>
<td>Revolution and Social Change in Latin America</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANP 436</td>
<td>Globalization and Justice: Issues in Political and Legal Anthropology (I)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANP 439</td>
<td>Human Rights: Anthropological Perspectives (D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>EC 440</td>
<td>International Trade</td>
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<tr>
<td>EC 441</td>
<td>International Finance</td>
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<tr>
<td>MC 241</td>
<td>Politics and Markets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC 320</td>
<td>Politics, Society and Economy in the Third World (request approval from James Madison College)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MC 324A</td>
<td>Regional Politics, Cooperation, and Conflict in the Middle East</td>
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<tr>
<td>MC 324B</td>
<td>Regional Politics, Cooperation, and Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
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<td>MC 324C</td>
<td>Regional Politics, Cooperation, and Conflict in Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
</tr>
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<td>MC 324D</td>
<td>Regional Politics, Cooperation, and Conflict in Asia</td>
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<td>MC 324E</td>
<td>Regional Politics, Cooperation, and Conflict in Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>MC 324F</td>
<td>Regional Politics, Cooperation and Conflict in North America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC 325</td>
<td>State and Society in Comparative Perspective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC 349</td>
<td>Economics of Legal Relationships in Comparative Perspective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC 362</td>
<td>Public International Law (request approval from James Madison College)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC 363</td>
<td>Global Governance (request approval from James Madison College)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC 421</td>
<td>Advanced International Political Economy (request approval from James Madison College)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Political Science Major
Public Policy

Department Requirements

1. A minimum of 37 PLS credits.

2. 2.0 GPA or higher in PLS coursework.

3. All of the following courses: PLS 100, 200, 201, 392, 494.

4. PLS 310 or 313.

5. Select one additional PLS course at 300-400 level.

6. Select three*: PLS 301, 302, 310, 313, 324, 325, 331, 342, 362, 364, PPL 807, or PPL 891.


8. One Tier II Writing course within the department (PLS 422).

*Some versions of PLS 392, 422, and 495 may satisfy these requirements. Instructor approval is required for PPL courses.

College Requirements

Complete coursework in Social Science, Arts and Letters, and Natural Sciences.

a. In Social Science, students must complete 15 credits from any of the following departments: ANP, CJ, EC, GEO, HDFS, HST, PSY, SOC, SW, or UP.

b. In Arts & Letters, students must complete 9 credits from any of the following departments or courses: AMS, CLA, ENG, HA, LIN, LL, MUS, PHL, REL, STA, THR, WRA 200+, WS, foreign languages.

c. In Natural Science students must complete 6 credits from any of the following departments or courses: AST, BMB, BS, CEM, ENT, GLG, MMG, MTH, PHY, PLB, PLP, PSL, STT, ZOL, ANP 206, CSE 101, GEO 203, GEO 206, HNF 150, or HST 250.
University Requirements

Integrative Studies
Each student must complete a minimum of 24 Integrative Studies credits, including 8 credits in each of the following three areas: Arts and Humanities (IAH); Biological and Physical Sciences (ISB, ISP) including 2 credits of lab; and Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (ISS).

Tier I Writing
Each student must either:
   a. Secure a waiver by receiving a 3 on the Advanced Placement Exam in English or earn course credit by receiving a 4 on the exam, or
   b. complete one 4-credit Tier I writing course (WRA 1xx). In some cases, based on the English placement exam, a student may be required to complete developmental writing courses (WRA 0102 and 1004) prior to enrolling in a Tier I writing course.

University Math
A student may meet the mathematics requirement by:
   a. Obtaining a Mathematics Placement Service Exam score of at least 19 on a proctored exam, or
   b. Completing one of the following at MSU:
      1. One course from among MTH 110, 112, 116, 124, 132, 152H, and 201, or
      2. Both MTH 103 and MTH 114, or
      3. Either STT 200 or STT 201.
      4. MTH 101 & MTH 102

Additional
Students must also:
   a. Complete a minimum of 120 credits (123 if MTH 1825 is required);
   b. Earn a minimum 2.0 cumulative and major GPA;
   c. Not exceed 20 repeat credits;
   d. Earn at least 30 credits from MSU;
   e. Earn 27 credits on the East Lansing campus after junior status; and
   f. Transfer only 10 of last 30 credits earned.
Political Science - Public Policy Degree Requirements Checksheet

**Student:**

**Term Start:**

**PID:**

---

**Integrative Studies and University Requirements**

Biological/Physical Science:  
ISB 2___  
ISP 2___  
ISB or ISP Lab 2___

Arts & Humanities:  
IAH 2___  
IAH 2___ (211+)

Social Science:  
ISS 2___  
ISS 3___

Tier I Writing:  
WRA 1___ (110-150)

