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Department of Political Science
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

UNDERGRADUATE NEWSLETTER

Fall Semester, 2023 Issue

IMPORTANT DATES

- Sept. 4: University closed
- Labor Day
- Sept. 14: Internship
information meeting and lunch
- Sept. 21: Tuition refund period
ends (full semester courses)
- Oct. 6: Internship information
meeting and breakfast



In this Issue:

- What You Need to Know
- PLS and University Events
- Meet your Advisors
- How to Schedule an Advising
Appointment
- Academic Skills: Note-taking

What You Need to Know

Each month we want
to highlight YOUR
stories. Do you have
an favorite class or

Welcome to your monthly Political Science
Newsletter! We hope you enjoyed your summer.
While you were gone, the PLS department
underwent some exciting developments. During

faculty member you'd like to highlight? Did you go on an amazing summer trip? What is your favorite place on campus and why? Have you gotten good advice on residence hall life? What was it? Don't see your story idea but you'd love to still share?

To submit your story for inclusion in next month's newsletter, please e-mail Sebastian Mercier at mercier14@msu.edu by 5 p.m. Sept. 25.

New Student Orientation, we added more than 200 students to our department. Please welcome our new PLS majors as they begin their MSU journeys and help them out as they become acclimated to campus life.

That is not all! Sebastian Mercier and Dan Thaler will now join Krista Zeig and serve PLS students as a three-person advising team. Sebastian and Dan started earlier in the spring semester and are excited to begin their first full academic year as advisors.

Now, what does this mean for you, the student? **Dan** will advise students whose last names begin with **A-G**.

Krista will advise students whose last names begin with **H-O**.

Sebastian will advise students whose last names begin with **P-Z**.

Above all, we want everyone to work well together, feel valued, and heard. So, in that spirit, if you have an advisor that you enjoy working with, continue to see them!

We strongly recommend you meet with your PLS academic advisor at least ONCE per semester to check in and go over semester scheduling, major/minor requirements, internships, Study Away/Study Abroad programs, scholarships, and campus referrals to resources and services.

Not happy with your fall schedule? Need to add or drop a course? Or do you need an override into a PLS course? These are just a few of the many academic situations we solve with students at the beginning of the semester.

PLS Events

Fall Internship Information Sessions PLS

Two sessions:

- Thursday 12 p.m. Sept. 14 for lunch (Location TBD)
- Friday 10 a.m. Oct. 6 for Coffee and Bagels!(Location TBD)

Register here:<https://forms.gle/KeC8wRjCBcUqedKT6>



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<https://polisci.msu.edu/undergraduate/internships/index.html>

FALL INTERNSHIP INFORMATION SESSION

yes PLS

LEGAL

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 to law school.

MGSP

The Michigan Government Semester Program (MGSP) is offered every Spring semester. This program is open to students interested in an intensive, semester long study of Michigan Government and Politics taught at the Michigan state capitol.

PUBLIC SERVICE

The Public Service Internship Program (PSIP) is offered during the Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. This program focuses on providing undergraduate students an opportunity to secure an internship within their field of interest. The program provides the student with work experience to give them a realistic exposure to a public service opportunity.

WHY INTERN?



Do good work

Work with experts in public policy, non-profits, education and government.



Learn skills

Impress future employers with your real-world experience.



Earn credit

Most programs allow you to earn between three and six credits.



Make connections

Meet influential mentors that can guide you to your career goals

D.C. PROGRAM

Want to obtain hands-on training in politics and governance at the center of the action? MSU's Washington Semester Program has a successful track record of placing interns and improving their employment prospects. The Political Science Department now offers scholarships, relevant coursework, and flexibility to progress in your major while gaining experience in the nation's capital.

INNOVATEGOV

InnovateGov partners MSU students with Detroit governmental agencies and nonprofits working on the City's most pressing social challenges. The goal is to provide these entities with additional capacity while allowing students an opportunity to tackle high-impact projects that contribute to a thriving and equitable future for all Detroit residents.

TWO SESSIONS:

12 p.m. Thursday Sept. 14

Join us for lunch!

10 a.m. Friday Oct. 6

Coffee and bagels!

Scan to
RSVP today!



Meet Your Academic Advisors



Sebastian Mercier is an Academic Advisor with the Political Science Department and the College of Social Science. Before that, he earned his Ph.D. in History from MSU and a master's degree from Rutgers University. He is interested in the appreciative advising model and using his teaching background in his advising sessions. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his cat, cooking/baking, comic books, and running. Sebastian looks forward to working with you and helping you define and navigate a successful college experience.

