

# Undergraduate Handbook



Department of Political Science  
**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Department of Political Science  
Michigan State University  
2020-2021**

# Contents

3	<b>Foreword</b>
4	<b>Department Contact Information</b>
5	<b>Welcome to Political Science</b>
6	<b>Undergraduate Academic Advising</b>
9	<b>Requirements for Major</b> General Political Science Political Science Prelaw Public Policy World Politics
23	<b>Political Science Courses</b>
25	<b>Honors Program</b>
28	<b>Teaching Minor</b>
29	<b>Degree Enhancements (minor, additional major, second degree)</b>
30	<b>Awards and Scholarships</b>
31	<b>Study Abroad/Study Away Opportunities</b>
32	<b>Internship Program</b>
34	<b>Independent Study</b>
35	<b>Career Services</b>
37	<b>Faculty</b>
40	<b>Campus Resources</b>

# Foreword

This handbook outlines the degree requirements for students who declared their major in Fall 2020, Spring 2021, or Summer 2021. It summarizes and explains departmental requirements, policies, and resources.

# Contact

## **Department of Political Science**

303 South Kedzie  
368 Farm Lane  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1032  
517.355.6590/Fax: 517.432.1091  
<http://polisci.msu.edu/>

### **Corwin Smidt**

Department Chair  
517.355.6592  
[smidtc@msu.edu](mailto:smidtc@msu.edu)

### **Ryan Black**

Department Associate Chair  
517.432.9967  
[rcblack@msu.edu](mailto:rcblack@msu.edu)

### **Jeff Conroy-Krutz**

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Honors and PLS Scholars  
517.353.8486  
[conroyk6@msu.edu](mailto:conroyk6@msu.edu)

### **Krista Zeig**

Undergraduate Academic Advisor  
517.353.7225  
[kzeig@msu.edu](mailto:kzeig@msu.edu)

# 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, and 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 prepare for paralegal careers. It is designed to introduce students to the study of law and judicial process and also provide a general orientation for law school. This program is also ideal for those seeking careers in intelligence or law enforcement.

## **PUBLIC POLICY**

This program provides an excellent background 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.

## **WORLD POLITICS**

This program is designed to educate students about governments and political systems of many different countries 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 for keeping track of your degree requirements and monitoring your academic progress.

## Department Website

[www.polisci.msu.edu](http://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 Dashboard.** 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 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 on to Dashboard** (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?

**You can drop your own classes** on the **Student Enrollment System** any time prior to the start of classes and until the middle of the semester. 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. Be sure to talk to your Advisor about ramifications.

### **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 permission to join the class to Ms. Kelly Washburn ([washbu40@msu.edu](mailto:washbu40@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. Additional information can also be found on the [MSU Academic Calendar](#). 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 courses please contact the respective teaching unit directly to inquire about their late add policy.

### **What are the prerequisites for a class?**

Check out the **Schedule of Courses** ([www.schedule.msu.edu](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** ([www.schedule.msu.edu](http://www.schedule.msu.edu)) to find the instructor for a class. If no instructor is listed, 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. A list of minors can be found [here](#).

You can also complete an **additional major** (in most cases, you will still only need 120 credits to graduate) or a **second degree** (150 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 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> 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 General Major

## Department Requirements

1. A minimum of 34 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 201/202, and PLS 392/397.
5. 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 #7 below, does not count as one of these 4 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 201/202
  - 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, 481H

**College Requirements** (please click [here](#) for link to website)\_  
Complete Minor, STEM and Experiential Learning requirements

- a. Interdisciplinary Minor
- b. Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM)
- c. Experiential Learning

## 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). MSU undergraduates must also complete courses in at least two of three diversity categories (“D”, “N” & “I”) as part of their IAH and/or ISS requirements. “N” – emphasizes national diversity; “I” – emphasizes international and multicultural diversity and “D” – emphasizes both national and international/multicultural diversity.