Math:  
MTH ___ (MTH 101 & 102, 110, 112, 116, 120, 124, 132, 152H, 201, or STT 200 or 201)

---

**College and Department Requirements**

**College of Social Science** (15 credits – ANP, CJ, EC, GEO, HDFS, HST, PSY, SOC, SW, UP)

________ ( ) ________ ( ) ________ ( ) ________ ( ) ________ ( )

**College of Arts & Letters** (9 credits – AMS, CLA, ENG, HA, LIN, LL, MUS, PHL, REL, STA, THR, WRA 200+, WS, foreign languages)

________ ( ) ________ ( ) ________ ( )

**College of Natural Science** (6 credits – AST, BMB, BS, CEM, ENT, GLG, MMG, MTH, PHY, PLB, PLP, PSL, STT, ZOL and ANP 206, CSE 101, GEO 203, GEO 206, HNF 150, HST 250)

________ ( ) ________ ( )

---

**Political Science Requirements**

**Course**  
**Grade**  
**Students are required to complete 37 credits of PLS coursework**

PLS 100 ______  
PLS 200 ______  
PLS 201 ______  
PLS 310 or 313 ______  
PLS 392 ______  
**Select three:**  
PLS 301, 302, 310, 313, 324, 325, 331, 342, 362, 364,  
PPL 807, PPL 891  
PLS ______  
**Select one additional PLS course at 300-400 level**  
PLS ______  
PLS ______  
PLS ______  
PLS ______  
PLS 494 ______  
PLS 422-W ______  

*Some versions of PLS 392, 422, and 495 may satisfy these requirements.  
Instructor approval is required for PPL courses.*

---

**Electives**

________ ( ) ________ ( ) ________ ( ) ________ ( ) ________ ( ) ________ ( )

________ ( ) ________ ( ) ________ ( ) ________ ( ) ________ ( ) ________ ( )

---

**Other Graduation Requirements**

- 120 total credits (123 if MTH 1825 is required)
- Minimum 2.0 GPA (cumulative and major)
- Minimum 30 credits @ 300/400 level
- One non-PLS course from list (see reverse)
- Maximum 20 repeat credits
- Transfer only 10 of last 30 credits
- Minimum 30 credits taken at MSU
- 27 cr. on EL campus after junior status

Undergraduate Handbook  18
**Non-PLS Policy Options**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABM 400</td>
<td>Public Policy Issues in the Agri-Food System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEE 220</td>
<td>Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE 846</td>
<td>Transportation Policies and Decision-Making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CJ 421</td>
<td>Minorities, Crime, and Social Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CJ 474</td>
<td>Law and Criminal Justice Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAD 361</td>
<td>Education Reform and Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC 360</td>
<td>Private Enterprise and Public Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>EC 380</td>
<td>Labor Relations and Labor Market Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>EGR 300</td>
<td>Technology, Society and Public Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESA 440</td>
<td>Environmental and Natural Resource Policy in Michigan</td>
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<td>FCE 448</td>
<td>Child and Family Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOR 466</td>
<td>Natural Resource Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FW 181</td>
<td>Introduction to Science, Technology, the Environment and Public Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>FW 445</td>
<td>Socio-economics and Policy of Conservation Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GBL 395</td>
<td>Law, Public Policy, and Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>GBL 395H</td>
<td>Law, Public Policy, and Business-Honors</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB 334</td>
<td>Science, Technology, and Public Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC 221</td>
<td>International Relations II: The Politics of International Economic Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC 295</td>
<td>Research Design and Quantitative Analysis in Public Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC 326</td>
<td>U.S. Foreign Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>MC 348</td>
<td>Educational Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>MC 351</td>
<td>Science and Social Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>MC 361</td>
<td>Political Economy and Comparative Public Policymaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC 364</td>
<td>Policy Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC 380</td>
<td>Social Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC 450</td>
<td>International Environmental Law and Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>MC 459</td>
<td>Science, Technology, Environment and Public Policy Capstone</td>
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<tr>
<td>MC 469</td>
<td>Applied Public Policy Research Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGT 409</td>
<td>Business Policy and Strategic Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW 320</td>
<td>Social Work and Social Policy I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TC 210</td>
<td>Media and Communication Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZOL 446</td>
<td>Environmental Issues and Public Policy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Department Requirements
1. A minimum of 37 PLS credits.
2. 2.0 GPA or higher in PLS coursework.
3. PLS 140 and PLS 160
4. All three of the following courses: PLS 200, PLS 201, and PLS 392
5. Five additional PLS courses at the 300 level.
   a. International Relations: PLS 342, 362, 363, 364
   b. Comparative Politics: PLS 344, 351, 352, 353, 354, 356, 357, 358, 359
6. Distribution requirement of 300-level Political Science courses: at least two courses from International Relations and Comparative Politics.
   - Methods of Political Analysis: PLS 200 and 201
   - International/Comparative Politics: PLS 140, 160, 342-359 and 361-369
7. One Tier II Writing course within the department.
   Tier II Writing (W): PLS 422, 440, 441, 460, 461

