

POLITICAL SCIENCE – BS OR 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 Issues in U.S. Politics	3	PLS 103 Issues in World Politics	3
General Education ¹ WRT 120 (<i>self-placement</i>)	3	¹ WRT 130 or WRT 150 Strategies in Writing (<i>self-placement</i>)	3-4
General Education	3	MTH General Education	3-4
General Education	3	BS (MTH 110) or BA (Any MTH Gen Ed)	
General Education	3	General Education (Physical Science or Life Science w/Lab)	4
		PLS 110 Careers (<i>recommended</i>)	1
<i>Total</i>	15	<i>Total</i>	15-16
Year Two			
² BS (STA 215) or BA (Lang 101)	3-4	² BS (PLS 300) or BA (Lang 102)	3-4
STA 215 Prerequisite: MTH 110 or equivalent		PLS 231 Classical Political Thought or ⁷ PLS 323 Modern Political Thought (SWS)	3
PLS 211 International Relations	3	Prerequisite: WRT 150 or SWS	
³ PLS Elective (<i>options on second page</i>)	3	³ PLS Elective	3
General Education	3	General Education	3
⁴ Minor/Elective	3	General Education	3
<i>Total</i>	15-16	<i>Total</i>	15-16
Year Three			
² BS (PLS 350) or BA (Lang 201)	3-4	³ PLS Elective	3
³ PLS Elective	3	⁵ PLS Upper-Level Elective	3
⁵ PLS Upper-Level Elective (<i>options on second page</i>)	3	Issues	3
Issues	3	Prerequisite: Junior Standing	
Prerequisite: Junior Standing		^{4,6} Minor/Elective	3
⁴ Minor/Elective	3	General Education	3
<i>Total</i>	15-16	<i>Total</i>	15
Year Four			
⁵ PLS Upper-Level Elective	3	PLS 495 Seminar: Study of Politics (Capstone) (SWS)	3
⁵ PLS Upper-Level Elective	3	Prerequisite: Senior Standing in PLS & WRT 150	
^{4,7} Minor/Elective (<i>second SWS, if needed</i>)	3	⁴ Minor/Elective	3
⁴ Minor/Elective	3	⁴ Minor/Elective	3
⁴ Minor/Elective	3	⁴ Minor/Elective	3
		⁴ Minor/Elective	3
<i>Total</i>	15	<i>Total</i>	15

¹Students who self-place into WRT 120 should take this in fall semester, followed by 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.

² Third semester language proficiency (201 level) is required for the B.A. degree. This may also be fulfilled through language placement (<http://www.gvsu.edu/ml/language-placement-exam-108.htm>). Students must complete **FOUR** semesters (12 credits) of ASL to fulfill their language requirement.

³Students must take **EIGHT** elective courses, **TWO** in American Politics, **ONE** in Comparative Politics, **ONE** in Political Thought, **ONE** in International Relations, **ONE** in Experiential Learning, and **TWO** additional PLS electives from any category, equaling **24 CREDITS TOTAL**.

⁴Minor/Elective – students often have enough credits to select a minor to complete with the major. See both your Academic Advisor and Faculty Mentor for more information.

⁵At 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.

⁶Internship strongly recommended.

⁷SWS = Supplemental Writing Skills. Students must complete 2 courses with a SWS attribute.

⁸Number of 1 - credit classes electives are dependent on degree type, MTH placement, and WRT placement.

*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 Major:

1. In myBanner, select "Student" > "Student Records" > "Change Major" > "Change Major 1/Program"
2. Choose "Political Science-BS" or "Political Science-BA" from the drop-down box.
3. Click "Submit" and then "Change to New Program"

