

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

Year One			
PLS 102 American Government and Politics	3	PLS 103 Issues in World Politics	3
General Education <b>OR</b> <sup>1</sup> WRT 120 ( <i>self-placement</i> )	3	<sup>1</sup> WRT 130 <b>OR</b> WRT 150 Strategies in Writing ( <i>self-placement</i> )	3-4
<sup>2</sup> ECO 210 Introduction to Macroeconomics <b>OR</b> ECO 211	3	MTH 110 Algebra	4
Introduction to Microeconomics ( <i>not required - recommended</i> )		<sup>3</sup> Language 102	4
<sup>3</sup> Language 101	4	<sup>4</sup> Elective ( <i>dependent on WRT placement</i> )	1-2
Elective	1		
Elective	1		
<i>Total</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>15</i>
Year Two			
PLS 211 International Relations	3	PLS 231 Classical Political Thought <b>OR</b> PLS 232 Modern Political	3
<sup>5</sup> PLS Elective ( <i>options on second page</i> )	3	Thought (SWS)	
General Education (Physical Science <b>OR</b> Life Science w/Lab)	4	Prerequisite: WRT 150 or SWS	
<sup>3</sup> Language 201	4	<sup>5</sup> PLS Elective	3
Elective	1	General Education	3
		<sup>7</sup> Minor/Elective	3
		General Education <b>OR</b> <sup>7</sup> Minor/Elective	3
<i>Total</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>15</i>
Year Three			
<sup>5</sup> PLS Elective	3	<sup>6</sup> PLS Upper-Level Elective	3
<sup>6</sup> PLS Upper-Level Elective ( <i>options on second page</i> )	3	Issues	3
Issues	3	Prerequisite: Junior Standing	3
Prerequisite: Junior Standing		General Education	
General Education	3	General Education	3
General Education	3	<sup>7,8</sup> Minor/Elective	3
<i>Total</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>15</i>
Year Four			
<sup>6</sup> PLS Upper-Level Elective	3	PLS 495 Seminar: Study of Politics ( <i>Capstone</i> ) (SWS)	3
<sup>6</sup> PLS Upper-Level Elective	3	Prerequisites: Senior Standing in PLS & WRT 150	
<sup>7,9</sup> Minor/Elective ( <i>second SWS, if needed</i> )	3	<sup>7</sup> Minor/Elective	3
<sup>7</sup> Minor/Elective	3	<sup>7</sup> Minor/Elective	3
<sup>7</sup> Minor/Elective	3	<sup>7</sup> Minor/Elective	3
<i>Total</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>15</i>

<sup>1</sup>Students who self-place into WRT 120 should take this course in the fall semester and then take WRT 130 in the winter semester of their first year. WRT 150 can take it in either semester during 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 (**NOT A-C**) is required in WRT 130 or 150 to satisfy the WRT requirement.

<sup>2</sup>ECO 210/211 are not required but strongly recommended. Fulfills second Social Behavioral Science General Education.

<sup>3</sup>Third semester language proficiency (201 level) is required for the B.A. degree. This may be fulfilled through language placement

(<http://www.gvsu.edu/mlt/language-placement-exam-108.htm>) or by completing the courses listed above.

<sup>4</sup>Number of 1 - credit classes electives are dependent on WRT placement.

<sup>5</sup>Students must take **SEVEN** elective courses, **TWO** in American Politics, **ONE** in Comparative Politics, **ONE** in Political Thought, **ONE** in International Relations, and **TWO** additional PLS electives from any category.

<sup>6</sup>At least **FOUR** of the PLS elective 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 9 credits of internship and independent study may count toward the major with no more than 6 credits in either category.

<sup>7</sup>Minor/Elective – students often have enough credits to select a minor to complete with the major. See both your Academic advisor and Faculty Advisor for more information.

<sup>8</sup>Internship strongly recommended.

<sup>9</sup>SWS = Supplemental Writing Skills. Students must complete 2 courses with a SWS attribute.

\*Students must have a minimum of 120 credits to graduate with 58 of the 120 credits being from a senior level institution like GVSU and the final 30 credits of the 120 credits are specifically to be completed at GVSU. Elective refers to any course that will help meet these requirements.

\*The block tuition rate is for 12-15 credits. You will pay additional tuition for any credits over 15. For more information contact the Office of Financial Aid.

\*A major GPA of 2.0 or higher within the major is required to graduate.

**Declaring the Political Science-BA Major:**

1. In myBanner, select "Student" > "Student Records" > "Change Major" > "Change Major 1/Program"
2. Choose "Political Science-BA" from the drop-down box.