College Requirements
Complete coursework in Social Science, Arts and Letters, and Natural Sciences.

a. In Social Science, students must complete 15 credits from any of the following departments: ANP, CJ, EC, GEO, HDFS, HST, PSY, SOC, SW, or UP.

b. In Arts & Letters, students must complete 9 credits from any of the following departments or courses: AMS, CLA, ENG, HA, LIN, LL, MUS, PHL, REL, STA, THR, WRA 200+, WS, foreign languages

c. In Natural Science students must complete 6 credits from any of the following departments or courses: AST, BMB, BS, CEM, ENT, GLG, MMG, MTH, PHY, PLB, PLP, PSL, STT, ZOL, ANP 206, CSE 101, GEO 203, GEO 206, or HNF 150.
University Requirements

Integrative Studies
Each student must complete a minimum of 24 Integrative Studies credits, including 8 credits in each of the following three areas: Arts and Humanities (IAH); Biological and Physical Sciences (ISB, ISP) including 2 credits of lab; and Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (ISS).

Tier I Writing
Each student must either:
  a. Secure a waiver by receiving a 3 on the Advanced Placement Exam in English or earn course credit by receiving a 4 on the exam, or
  b. complete one 4-credit Tier I writing course (WRA 1xx). In some cases, based on the English placement exam, a student may be required to complete developmental writing courses (WRA 0102 and 1004) prior to enrolling in a Tier I writing course.

University Math
A student may meet the mathematics requirement by:
  a. Obtaining a Mathematics Placement Service Exam score of at least 19 on a proctored exam, or
  b. Completing one of the following options at MSU:
      1. One course from MTH 110, 112, 116, 124, 132, 152H, and 201, or
      2. Both MTH 103 and MTH 114, or
      3. Either STT 200 or STT 201.
      4. Both MTH 101 & MTH 102

Additional
Students must also:
  a. Complete a minimum of 120 credits (123 if MTH 1825 is required);
  b. Earn a minimum 2.0 cumulative and major GPA;
  c. Not exceed 20 repeat credits;
  d. Earn at least 30 credits from MSU;
  e. Earn 27 credits on the East Lansing campus after junior status; and
  f. Transfer only 10 of last 30 credits earned.
### Political Science World Politics

#### Degree Requirements Checksheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student:</th>
<th>Term start:</th>
<th>PID:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Integrative Studies and University Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biological/Physical Science:</th>
<th>ISB 2___</th>
<th>ISP 2___</th>
<th>ISB or ISP Lab 2___</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Humanities:</td>
<td>IAH 2___</td>
<td>IAH 2___ (211+)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Science:</td>
<td>ISS 2___</td>
<td>ISS 3___</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier I Writing:</td>
<td>WRA 1___ (110-150)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math:</td>
<td>MTH ____ (MTH 101 &amp; 102, 110, 112, 120, 124, 132, 152H, 201, or STT 200 or 201)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### College and Department Requirements

| College of Social Science (15 credits – ANP, CJ, EC, GEO, HDFS, HST, PSY, SOC, SW, UP) |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| College of Arts & Letters (9 credits – AMS, CLA, ENG, HA, LIN, LL, MUS, PHIL, REL, STA, THR, WRA 200+, WS, foreign languages) |
| College of Natural Science (6 credits – AST, BMB, BS, CEM, ENT, GLG, MMG, MTH, PHY, PLB, PSL, STT, ZOL, ANP 206, CSE 101, GEO 203, GEO 206, HNF 150, HST 250) |

#### Political Science Requirements

Students are required to complete **37 credits of PLS coursework; at least five courses in the International Relations/Comparative Politics category.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>ID</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLS 140</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLS 160</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLS 200</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLS 201</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLS 392</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLS 3___</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>I</td>
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<td>PLS 3___</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLS 422-W</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Electives

| ____ ( ) | ______ ( ) | ____ ( ) | ____ ( ) | ____ ( ) | ____ ( ) | ____ ( ) | ____ ( ) | ____ ( ) |

#### Other Graduation Requirements

- 120 total credits (123– if MTH 1825 is required)
- Minimum 2.0 GPA (cumulative and major)
- Minimum 30 credits @ 300/400 level
- Maximum 20 repeat credits
- Transfer only 10 of last 30 credits
- Minimum 30 credits taken at MSU
- 27 cr. on EL campus after junior status
## Political Science Courses by Subject

