

POLITICAL SCIENCE-BA OR BS

THIS IS A **GENERAL** CURRICULUM GUIDE AND IS NOT APPLICABLE TO EVERY STUDENT. IT IS IMPORTANT TO MEET WITH YOUR ADVISOR.

Political Science Major (36 credits)

Core Courses (15 credits)

— PLS 102 American Government and Politics (3)	— PLS 231 Classical Political Thought (3) <i>OR PLS 232 SWS Modern Political Thought (3)</i> Prerequisite: WRT 150 for SWS
— PLS 103 Issues in World Politics (3)	
— PLS 211 International Relations (3)	— PLS 495 SWS Seminar in the Study of Politics (capstone) (3) Prerequisite: Senior standing in Political Science and WRT 150

Elective Requirements (21 credits)

Seven additional courses, two of which must be in American politics, one in comparative politics, one in political thought, and one in international relations. At least four of these courses must be at the 300 level (independent studies, internships, and PLS 495 do not count toward the 300-level requirement, nor do PLS 300 and 350 when students choose the B.S. degree option. No more than nine credits of internship and independent study may count toward the major with no more than six credits in either category.

— American Politics _____	— Political Thought _____	— PLS Elective _____
— American Politics _____	— International Relations _____	— PLS Elective _____
— Comparative Politics _____	See below for PLS Elective courses by category	

American Politics (Prerequisite is PLS 102 or Junior standing except where noted)	International Relations	Comparative Politics (Prerequisite is PLS 103 or Junior standing except where noted)
PLS 202 American Election Campaigns PLS 203 State Politics PLS 205 The Policy Process PLS 206 American Constitutional Foundations (No prerequisite) PLS 301 Poverty, Inequality, & US Policy (Jr. standing) PLS/WGS 302 Women, Politics and Policy PLS/ENS 303 Intro. US Environ. Policy (Junior standing) PLS 304 Political Parties & Interest Groups PLS 305 SWS Congress and the Presidency (PLS 102 or Junior standing, & WRT 150) PLS 306 American Constitutional Law I PLS 307 American Constitutional Law II PLS 308 American Judicial Politics PLS/PA 310 Politics and Health Policy PLS 330 Religion and Politics PLS 340 Mass Media and American Politics PLS 341 Elections and Voting Behavior (PLS 102, STA 215 and PLS 300) PA 307/GPY 308 Local Politics and Administration (No prereq)	PLS 212 Great Decisions (No prerequisite) PLS 311 International Conflict and Conflict Resolution (PLS 211 or Junior standing) PLS 312 U.S. Foreign Policy (PLS 102 or PLS 211 or Junior standing) PLS 313 International Organization (PLS 211 or Junior standing) PLS 314 International Law (PLS 211 or Junior standing) PLS 315 International Political Economy (PLS 211 or ECO 200 or ECO 210 or ECO 211) PLS/HRT 316 Human Rights in International Politics (PLS 103 or PLS 211 or Junior standing) PLS 321/HNR 311 The European Union (PLS 221 or permission of instructor)	PLS 221 Government and Politics of Western Europe (No prerequisite) PLS 240 The Holocaust (No prerequisite) PLS 281 Comparative Political Systems: Canada (No prerequisite) PLS 283 Chinese Politics and U.S.-Chinese Relations (No prerequisite) PLS 284 Latin American Politics (No prerequisite) PLS/AAA 319 African Politics PLS 320 Comparative Politics of the Middle East PLS 325 Human Rights & Democracy in Russia & the Post-Communist World PLS 327 Politics of Developing Countries PLS 339 Democracy and the Authoritarian Challenge

Political Thought

Take at least one course at the 200- or 300-level

Special Topics, Independent Study, Internship

PLS/HRT 105 Introduction to Human Rights PLS 231 Classical Political Thought (No prerequisite) PLS 232 SWS Modern Political Thought (WRT 150) PLS 333 Contemporary Political Thought (PLS 231 or 232 or Junior standing) PLS/WGS/HNR 334 Sex, Power, and Politics (Junior standing) PLS/HRT/HNR 335 Theory of Human Rights (PLS 105 or HNR 263) PLS 337 U.S. Political Thought (Junior standing) PLS 338 SWS Citizenship (Junior standing & WRT 150)	PLS 380 Special Topics in Politics PLS 399 Readings in Political Science PLS 490 Internship PLS 499 Independent Research
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Degree: choose one (B.A. or B.S.)

Bachelor of Arts

Third semester language proficiency (201 level) is required for the B.A. degree. This may be fulfilled through language placement (<http://www.gvsu.edu/mll/language-placement-exam-108.htm>) or by completing the courses listed below

- **Language 101*** (4)
- **Language 102*** (4) (*150 is a hybrid of 101 & 102 and is recommended for students with previous language background; students may move into Language 201 after completing Language 150)
- **Language 201** (4)

Bachelor of Science

When taken as part of the B.S. degree, PLS 300 and PLS 350 do **not** count toward the 36 credits needed in the major or the 300-level requirement.

- **STA 215 Introductory Applied Statistics** (3) (MTH 110 or equivalent)
- **PLS 300 Political Analysis** (3) (STA 215)
- **PLS 350 Comparative Public Opinion** (3) (STA 215 and PLS 300, or permission of instructor)

It is imperative to meet with your faculty advisor and an advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center regularly.

The CLAS Academic Advising Center is located in C-1-140 MAK, 616-331-8585.

Online at: <http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising>

Sample Plan

Year One	Year Three	*Students must complete a total of two courses with an SWS attribute
PLS 102 PLS 103 WRT 150 ¹ ECO 210 or 211 recommended (not required for the PLS major) Language if BA	3-4 PLS Electives from categories Internship strongly recommended PLS 315 or 341 if BS	*You must have a total of 120 credits to graduate from Grand Valley State University (you are encouraged to complete an average of 15 credits per semester) *Supplement major courses with general education courses when scheduling *The block tuition rate is for 12-15 credits. You will pay additional tuition for any credits over 15 *A major GPA of 2.0 or higher is required.
Year Two	Year Four	
PLS 211 PLS 231 or 232 2 PLS Electives from categories STA 215 if BS or Language if BA PLS 300 if BS	PLS 495 (SWS) 1-2 PLS Electives from categories	

¹ Students who self-place into WRT 098 should take this course in the fall semester and then take WRT 150 in the winter semester of their first year. Students who self-place into WRT 150 should normally take this course in the winter semester of their first year.

Students will not need to take WRT 150 if they have earned credit for the course through AP/Dual Enrollment. A grade of C or better is required in WRT 150 in order to satisfy the WRT 150 requirement at GVSU.

Guide for Declaring the Political Science Major

1. Log into myBanner from the GVSU homepage
2. Once logged in select “Student”, “Student Records”, and then, “Change Major”
3. Click on the “Change Major 1/Program” box
4. Click on the down arrow in the box next to “New Major 1/Program,” from here scroll down and choose “Political Science-BA” **OR** “Political Science-BS” depending on your degree
5. Click “Submit” and then “Change to New Program”

General Education Overlap

General Education Categories fulfilled by required courses in the Political Science major:

(Many of the electives in the major categories fulfill additional General Education Categories –See General Education Guide)

Social and Behavioral Sciences: PLS 102, PLS 103, and PLS 211 (must also choose a non-PLS Social Behavioral Sciences course, ECO 210 or 211 strongly recommended)	World Perspectives: PLS 103, PLS 211
Mathematical Sciences: STA 215 if choosing the B.S. option	

General Education Categories fulfilled by specific elective choices

Philosophy and Literature: PLS 105	
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