Click "Submit" and then "Change to New Program"

General Education Overlap		
Social and Behavioral Sciences: PLS 102, PLS 103, & PLS 211 (must also choose a non-PLS Social Behavioral Sciences course, ECO 210 or 211 strongly recommended)		Global Perspectives: PLS 103 & PLS 211
Mathematical Sciences: STA 215		
Political Science Major (36 credits)		
Core Courses (15 credits)		
— <b>PLS 102</b> American Government and Politics (3)	— <b>PLS 231</b> Classical Political Thought (3)	
— <b>PLS 103</b> Issues in World Politics (3)	<b>OR PLS 232</b> Modern Political Thought (SWS) (3) <i>Prerequisite: WRT 150 or SWS</i>	
— <b>PLS 211</b> International Relations (3)	— <b>PLS 495</b> Seminar in the Study of Politics ( <i>capstone</i> ) (SWS) (3) <i>Prerequisite: Senior standing in Political Science &amp; WRT 150</i>	
Elective Requirements (21 credits) ( <i>Prerequisite is PLS 102 or Junior standing except where noted</i> )		
— <b>American Politics</b> _____	— <b>Political Thought</b> _____	— <b>PLS Elective</b> _____
— <b>American Politics</b> _____	— <b>International Relations</b> _____	— <b>PLS Elective</b> _____
— <b>Comparative Politics</b> _____		
American Politics	International Relations	Comparative Politics
<b>PLS 202</b> American Election Campaigns (3) <b>PLS 203</b> State Politics (3) <b>PLS 205</b> The Policy Process (3) <b>PLS 206</b> American Constitutional Foundations (3) <b>PLS 301</b> Poverty, Inequality, & US Policy (3) <b>PLS/WGS 302</b> Women, Politics and Policy (3) <b>PLS/ENS 303</b> Intro. US Environ. Policy (3) <b>PLS 304</b> Political Parties & Interest Groups (3) <b>PLS 305</b> Congress and the Presidency (3) (SWS) <i>*PLS 102 or Junior standing &amp; WRT 150</i> <b>PLS 306</b> American Constitutional Law I (3) <b>PLS 307</b> American Constitutional Law II (3) <b>PLS/PNH 310</b> Politics and Health Policy (3) <b>PLS 330</b> Religion and Politics (3) <b>PLS 340</b> Mass Media and American Politics (3) <b>PLS 341</b> Elections and Voting Behavior (3) <i>*PLS 102, STA 215 &amp; PLS 300</i> <b>PNH 307</b> Local Politics and Administration (3)	<b>PLS 212</b> Great Decisions (3) <b>PLS/GSI 215</b> Global Migration (3) <b>PLS 311</b> International Conflict and Conflict Resolution (3) <i>*PLS 211 or Junior standing</i> <b>PLS 312</b> U.S. Foreign Policy (3) <i>*PLS 102 or PLS 211 or Junior standing</i> <b>PLS 313</b> International Organization (3) <i>*PLS 211 or Junior standing</i> <b>PLS 314</b> International Law (3) <i>*PLS 211 or Junior standing</i> <b>PLS 315</b> International Political Economy (3) <i>*PLS 211 or ECO 200 or ECO 210 or ECO 211</i> <b>PLS/HRT 316</b> Human Rights in International Politics (3) <i>*PLS 103 or PLS 211 or Junior standing</i> <b>PLS 321</b> The European Union (3) <i>*PLS 221 or permission of instructor</i>	<b>PLS 221</b> Government and Politics of Western Europe (3) <b>PLS 240</b> The Holocaust (3) <b>PLS 281</b> Comparative Political Systems: Canada (3) <b>PLS 283</b> Chinese Politics and U.S.-Chinese Relations (3) <b>PLS 284</b> Latin American Politics (3) <b>PLS/AAA 319</b> African Politics (3) <b>PLS 320</b> Comparative Politics of the Middle East (3) <b>PLS 325</b> Human Rights & Democracy in Russia & The Post-Communist World (3) <i>*PLS 103 or Junior Standing</i> <b>PLS 327</b> Politics of Developing Countries (3) <i>*PLS 103 or Junior Standing</i> <b>PLS 339</b> Democracy and the Authoritarian Challenge (3)
Political Thought		Other Electives, Special Topics, Independent Study, Internship
<b>PLS 231</b> Classical Political Thought (3) <b>PLS 232</b> Modern Political Thought (3) (SWS) <i>*WRT 150</i> <b>PLS 333</b> Contemporary Political Thought (3) <i>*PLS 231 or PLS 232 or Junior standing</i> <b>PLS/WGS 334</b> Sex, Power, and Politics (3) <b>PLS/HRT 335</b> Theory of Human Rights (3) <i>*PLS 231 or PLS 232 or PLS/HRT 105</i> <b>PLS 337</b> U.S. Political Thought (3) <b>PLS 338</b> Citizenship (3) (SWS) <i>*Junior standing &amp; WRT 150</i>		<b>PLS/HRT 105</b> Introduction to Human Rights (3) <b>PLS 380</b> Special Topics in Politics (3) <i>*Course content and number of credits offered changes every semester</i> <b>PLS 399</b> Readings in Political Science (1-3) <b>PLS 490</b> Internship (2-6) <b>PLS 499</b> Independent Research (
Bachelor of Arts ( <i>credits vary based on language proficiency placement</i> )		
<p>*Third semester language proficiency (201 level) is required for the B.A. degree. This may be fulfilled through language placement (<a href="http://www.gvsu.edu/ml/language-placement-exam-108.htm">http://www.gvsu.edu/ml/language-placement-exam-108.htm</a>) or by completing the courses listed below.</p> <p>*Please note that language placement fulfills SOC-BA language requirement but does not earn credit towards the 120 total required for graduation.</p> <p>— Language 101* (4) (<i>language of your choice</i>)</p> <p>— Language 102* (4)  <i>*150 is a hybrid of 101 &amp; 102. It is recommended for students with previous language background. Students may move into Language 201 after completing Language 150</i></p> <p>Language 201 (4)</p>		