### American Politics (A)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLS 100</td>
<td>Introduction to American Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>301</td>
<td>American State Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>302</td>
<td>Urban Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>304</td>
<td>Minority Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>310</td>
<td>Public Administration &amp; Policy Making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>313</td>
<td>American Public Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>320</td>
<td>Judicial Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>321</td>
<td>Constitutional Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>322</td>
<td>Comparative Legal Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>323</td>
<td>Religion and Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>324</td>
<td>Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>325</td>
<td>The Presidency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>331</td>
<td>Political Parties and Interest Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>333</td>
<td>Public Opinion and Political Behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>334</td>
<td>Campaigns and Elections</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Methods (M)

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLS 200</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>201</td>
<td>Introduction to Methods of Political Analysis</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### International Relations/Comparative Politics (I)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLS 140</td>
<td>Introduction to Comparative Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>Introduction to International Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>342</td>
<td>Comparative Political Economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>344</td>
<td>Politics of Developing Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>345</td>
<td>Religion and World Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>346</td>
<td>Middle East Politics</td>
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<td>347</td>
<td>Democratic Regimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>351</td>
<td>African Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>352</td>
<td>Latin American Politics</td>
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<td>353</td>
<td>Politics of Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>354</td>
<td>Politics of Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>356</td>
<td>Politics of Europe and the European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>357</td>
<td>Politics of English Speaking Democracies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>358</td>
<td>Politics of the USSR and Its Successor States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>362</td>
<td>American Foreign Policy and National Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>363</td>
<td>International and Domestic Political Conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>364</td>
<td>Politics of the United Nations and International Organizations</td>
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### Political Philosophy (P)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLS 170</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>371</td>
<td>Classical Political Philosophy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Modern Political Philosophy
American Political Thought

**Tier II Writing Requirement (W)**

**PLS 422**  Seminar in Political Science
Topics include: American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Philosophy. Please check the online Schedule of Courses for topics. ([www.schedule.msu.edu](http://www.schedule.msu.edu)) to identify the most current topic in your seminar section.

**PLS 441**  Islam and World Politics. Interdepartmental with James Madison College.
Honors Program

The Department of Political Science offers an enrichment program to members of the Honors College who are majoring in Political Science. Honors College students who wish to graduate with Honors in Political Science must meet the following requirements:

1. Take at least eight Honors courses. These may be in a variety of different departments.

2. Take at least four Honors courses in Political Science. Two of these Honors courses may be PLS 481H and PLS 491H or any two or more graduate courses taken in fulfillment of the capstone project (see item 3 below). Honors courses include Honors sections, Honors options, and graduate seminars. At least one of the courses must be at the 300- or 400-level or above.

   2.1 The Department offers Honors sections of PLS 100, 140, 160, 200, and 201 on a regular basis. Honors sections of 300-level courses are also offered occasionally. The Department also offers Honors-option opportunities in many courses; Honors options must be arranged by agreement with the faculty instructor in the course early in the semester. If a student seeks to complete an Honors option in a course taught by an instructor who is a graduate student, approval of the PLS Honors Adviser is required, by both university and department policy. In order to achieve an Honors option in any Political Science course, a grade of at least 3.0 in the course is required.

   2.2 Graduate courses also count as Honors courses; Honors students are always encouraged to consider graduate-course opportunities. The PLS Honors Advisor can help you select graduate courses. In order to achieve Honors credit in a graduate course, a grade of at least 3.0 in the course is required.

3. Conduct a capstone project that may be satisfied by one of the following tracks:

   A. Honors Thesis: The Honors program in the Department of Political Science provides opportunities for Honors students to engage in original research under the close supervision of a faculty member in the Department. By writing an Honors Thesis, students have the chance to put their accumulated study of political science to use in a major, year-long project of independent research and scholarship. See “The Honors Thesis” below for additional information. Students who choose to write an Honors Thesis must enroll in the following two courses and earn a minimum of 3.0 in each to satisfy the capstone requirement:

      a. PLS 481H “Honors Seminar in Research Design.” The Department strongly encourages students to take PLS 481H in their junior year.

      b. PLS 491H “Honors Thesis.” To be taken in the semester after completion of PLS 481H.
B. Two graduate-level PLS courses: Students may enroll in two PLS graduate courses (at the 800 or 900 level) to satisfy the capstone requirement. Students must earn a minimum grade of 3.0 in each of these courses.

C. Research project: Students may engage in a research project through a faculty member in the Department, and may earn credit through PLS 490H, “Honors Internship.”

D. Linked BA-MPP program (see http://pls.msu.edu/index.php/mpp-program/linked-ba-mpp-program): Students enrolled in this program are automatically taking multiple graduate courses in the MPP program. These courses are counted as fulfilling the capstone requirement.

Students should consult with the PLS Honors Advisor early in their careers to decide which capstone track they will pursue.

Note: Honors College students will be permitted to waive any of the above requirements and replace them with substitutes if the substitutions contribute to an enhancement of the student’s undergraduate Honors program. Approval of the PLS Honors Advisor is required for any such substitutions. The student will normally be required to prepare a well-developed, written proposal for each such substitution and submit it to the PLS Honors Advisor for decision. Before developing any such proposal the student should consult with the PLS Honors Advisor about the rationale and content of the substitution.