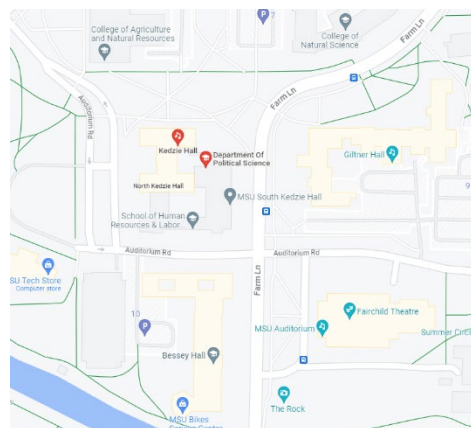


Dan Thaler is an Undergraduate Academic Advisor in the Political Science Department. He holds a Ph.D. from MSU specializing in American Political Behavior and Quantitative Research Methods, as well as a B.A. in Political Science and International Relations from Grand Valley State University. He has previously taught courses in American government, politics and the media, environmental politics, and public bureaucracy. In his spare time, he enjoys playing board games and rec league sports, poorly executing home DIY projects, and spending time with his wife and two children.



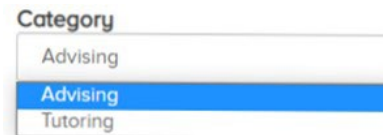
Krista Zeig is an academic advisor in the Department of Political Science. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University and her Master's Degree in Student Affairs Administration from Michigan State University. In her advising role, Krista works with both undergraduate and Master of Public Policy graduate students. She also teaches a course focused on career and professional development. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and 3 daughters, exercising, and watching true crime documentaries.

How you can find us:
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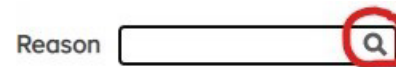
How To Schedule An Advising Appointment

1. Log-in to the Student Information System (SIS). Locate Advising/Tutoring under Academic Progress to create a new appointment.



A screenshot of a web form with a dropdown menu labeled "Category". The menu is open, showing three options: "Advising", "Advising", and "Tutoring". The first "Advising" option is highlighted with a blue background.

2. Select Advising, select College of Social Science, and use the magnifying glass to select your major.



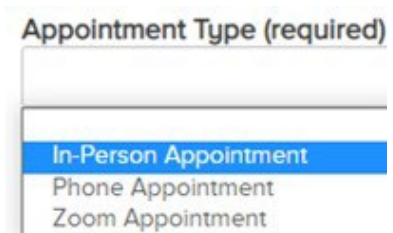
A screenshot of a web form with a text input field labeled "Reason". To the right of the input field is a magnifying glass icon inside a red circle, indicating a search function.

3. You can use the Next Days button to expand for more available dates. Once finished, select "Book it!" An email confirmation will follow.



A screenshot of a web form with a text input field labeled "*Additional Information (required)". The field contains the text "Go Green!".

4. Choose between an in-person, Zoom, or phone appointment. Then select an advisor (**Sebastian Mercier, Dan Thaler, or Krista Zeig**). Select an open day and time block.



A screenshot of a web form with a dropdown menu labeled "Appointment Type (required)". The menu is open, showing three options: "In-Person Appointment", "Phone Appointment", and "Zoom Appointment". The "In-Person Appointment" option is highlighted with a blue background.

5. You can use the Next Days button to expand for more available dates. Once finished, select "Book it!" An email confirmation will follow.



A screenshot of a web form with a button labeled "Next Days >".

University Events

College of Law

Choosing the Right Law School for You - Register Now

Wednesday, August 30 - 6:00pm to 7:00pm ET

This webinar could guide prospective students through the process of selecting the law school that aligns with their goals, interests, and preferred practice areas.

Preparing for the LSAT: Tips and Strategies - [Register Now](#)

Tuesday, September 19 - 6:00pm to 7:00pm ET

Offering practical advice and study techniques to perform well on the LSAT, a crucial component of law school admissions.

A Day in the Life of a Law Student - [Register Now](#)

Thursday, September 28 - 6:00pm to 7:00pm ET

Offering an overview of the typical law school experience, from coursework and extracurricular activities to internships and networking opportunities

Balancing Work and Law School - [Register Now](#)

Tuesday, October 10 - 6:00pm to 7:00pm ET

This webinar could explore strategies for managing work commitments alongside rigorous legal studies.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Law Schools - [Register Now](#)

Tuesday, October 24 - 6:00pm to 7:00pm ET

Discussing the importance of diversity in the legal profession, how law schools promote inclusivity, and resources available to support diverse students

Navigating Financial Aid and Scholarships for Law School - [Register Now](#)

Tuesday, November 7 - 6:00pm to 7:00pm ET

Addressing concerns related to the cost of law school and providing tips on securing financial aid, scholarships, and other funding options

Life After Law School: Career Paths and Beyond - [Register Now](#)

Tuesday, November 28 - 6:00pm to 7:00pm ET

Exploring the diverse career options available to law graduates, including private practice, public interest, corporate law, and government work.

Understanding Law School Rankings and Their Impact - [Register Now](#)

Wednesday, December 6 - 6:00pm to 7:00pm ET

Discussing the significance of law school rankings and how they may influence the admissions process and future career prospects.