General Education Overlap		
Social and Behavioral Sciences: PLS 102, PLS 103, & PLS 211 (<i>must also choose a non-PLS SBS course, ECO 210 or 211 strongly recommended</i>)		Global Perspectives: PLS 103 & PLS 211
Mathematical Sciences: STA 215 (B.S.)		
Political Science Major (39 credits)		
Core Courses (15 credits)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — PLS 102 Issues in U.S. Politics (3) — PLS 103 Issues in World Politics (3) — PLS 211 International Relations (3) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — PLS 231 Classical Political Thought (3) <u>or</u> PLS 232 Modern Political Thought (SWS) (3) <i>Prerequisite: WRT 150 or SWS</i> — PLS 495 Seminar in the Study of Politics (capstone) (SWS) (3) <i>Prerequisite: Senior standing in PLS & WRT 150</i>
Elective Requirements: 524 credits, including 12 credits at the 300-level		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — American Politics (3) _____ — American Politics (3) _____ — International Relations (3) _____ 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Comparative Politics (3) _____ — Political Thought (3) _____ — Experiential Learning (3) _____ — PLS Elective (3) _____ — PLS Elective (3) _____
American Politics	International Relations	Comparative Politics
PLS 203 State Politics (3) PLS 205 How Change Happens: The Art and Science of Public Policy (3) PLS 206 American Constitutional Foundations (3) PLS 301 Poverty, Inequality, & US Policy (3) PLS/WGS 302 Women, Politics and Policy (3) PLS/ENS 303 Intro. US Environ. Policy (3) PLS 304 Political Parties & Interest Groups (3) PLS 305 Congress and the Presidency (3) (SWS) <i>*PLS 102 or Junior standing & WRT 150</i> PLS 306 American Constitutional Law I (3) PLS 307 American Constitutional Law II (3) PLS 309 Race, Ethnicity, and Politics in the US (3) <i>*PLS 102 or permission of instructor</i> PLS/PNH 310 Politics and Health Policy (3) PLS 330 Religion and Politics (3) PLS 340 Mass Media and American Politics (3) PLS 341 Elections and Voting Behavior (3) <i>*PLS 102, STA 215 & PLS 300</i> PNH 307 Local Politics and Administration (3)	PLS 212 Great Decisions (3) PLS/GSI 215 Global Migration (3) PLS 311 International Conflict and Conflict Resolution (3) <i>*PLS 211 or Junior standing</i> PLS 312 U.S. Foreign Policy (3) <i>*PLS 102 or PLS 211 or Junior standing</i> PLS 313 International Organization (3) <i>*PLS 211 or Junior standing</i> PLS 314 International Law (3) <i>*PLS 211 or Junior standing</i> PLS 315 International Political Economy (3) <i>*PLS 211 or ECO 200 or ECO 210 or ECO 211</i> PLS/HRT 316 Human Rights in International Politics (3) <i>*PLS 103 or PLS 211 or Junior standing</i> PLS 321 The European Union (3) <i>*PLS 221 or permission of instructor</i>	PLS 221 Government and Politics of Western Europe (3) PLS 240 The Holocaust (3) PLS 281 Comparative Political Systems: Canada (3) PLS 283 Chinese Politics and U.S.—Chinese Politics (3) PLS 284 Latin American Politics (3) PLS/AAA 319 African Politics (3) PLS 320 Comparative Politics of the Middle East (3) PLS 325 Human Rights & Democracy in Russia and The Post-Communist World (3) <i>*PLS 103 or Junior Standing</i> PLS 327 Politics of Developing Countries (3) <i>*PLS 103 or Junior Standing</i> PLS 339 Democracy and the Authoritarian Challenge (3)
Political Thought	Experiential Learning	Additional Elective Options
PLS 231 Classical Political Thought (3) PLS 232 Modern Political Thought (3) (SWS) <i>*WRT 150</i> PLS 333 Contemporary Political Thought (3) <i>*PLS 231 or PLS 232 or Junior standing</i> PLS/WGS 334 Sex, Power, and Politics (3) PLS/HRT 335 Theory of Human Rights (3) <i>*PLS 231 or PLS 232 or PLS/HRT 105</i> PLS 337 U.S. Political Thought (3) PLS 338 Citizenship (3) (SWS) <i>*Junior standing & WRT 150</i>	PLS 110 Careers in Political Science and International Relations (1) PLS 321 The European Union (3) <i>*PLS 221 or permission of instructor</i> PLS 387 Washington D.C. Experience (1-12) PLS 490 Internship (2-3) MES 370 The Model Arab League (3) Study Abroad (2-3)	PLS/HRT 105 Introduction to Human Rights (3) PLS 380 Special Topics in Politics (3) <i>*Course content and number of credits offered changes every semester</i> PLS 399 Readings in Political Science (1-3) PLS 490 Internship (2-6) PLS 499 Independent Research (1-3)
Degree: choose one (B.S. or B.A.)		
Bachelor of Science (B.S.)	Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)	
When taken as part of the B.S. degree, PLS 300 and PLS 350 do not count toward the 39 credits needed in the major or the 300-level requirement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — STA 215 Introductory Applied Statistics (3) <i>Prerequisite: MTH 110 or equivalent</i> — PLS 300 Political Analysis (3) <i>Prerequisite: STA 215</i> — PLS 350 Comparative Public Opinion (3) <i>Prerequisite: STA 215 & PLS 300, or permission of instructor</i> 	Third semester language proficiency (201 level) is required for the B.A. degree. This may be fulfilled through language placement (http://www.gvsu.edu/ml/language-placement-exam-108.htm) or by completing the courses listed below. Credits may vary by placement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Language 101* (4) (classical or modern language of your choice) — Language 102* (4) (*150 is a hybrid of 101 & 102. It is recommended for students with previous language background. Students may move into Language 201 after completing Language 150) — Language 201 (4) <i>*Students interested in American Sign Language must complete FOUR semesters (12 credits) of ASL to fulfill the B.A. requirement: ASL 201, 202, 203 and (380 or 421).</i> 	

CLAS Voyage Courses

What is the CLAS Voyage? <https://www.gvsu.edu/clas/clas-voyage-1184.htm> or search "GVSU CLAS Voyage"

Embarking Experience: PLS 110 (Careers in Political Science/IR)— an optional course that can also count towards the Experiential Learning requirement.
PLS 102: (Issues in U.S. Politics) – A required course that serves as an introduction to the program.

Capstone: PLS 495 – required as part of the IR major

Experiential Learning: all PLS students are required to complete 3 credits of Experiential Learning—PLS 110, PLS 321, PLS 387, MES 370, or study abroad (see front page for more course info)