The Honors Thesis

The Honors Thesis is a substantial work of independent research or scholarship, to be supervised by a faculty member in the Department and evaluated by an Honors Thesis Committee. The Honors Thesis Committee will normally consist of the faculty supervisor plus at least one additional faculty reader; the Chair of the Honors Thesis Committee will be the faculty supervisor of the Honors Thesis. Typically, the Honors Thesis will be 40-75 pages.

As noted above, the Honors student intending to write an Honors Thesis will normally take the following two courses:

a. PLS 481H, “Honors Seminar in Research Design.” This course is intended to assist students in the preparation of a research design for the Honors Thesis and to assist in the selection of a supervisor for the Honors Thesis.

b. PLS 491H, “Honors Thesis.” This is the course in which students enroll when writing the Honors Thesis. Students may enroll for 3-6 credits of PLS 491H, “Senior Honors Thesis.”

The Chair of the Honors Thesis Committee will normally be a faculty member in the Department; any deviation from this norm must be approved by the PLS Honors Advisor. If a faculty member from outside the Department is selected as supervisor, a faculty supervisor from the Department will be designated as faculty of record for PLS 491H. Graduate students in the Department of
Political Science may serve on an Honors Thesis Committee with the approval of the PLS Honors Advisor. Faculty and academic staff at MSU from outside the Department may serve on an Honors Thesis Committee as a third member with the approval of the PLS Honors Advisor.

After completion of the Honors Thesis, the student is required to arrange, in consultation with the Chair of the Honors Thesis Committee, an oral presentation and defense of the Thesis. The defense will be open to Department faculty and students. The Honors Thesis Committee will confer Honors as follows:

HONORS: Completion of a substantial work of independent research or scholarship that would earn at least a 3.0 on a final paper in one of the Department’s Tier II Writing courses.

HIGH HONORS: Completion of a substantial work of independent research or scholarship that would earn a 4.0 on a final paper in one of the Department’s Tier II Writing courses.

HIGHEST HONORS: Completion of a substantial work of independent research or scholarship that would, with modest revisions, be of a quality sufficient for presentation at a professional conference, or that would meet a comparable standard appropriate to the project.

The Honors Thesis satisfies the Tier II Writing requirement, with the approval of the Undergraduate Advisor.

Honors students are encouraged to present their Honors Thesis work at the University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (usually in April).
Teaching Minor

Students who are majoring in Education may earn a teaching minor in Political Science. Students should complete the following requirements to achieve the teaching minor and prepare for the state’s competency exam:

Three of the following: PLS 100, 140, 160, 170

Three of the following:
- PLS 201, 301, 302, 304, 310, 313, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 331, 333, 334 (American Politics)
- PLS 342, 344, 351, 352, 354, 356, 357, 358, 362, (Comparative Politics)
- 363, 364 (International Relations)
- PLS 371, 372, 377 (Political Theory)
Degree Enhancements

MSU offers a number of degree enhancements that may be used to complement or extend academic interest. Students should contact the department or office that sponsors the degree enhancement to inquire about specific requirements or formally add it to their primary degree.

**Primary Major**
The PLS primary majors require min 37 credits. Student must graduate with ~120 total credits.

**Second Degree**
Second degrees require ~150 total credits. With this option, students earn a second diploma.

**Additional Major**
Generally, additional majors require 30-45 additional credits. Students must complete a minimum of ~120 total credits. This major is transcriptable and does not result in a second diploma.

**Minor**
Minors were first introduced to MSU in the late summer months of 2006. Slowly, departments have begun to offer minor programs. Currently, the only minor the PLS Department offers is the Teaching Minor. Most minors require at least 20 credits. For the official listing, please see https://reg.msu.edu/academicprograms/Programs.asp?PType=MNUN
Awards and Scholarships

The Department of Political Science receives information each semester about awards and scholarships that are available either to College of Social Science students exclusively or to all Michigan State students. As this information becomes available, the advisors will circulate the information to all political science majors. Many of these awards have specific criteria that students must meet in order to be eligible and materials must be submitted by the designated deadline. For additional information, students should contact the respective department or college that coordinates the scholarship.

Two scholarships that are coordinated by the Department of Political Science include:

**Burton L. and Rosalie P. Gerber Scholarship**

*Established to provide assistance to a student who has shown through academic excellence and diverse activities that he or she has a commitment to public service and a goal of joining one of the foreign affairs agencies in the United States. Criteria include:* 3.5GPA, PLS or IDS major with an emphasis in International Studies with at least 3 upper-division PLS courses, participation in extra-curricular activities while at MSU, and undergraduate senior (at the time the award is dispersed—usually in the Fall term). Preference to students funding a major share of own college expenses. **Deadline:** Mid-February. In late fall, look for email announcements inviting you to apply from the PLS Department.