### 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 101). 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
  5. MTH 103 and MTH 101/102

### Additional

Students must also:

- a. Complete a minimum of 120 credits;
- 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

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

## College Requirements

Interdisciplinary Minor Requirement (15 credits-see list) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( )  
STEM Requirement (6 credits- See list) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( )  
Experiential Learning Requirement (Min 3 credits-See list) \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

## Political Science Requirements

Course	Grade	ID	
PLS 1____	_____	_____	<b>Students are required to complete 34 credits of PLS coursework; at least two courses each in A, M, P, I categories.</b>  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  <b>Note:</b> 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.
PLS 1____	_____	_____	
PLS 200	_____	<u>M</u>	
PLS 201/202	_____	<u>M</u>	
PLS 392/397	_____	_____	
PLS 3____	_____	_____	
PLS 3____	_____	_____	
PLS 3____	_____	_____	
PLS 3____	_____	_____	
PLS 4____ W	_____	<u>W</u>	

## Electives

\_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( )  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

## Other Graduation Requirements

- Maximum 20 repeat credits
- 120 total credits
- 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

# Political Science Pre-Law Major

## Department Requirements

1. A minimum of 34 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 201/202, and PLS 392/397.
5. PLS 320 or PLS 321.
6. Three 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 201/202
  - 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** (please click [here](#) for link to website)  
Complete Minor, STEM and Experiential Learning requirements

- a. Interdisciplinary Minor
- b. Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM)
- c. Experiential Learning

## 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). MSU undergraduates must also complete courses in at least two of three diversity categories (“D”, “N” & “I”) as part of their IAH and/or ISS requirements. “N” – emphasizes national diversity; “I” – emphasizes international and multicultural diversity and “D” – emphasizes both national and international/multicultural diversity.

### 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 101). 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
- 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

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

## College Requirements

Minor Requirement (15 credits-see [list](#)) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

STEM Requirement (6 credits- see [list](#)) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

Experiential Learning Requirement (Min 3 credits see [list](#)) \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

## Political Science Requirements

<u>Course</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>ID</u>	<b>Students are required to complete 34 credits of PLS coursework; at least two courses each in A, M, P, I categories.</b>  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
PLS 100	_____	<u>A</u>	
PLS 1____	_____	_____	
PLS 200	_____	<u>M</u>	
PLS 201/202	_____	<u>M</u>	
PLS 320 or 321	_____	<u>A</u>	
PLS 392/397	_____	_____	
PLS 3____	_____	_____	
PLS 3____	_____	_____	
PLS 3____	_____	_____	
PLS 4____W	_____	<u>W</u>	

**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) outside of the PLS Dept.

## Electives

\_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( )  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

## Other Graduation Requirements

- 120 total credits
- Maximum 20 repeat credits
- Minimum 2.0 GPA (cumulative and major)
- Transfer only 10 of last 30 credits
- Minimum 30 credits @ 300/400 level
- Minimum 30 credits taken at MSU

# Political Science Public Policy Major

## Department Requirements

1. A minimum of 34 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 three\*: PLS 301, 302, 310, 313, 324, 325, 331, 342, 362, 364, PPL 807, or PPL 891.
6. One Tier II Writing course within the department (PLS 422, 481H).

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

## College Requirements (please click [here](#) for link to website)

Complete Minor, STEM and Experiential Learning requirements

- a. Interdisciplinary Minor
- b. Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM)
- c. Experiential Learning

## 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 101). 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
- 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 101\_\_\_\_  
 Math: MTH \_\_\_\_ (MTH 101 & 102, 110, 112, 116, 120, 124, 132, 152H, 201, or STT 200 or 201)

## College Requirements

Minor Requirement (Min 15 credits see [list](#)) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

STEM Requirement (Min 6 credits- see [list](#)) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

Experiential Learning Requirement (Min 3 credits see [list](#)) \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

## Political Science Requirements

Course	Grade
PLS 100	_____
PLS 200	_____
PLS 201/202	_____
PLS 310 or 313	_____
PLS 392/397	_____
PLS _____	_____
PLS _____	_____
PLS _____	_____
PLS 494	_____
PLS 422-W	_____

**Students are required to complete 34 credits of PLS coursework**

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

**Select one additional PLS course at 300-400 level**

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

## Electives

\_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( )  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