Undergraduate Research

Finding Undergraduate Research Opportunities

Come learn about the opportunities available for involvement in research and creative activities at Michigan State.

7 p.m. - 8 p.m. Sept. 12, online.

12:30 p.m. - 1 p.m. Sept. 18, 2110 STEM Teaching and Learning Facility

What is Undergraduate Research?

Learn about the many different forms of research taking place at MSU. Exploring your research interests will be easier with a comprehensive understanding of what undergraduate research is and its breadth.

7 p.m.- 8 p.m. Sept. 7, online

12:30 p.m. - 1 p.m. Sept. 14, 2110 STEM Teaching and Learning Facility

Graduate Panel: For Undergraduate Researchers

Bring your questions for a diverse panel of current graduate students engaged in research. Expect to hear from panelists with varied identities and research backgrounds.

ONLINE SEPTEMBER 26, 6:00 PM — 7:00 PM

Finding Summer Research Opportunities

In this workshop, you will learn more about summer research, the benefits of participation, and effective search strategies, including how to find and apply for opportunities.

ONLINE SEPTEMBER 28, 7:00 PM — 8:00 PM

Strategies for Success in Large Courses

Thursday, September 7, 2023

3:00pm - 4:00pm EST

MSU Union Room 55

Join us as we discuss guidance and tips for succeeding in your large courses. Professors from the Center for Integrative Studies who teach large courses will explain the structure of large courses as well as guidance on interacting with instructors, understanding large courses, balancing academic and social aspects, developing study buddies, group work and how to build a community within a large course. Please RSVP so we can have an estimate of the number of students. If you forgot to RSVP, you can still attend. Light refreshments will be served. [RSVP here](#). Contact information Thuy-Tram Butler ttbutler@msu.edu

Pathway to Research Program: The [Pathway to Research Program](#) is a three-week program that provides small group and individual coaching to help students find and secure research positions. The [application survey](#) closes September 8. For questions, please email Program Director, Dr. Mordecai Harvey at harveym6@msu.edu.

Peer advising: Undergraduates can connect 1:1 with a peer [Undergraduate Research Ambassador](#) throughout the academic year. Our ambassadors are undergraduate students with research experience and are trained to help other

students along their own research journey. Advising hours begin August 30. Students can Schedule an appointment today. <https://urca.msu.edu/ambassadors>

Stress is unbearable...

Join us at PEER!

The PEER (Promoting Education & Emotional Resilience) Program seeks to empower students to learn about their mental health and develop positive coping skills.



This 6-week workshop will help students develop resiliency skills derived from evidenced-based practices such as Mindfulness, ACT, CBT, DBT, and Resiliency training in collaboration with the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD) and Counseling And Psychiatric Services (CAPS).



PEER participants will also have a dedicated practical application support group for deeper discussion and community building. Graduate and undergraduate students welcome!



Interested in joining us?

Please complete the application linked below or via the QR Code to the left.

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3gTVqIuR7DmfYU

Questions can be directed to the PEER Coordinator, Ellie Brigger at briggere@msu.edu.

Academic Skills: Note Taking

You cannot go through your academic career without writing things down. But many MSU students view the activity as a thankless, mindless task during a lecture.

If you look at note taking as a skill, you will find that it is essential to academic success. For example, quality notes can strengthen your knowledge base and ability to process and learn new information. It organizes your thoughts and facilitates active engagement in the content and substance of a lecture.

However, you may not know that note taking goes beyond the lecture hall. It is a before, during, and after class activity whether you are using a laptop or a spiral bound notebook.

BEFORE CLASS

Review the Text: This will likely preview many of the topics, terms, and information from an upcoming lecture. It can also aid in structuring this information for optimal note taking.

Identify Unfamiliar/Difficult Content: Certain terms, concepts, and information from course readings can pose a challenge to even the most prepared student. Use this to your advantage and pay specific attention to these materials during the lecture. Don't be shy! Ask the instructor questions to clarify the information.

DURING CLASS

Format Your Notes: Find a style of note taking that works for YOU. This could mean sticking to one method or trying out a few different techniques depending on the course. Your notes are your best resource. Treat them with care!

Record Important Information: Trying to record every single lecture point or PowerPoint slide is a losing endeavor. Focus on the main points, information, ideas, and examples. Your course

instructor will often give you hints or cues. Follow their lead!

AFTER CLASS

Review Within 24 Hours: Why wait? To minimize forgetting and maximize retention, find a time after class to go over your notes with a fresh perspective.

Fill In Gaps: You might not have obtained everything you wanted from the lecture. Add this information to your notes to make them stronger. This is especially useful in that 24-hour time period after class.

OTHER TIPS

- Come to class with a fully charged laptop or a pen/pencil/notebook setup.
 - Try the different note-taking methods prior to your class. You might be a visual learner or you may prefer an outline. Create your own!
 - Remember: good notes are notes you can use.
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