**Richard B. Gerisch Scholarship**

*Established to provide assistance to students who evidence determination and dedication to public administration. This scholarship also honors students who show personal responsibility and efficiency in their public service ethics. Criteria include:* Public Administration and Public Policy majors or IDS major of Public Policy Studies; must be juniors in Spring Semester of award year who will be seniors in college the following year and completed at least one semester of course work at MSU; must be preparing for careers in public policy or public administration in government, non-profit sector public interest association, or private sector organizations that deal with the interrelationship between private enterprise and public policy; must show evidence of intellectual maturity and a well-rounded undergraduate education (academic and career related development). **Deadline:** Late January. Please consult SSC link for application (http://socialscience.msu.edu/current/scholarships.html).

Other popular scholarships that are pursued by PLS majors include:

**College of Social Science Distinguished Scholarships**
**Ernest G. & Phyllis C. Green Black Alumni Scholarship**
**Charles Hayden Kelly Scholarship**
**Dr. Charles A. & Marjorie A. Gliozzo Endowed Scholarship for Domestic/International Internships**

To search for other scholarships within the College of Social Science, please visit: http://socialscience.msu.edu/current/scholarships.html
Study Abroad/Study Away

Michigan State University encourages students to take advantage of the opportunities available for overseas study. As technology and politics contribute to a global society, international experience facilitates an understanding of other peoples and societies and the ability to function as an informed citizen in the 21st century. Many of the programs offered by MSU fulfill graduation requirements. The Department of Political Science promotes three programs of study in particular: Washington, D.C., United Kingdom, and Australia. Courses are taught by political science faculty from MSU and by guest lecturers. Ask an advisor to help you determine how overseas study will work in your degree program.

Washington, D.C.
Program offered Fall and Spring terms. This program provides an exceptional opportunity for qualified students to live and work in our nation’s capital while maintaining a full program of academic study. The twelve-week program offers a full range of courses, including a work assignment in one of Washington’s wide range of government agencies, not-for-profit organizations, or corporations. Student participants have the opportunity to interact with Washington professionals and to enjoy the city’s vast cultural and educational resources while earning 12 academic credits. [http://msustudyprograms.wordpress.com/](http://msustudyprograms.wordpress.com/)

United Kingdom
Program offered Summer term only. Apply early. Earn a minimum of 7 credits to a maximum of 12 credits. During this five-week program, earn Social Science (ISS) and/or Political Science credit while studying British politics, society, and culture in two of the great cities of the United Kingdom. London is one of the world’s great political centers, the birthplace of representative democracy and the busy heart of a major European parliamentary system. It is also a lively center of Western culture and entertainment. Students will have access to some of the world’s greatest museums and historic sites, as well as to the theatre and rock concerts and much more. Edinburgh is the historic capital of Scotland. It is a beautiful city (sometimes called the “Athens of the North”), located in a splendid natural setting, and it is the political and cultural heart of Scotland. [http://studyabroad.msu.edu/programs/ukpolisci.html](http://studyabroad.msu.edu/programs/ukpolisci.html)

Australia
Program offered Spring term only. Apply early. This six-week interdisciplinary program is open to all majors and offers a unique opportunity to study firsthand the people, government, justice system and public policies of Australia. You’ll have ample time to travel independently after the program in Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Islands or Asia. As a means of broadly exploring specific points of contrast, this study abroad program gives an overview of the contemporary government, political, and justice systems of Australia. It also examines traditional and emerging public policy in several areas of importance to contemporary Australia (i.e. the environment, immigration, aboriginal affairs, equal opportunity, multiculturalism, social welfare, health, and international relations). Where appropriate, comparisons are drawn to the United States. [https://osa.isp.msu.edu/cache/profiles/100136.pdf](https://osa.isp.msu.edu/cache/profiles/100136.pdf) If you are interested in another area of the world or topics of particular interest, please explore the large variety of programs available @ [http://studyabroad.msu.edu](http://studyabroad.msu.edu).
Internship Program

Public Service Internship Program
While field experience is required only for Public Policy majors; Prelaw, General Political Science, and World Politics majors are encouraged to gain practical experience during their undergraduate studies by participating in an internship. Students can learn valuable job search and career exploration techniques, develop job-related skills, and frequently make contacts that will be useful in their careers after graduation. Internships can often lead directly to employment opportunities.

If you would like to earn academic credit for your field experience, the Political Science Department offers a course (PLS 494) for which you can apply. The application and program requirements are available online at http://polisci.msu.edu/index.php/undergraduate-program/internship-program/public-service-internship-program. Students should make plans and prepare their applications prior to the semester in which they would like to participate, and have it preapproved by the PLS Internship Coordinator. PLS 494 may be used as one substitution for one 300-level PLS course.