## Other Graduation Requirements

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 120 total credits</li> <li>• Minimum 2.0 GPA (cumulative and major)</li> <li>• Minimum 30 credits @ 300/400 level</li> <li>• One non-PLS course from list (see reverse)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum 20 repeat credits</li> <li>• Transfer only 10 of last 30 credits</li> <li>• Minimum 30 credits taken at MSU</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

# Political Science World Politics Major

## Department Requirements

1. A minimum of 34 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 201/202, and PLS 392/397
5. Four 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, 481H

## College Requirements

Complete Minor, STEM and Experiential Learning requirements

- a. Interdisciplinary Minor
- b. Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM)
- c. Experiential Learning

## 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). MSU undergraduates must also complete courses in at least two of three diversity categories (“D”, “N” & “I”) as part of their IAH and/or ISS requirements. “N” – emphasizes national diversity; “I” – emphasizes international and multicultural diversity and “D” – emphasizes both national and international/multicultural diversity.

### 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
- 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 Check sheet

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

### College Requirements

Minor Requirement (15 credits-see [list](#)) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

STEM Requirement (6 credits- see [list](#)) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

Experiential Learning Requirement (Min 3 cr –see [list](#)) \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

### Political Science Requirements

Course	Grade	ID
PLS 140	_____	<u>I</u>
PLS 160	_____	<u>I</u>
PLS 200	_____	<u>M</u>
PLS 201/202	_____	<u>M</u>
PLS 392/397	_____	<u>I</u>
PLS 3____	_____	<u>I</u>
PLS 3____	_____	<u>I</u>
PLS 3____	_____	<u>I</u>
PLS 3____	_____	<u>I</u>
PLS 422-W	_____	<u>W</u>

**Students are required to complete 34 credits of PLS coursework; at least five courses in the International Relations/Comparative Politics category.**

International Relations/Comparative Politics (I): PLS 140, 160, and Int'l Relations: PLS 342, 362, 363, 364  
 Comparative Politics: PLS 344, 351, 352, 353, 354, 356, 357, 358

Tier II Writing (W): PLS 422

### Electives

\_\_\_\_\_( ) \_\_\_\_\_( ) \_\_\_\_\_( ) \_\_\_\_\_( ) \_\_\_\_\_( ) \_\_\_\_\_( )  
 \_\_\_\_\_( ) \_\_\_\_\_( ) \_\_\_\_\_( ) \_\_\_\_\_( ) \_\_\_\_\_( ) \_\_\_\_\_( )

### Other Graduation Requirements

- 120 total credits
- Minimum 2.0 GPA (cumulative and major)
- Minimum 30 credits @ 300/400 level
- Maximum 20 repeat credits
- Transfer only 10 of last 30 credits Undergraduate Handbook 20
- Minimum 30 credits taken at MSU
- 27 cr. on EL campus after junior status

# Courses

## Political Science Courses by Subject

### American Politics (A)

PLS	100	Introduction to American Politics
	301	American State Government
	302	Urban Politics
	304	Minority Politics
	310	Public Administration & Policy Making
	313	American Public Policy
	320	Judicial Politics
	321	Constitutional Law
	322	Comparative Legal Systems
	323	Religion and Politics
	324	Congress
	325	The Presidency
	331	Political Parties and Interest Groups
	333	Public Opinion and Political Behavior
	334	Campaigns and Elections

### Methods (M)

PLS	200	Introduction to Political Science
	201	Introduction to Methods of Political Analysis
	202	Introduction to Data Analytics (can substitute for PLS 201)

### International Relations/Comparative Politics (I)

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

**Political Philosophy (P)**

- PLS 170 Introduction to Political Philosophy  
371 Classical Political Philosophy  
372 Modern Political Philosophy  
377 American Political Thought

**Special Topics**

- PLS 392 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  
397 Analyzing and Visualizing Politics

**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.

**PLS Teaching Minor.** 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 they have 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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. You can also visit the **College of Social Science Experiential Learning Office**

## **Washington, D.C.**

Washington, DC is the hub of many successful young professionals. *MSU's Washington, DC Fall and Spring Semester Study Programs* include an academic focus on the topical politics and culture of our nation's capital. The *DC Summer Internship Programs* are internship-only and do not include this academic focus. However, all DC program students have an opportunity to learn first-hand about the unique political and social culture of Washington, DC through their internship, related assignments, and professional development activities. Students admitted into the Fall/Spring program enroll in 12-15 MSU credits (including a number of PLS credits) and participate in the online hybrid DC-focused class. Summer students enroll in a minimum of six (6) internship credits.

