Major Requirements Catalog Year 2008 and Later
Political Science

(Note: These requirements are for students entering GVSU in catalog year 2008 or later. Students in previous catalog years should consult a prior catalog or click here. We strongly recommend study abroad and internship.)

Students seeking the B.A. or B.S. degree are required to take at least 36 credits in political science, including:

____ PLS 102 American Government and Politics
____ PLS 103 Issues in World Politics
____ PLS 211 International Relations
____ PLS 231 Classical Political Thought or ___232 Modern Political Thought
____ PLS 495 Capstone

and seven additional courses, two of which must be in American politics, one in comparative politics, one in political thought, and one in international relations. Please see the list of elective courses by category below. At least four of these courses must be at the 300 level; independent studies, internships, PLS 495 and the B.S. cognate courses do not count toward the 300 level requirement. A total of no more than nine credits of internship and independent study may count toward the major, with no more than six credits in either category.

Students seeking a B.A. degree must demonstrate third-semester proficiency in a foreign language. Students seeking a B.S. degree must complete the following degree cognate sequence: STA 215, PLS 300, and PLS 315 or 341. When taken as part of the B.S. cognate, PLS 300, 315 and 341 do not count toward the 36 required credits for the major.

Political Science Elective Courses by Category:

**American Politics**

____ PLS 202 American Election Campaigns
____ PLS 203 State Politics
____ PLS 205 The Policy Process
____ PLS 206 American Constitutional Foundations
____ PLS 207 Environmental Policy
____ PLS 304 Political Parties & Interest Groups
____ PLS 305 Congress & The Presidency
____ PLS 306 American Constitutional Law I
____ PLS 307 American Constitutional Law II
____ PLS 308 American Judicial Politics
____ PLS 310 Politics & Health Policy
____ PLS 330 Religion & Politics
____ PLS 340 Mass Media and American Politics
____ PLS 341 Elections & Voting Behavior
____ PA 307 Local Politics and Administration

**International Relations**

____ PLS 212 Great Decisions
____ PLS 311 International Conflict and Conflict Resolution
____ PLS 312 U.S. Foreign Policy
____ PLS 313 International Organization
____ PLS 314 International Law
____ PLS 315 International Political Economy
Comparative Politics

- PLS 221 Government and Politics of Western Europe
- PLS 240 The Holocaust
- PLS 281 Comparative Political Systems: Canada
- PLS 283 Chinese Politics and US-Chinese Relations
- PLS 284 Latin American Politics
- PLS 319 African Politics
- PLS 327 Politics of Developing Countries
- PLS 339 Comparative Democratization
- PLS 382 Politics of Post-Communist Europe
- PLS 385 Russian and Post-Soviet Politics

Political Thought

- PLS 231 Classical Political Thought (elective if not taken as part of core requirements)
- PLS 232 Modern Political Thought (elective if not taken as part of core requirements)
- PLS 333 Contemporary Political Thought (Renumbered from PLS 233)
- PLS 337 U.S. Political Thought
- PLS 338 Citizenship

Special Topics, Independent Study, Internship

- PLS 300 Political Analysis (elective if not taken for B.S. cognate requirement)
- PLS 380 Special Topics in Politics
- PLS 399 Readings in Political Science
- PLS 490 Internship
- PLS 499 Independent Research

NOTE: Transfer students must complete at least 12 credits in the major at GVSU.