Students are responsible for securing their placement. The internship coordinator is available to assist students in finding an appropriate internship. Generally, this placement can be in a variety of areas within the following guidelines:

- Internships must be related to government, politics, or public service.
- Students may not serve as an intern in an office where they have previously worked.
- Full or part time jobs will not be eligible for internship credit
- Students must submit the application form, resume, and cover letter to the internship coordinator for approval.

Michigan Government Semester Program
The Michigan Government Semester Program is offered every Spring Semester. The Program focuses on the study of Michigan government and politics and development of professional experience and skills for students interested in a career in or related to public service. The skills, experience, and contacts made in this Program will greatly enhance career development. The Program consists of 14 credit hours. Students are enrolled in the following courses:

- PLS 422: “Michigan Government and Politics” (4 credits)
- PLS 422: “Professional Development Skills” (4 credits)
- PLS 494: “Field Experience, Internship” (6 credits)

Classes are held twice per week in downtown Lansing in the Capitol Building or nearby office building. The program features prominent guest speakers from Michigan government and politics. For more information as well as the requirements and application process see http://polisci.msu.edu/index.php/undergraduate-program/internship-program/michigan-government-semester-program. Students interested in the Program should make plans and prepare their applications prior to the semester in which they would like to participate, as space is limited. The internship coordinator must preapprove all applications.

*For questions about either of these programs, please contact Professor Charles Matzke, matzkec@msu.edu, the Department of Political Science Internship Coordinator
Legal Internship Program

The Legal Internship Program is offered during the Summer semester with PLS 392 in the Spring semester prior. This program focuses on providing students thinking about a career in law with an opportunity to work in the legal environment, under the supervision of licensed lawyers, on actual cases before applying for law school.

Program Prerequisites

Students must submit an application for PLS 494. In order to be considered for the program, two academic criteria must be met:

- Must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 at the time of the application
- Must be enrolled in, or have taken, PLS 392 (Preparation for Legal Field Placement, taught by Professor O'Shea.) Students may apply for PLS 494 while enrolled in PLS 392, but must complete PLS 392 with at least a 3.0 to continue into PLS 494

Application Process

- Download and complete the Legal Internship Program Application form from the Department of Political Science Internship page
- Submit application along with current resume and one (1) page statement of interest
- Once the application is accepted by Professor O'Shea, meet to discuss possible internship placements
- Interview with placement sites as needed. Once an offer is received, the student will be enrolled in PLS 494 (Please note that a placement is not guaranteed for any student. Students will have to interview with potential placement sites and receive an offer before enrollment in PLS 494 is permitted).

Email Professor Melissa O'Shea, osheam@msu.edu, with further questions regarding the Legal Internship Program
**InnovateGov Program (Detroit)**

Many cities in Michigan are challenged by insufficient resources and increasingly high expectations from their residents for quality services and greater responsiveness to pressing problems. City leaders and community advocates may attempt to meet those demands through innovative government programs.

The **Civic Innovation Immersion Program (InnovateGov)** aims to deliver some of this critical capacity to Michigan's beleaguered cities while providing our students with the opportunity to learn about public sector innovation by doing real work on real public problems.

**Program Components**
InnovateGov is offered during the Summer Semester, and consists of both *In the Field* experience and *In the Classroom* time.

**Program Prerequisites**
The InnovateGov program seeks a diverse group of motivated, hard-working students who are passionate about improving the way government works. There are no GPA requirements or prerequisites. Students are encouraged to take PLS 302 “Urban Politics” and/or PLS 422 “Policy Innovation in American Cities” as precursors.

**Application Process**
- Download and complete the InnovateGov Program Application Form from the Department of Political Science Internship page
- Submit application, current resume, and brief (1-2 page) statement of interest
- Schedule an interview with Professors Sapotichne and Scorsone once application is processed

To learn more about the InnovateGov program contact Professor Josh Sapotichne, sapotich@msu.edu or Professor Eric Scorsone, scorsone@anr.msu.edu
Independent Study

The purpose of an independent study is to pursue a subject that is not covered in a scheduled class. This may be further research on a topic raised in class or something that is not available in the University catalog. A student must have a topic of interest or a research plan and then approach a faculty member in the appropriate field. In general, faculty members will not agree to supervise independent study unless the student has done course work with them previously and has sufficient background to undertake the project. Remember, students who enroll in PLS independent studies receive a numerical grade, not a pass/no pass grade.

Once a project has been approved, the student must file an independent study application with the department.