## **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. For more information <https://osa.isp.msu.edu/Programs/program/index/108295>

## **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. For more information, <https://osa.isp.msu.edu/Programs/program/index/108341>

# 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 Marty Jordan(jordan61@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 2.5 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** prepares and delivers MSU’s most vital resource – talented and motivated students – to Detroit’s civic institutions while providing our students with a one-of-a-kind opportunity to do real and impactful work on the city’s most critical social challenges to help to build a thriving and equitable future for all Detroit residents.

## **THE PROGRAM**

Since the InnovateGov program started, our students have worked in over 50 different organizations and government agencies in Detroit.

By supporting these partners, our students have contributed to projects that touch every neighborhood in the city. Students worked on projects to improve services and respond to a wide range of pressing challenges in the city, such as: property vacancy, government fiscal stability, foreclosures, chronic absenteeism, water shut-offs, economic development, immigration, prisoner re-entry, and more.

Our students provide Detroit’s civic leaders with the critical capacity and human capital necessary to tackle high-impact projects.

### **Program Details**

- The program runs for 10 weeks during the summer.
- Faculty and staff work with civic partners to place students. In 2017, our civic partners spanned more than a dozen local government departments (e.g., Detroit Public School Community District, Mayor’s Office, Department of Neighborhoods, Office of Immigrant Affairs, Department of Health) and eight non-profit and L3C organizations (e.g., Data Driven Detroit, Detroit Future City, Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, and Community Development Advocates of Detroit).
- Students stay in Wayne State University (WSU) dorms at no charge to the student.
- In previous years, students have received a combination of the following: need-based scholarship, WSU meal card, and resources to defray living, work, and transportation expenses.
- Students take a 4 credit project-based research/writing course (PLS 422), plus 3-6 internship credits. This is commensurate with a 30-35 hour workweek.
- Faculty leaders work with students and their supervisors to achieve a common goal: the development and production of a deliverable – a high-impact project that improves upon the way our civic partners work on a difficult social, political, economic, or institutional challenge.
- Each Friday, students attend an exciting cultural, professional, recreational, or social event around the city.



# 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 submit an independent study application on the RO website

**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. Please see your advisor regarding the online independent study form. The PLS 494 applications can be found on the PLS website.

# 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/](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:

<https://msu.joinhandshake.com/login> (Handshake -- MSU's career resource for students)  
[http://www.educationindex.com/poli\\_sci/](http://www.educationindex.com/poli_sci/) (Government and Political Science Resources)  
[www.ourpublicservice.org](http://www.ourpublicservice.org) (Government Jobs)  
[www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov) (Government Jobs)  
[www.studentjobs.gov](http://www.studentjobs.gov) (Government Jobs for Students)  
[www.mnaonline.org](http://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, non-profits, 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/>

# Campus Resources

**College of Social Science** <https://socialscience.msu.edu/index.html>

**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](mailto:deitric4@msu.edu)) and Samantha Jackson ([sljack@msu.edu](mailto:sljack@msu.edu)) are located in 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 and upcoming workshops and events, or to schedule a career advising appointment, visit [www.careernetwork.msu.edu](http://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 students to use their skills in a productive "real world" experience. [www.servicelearning.msu.edu](http://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](http://www.couns.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](http://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](http://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](http://www.rcpd.msu.edu)



Department of Political Science  
**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

303 South Kedzie Hall  
368 Farm Lane  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1032  
517.355.6590/ Fax: 517.432.1091  
[www.polisci.msu.edu](http://www.polisci.msu.edu)