NOTE: Only 3 credits of PLS 494 (internship) or 495 (independent study) may count toward the Political Science requirement. There is an overall limit of 20 combined credits allowed in internship/fieldwork and independent study.
Career Services

How do I know which career is right for me?
The best way to learn about a career is to talk to individuals who have held similar positions. Find professionals in your area who are willing to share their experiences. If you are unsure of where to begin, the Internship Coordinator for your major may be able to give you names and/or contact information of local professionals. You can also visit the College of Social Science Career Services website (http://socialscience.msu.edu/career_services/) to identify career options, design personal career plans, develop job/internship search strategies, plan for graduate school and much more.

Job shadowing is a fantastic way to understand everyday tasks and get a sense of the day-to-day work of different professions. Spend a couple of hours, or even a few days, with a lawyer, a campaign manager, or a government official to better understand what their job really entails.

Another way to gain insight is to conduct an informational interview. Meet with a professional who is currently working in the field that interests you and ask them about their work. Why did they choose their position? What do they like/dislike about their career? Do they have recommendations for a student or new professional who wants to get into the field?

There are also a number of online resources that provide information on various careers. This is an opportunity to put your newly learned research skills to the test. You can start your search by visiting these websites:

www.myspartancareer.com (MSU’s career resource for students)
http://www.educationindex.com/poli_sci/ (Government and Political Science Resources)
www.ourpublicservice.org (Government Jobs)
www.usajobs.opm.gov (Government Jobs)
www.studentjobs.gov (Government Jobs for Students)
www.mnaonline.org (Michigan Nonprofit Association)

Everyone wants me to have experience. How do I get it?
Complete some field experience through an internship class. Not all programs of study require internships to graduate, but this can be an invaluable opportunity to network, gain experience, and explore different career paths. Internship credits can also be used to meet other requirements within your major (i.e. one 300-level PLS requirement will be waived upon completion of a PLS 494 Political Science Internship).

In the past, what careers have political science graduates selected?
Recent MSU Political Science graduates are enrolled in a variety of graduate programs, including law, public administration, political science, business administration, labor and industrial relations, history, and psychology. Others are employed by businesses, industry, and several branches of government.

What are some of the traditional career suggestions for political science graduates?
Lawyer, paralegal, Campaign worker, journalist, events planner, researcher, editor, executive search consultant, political correspondent, human resources specialist, foreign service worker, policy
analyst, public opinion analyst, education, consulting, public relations advisor, urban policy planner, labor relations specialist, congressional researcher, historical archivist, lobbyist, parole/probation officer, social worker, consumer advocate, etc.
Faculty

Please visit our PLS faculty page here http://polisci.msu.edu/people/category/faculty/
MSU CAREER SERVICES NETWORK is an interconnected system of career services units comprised of college-based offices and all-campus centers. The Career Network helps students to identify career options, design their personal career plan, develop job/internship search strategies, and plan for graduate school.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER (355-9510) located in 113 Student Services Building provides services for all majors, specializing in self-assessment tools and the early stages of career exploration.

FIELD CAREER CONSULTANT FOR THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE Amy Deitrickson (deitric4@msu.edu, 432-1746) is located in 201 Berkey Hall to provide advanced job search planning assistance, customized programming, and industry/profession specific resources for social science majors. For more information about the Career Network’s general services, upcoming workshops and events, or to schedule a career advising appointment visit the web at www.careernetwork.msu.edu

CENTER FOR SERVICE-LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT (353-4400) in 207 Student Services Building coordinates the matching of the needs of the community and the volunteer services of MSU students. A wide range of possible placements allows the student to use his/her skills in a productive "real world" experience. www.servicelearning.msu.edu

COUNSELING CENTER (355-8270) in 207 Student Services Building and branch offices offer professional counseling for personal problems, career counseling, complete testing services and a self-management laboratory and workshops in many areas. www.couns.msu.edu

LEARNING RESOURCES CENTER (355-2363) in 209 Bessey Hall provides materials for improving reading, writing, listening, study and test-taking skills, as well as workshops each semester. A listing of current workshops is available there or from an advisor. http://lrc.msu.edu

WRITING CENTER (432-3610) in 300 Bessey Hall offers one-on-one writing consultations. Walk-ins or appointments are accepted for assistance at any stage of a writing project. It also has a Grammar Hotline at 432-3610. http://writing.msu.edu

TESTING OFFICE (355-8385) in 207 Student Services has registration materials for the LSAT and GRE and also administers foreign language placement tests. www.testingoffice.msu.edu

OFFICE OF SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (353-5210) in 209 Bessey Hall coordinates special programs for minority and disadvantaged students. It provides tutoring for basic classes for CAAP students and others who meet their criteria along with other services. www.msu.edu/user/oss

RESOURCE CENTER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (353-9642) in 120 Bessey Hall has specialists responding to mobility, visual, hearing, alternative learning concerns, and other handicapped populations, enabling their involvement in University activities. www.rcpd.msu.edu