



Northwestern Michigan College

2021/22

Western Michigan University Political Science Curriculum Guide

Pre-Political Science requirements:

- ❖ The Political Science department offers four undergraduate majors: a standard Political Science major and concentrations in American Public Policy, International and Comparative Politics, and Public Law. Please visit the WMU Political Science department website for a complete look at your choices.

All concentrations require the following courses:

<u>WMU courses</u>	<u>NMC courses</u>
PSCI 2000	PLS 101
PSCI 2400 or 2500	PLS 211

(The International and Comparative Politics major requires **both** 2400 and 2500)

- ❖ The International and Comparative Politics major also requires 2 years of one foreign language, which can be met in one of three ways:
 - Successful completion of the 2010 level course at WMU in any language.
 - Successful completion of equivalent courses at another institution.
 - Passing, and placing into the third year of study, via the proctored Foreign Language Placement Evaluation Exam offered at WMU. Please check with the WMU World Languages or Spanish department for information about this option.
 - If the student's first language is not English, then the student is exempt from this requirement. Determination of eligibility for this exemption is based on whether the student was required to take the TOEFL test for admission and can be verified through the WMU departments of Spanish or World Languages and Literatures.
- ❖ Political Science majors must complete a minimum of **30-33** credit hours in their major, and it is expected that transfer students will take at least one-half of the minimum in WMU's political science department.

General education requirements (WES):

- ❖ Please see the [WMU Essential Studies \(WES\) guide](#) for information on the courses you can take at Northwestern that will count for WES requirements at WMU. Please consult with your WMU Arts & Science advisor.

- ❖ Political Science majors are administered through the WMU College of Arts and Sciences. All students graduating from the College of Arts & Sciences must meet the world language proficiency by completing two semesters (6-8 hours) of the same foreign language or American Sign Language or passing WMU's proficiency by exam. Please contact the College of Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Advising Office at (269) 387-4366 with any questions. Neither the MACRAO Agreement nor the Michigan Transfer Agreement satisfy the world language requirement.
 - If the student's first language is not English, then the student is exempt from this requirement. Determination of eligibility for this exemption is based on whether the student was required to take the TOEFL test for admission and can be verified through the WMU departments of Spanish or World Languages and Literatures.

Important notes:

- ❖ Typically, this major appeals to students with career interests in politics and government, business, education, or law.
- ❖ For the American Public Policy major, we recommend a minor, or at least coursework, in accounting or economics.
- ❖ Students considering **law school** can use the pre-law resources to plan their college preparation and should plan to meet with a pre-law advisor during their first semester at WMU. There is a pre-law section in the Political Science department website.
- ❖ The International and Comparative Politics major requires at least three courses from outside the PSCI department that focus on foreign, international, or cross-national topics. Please consult with a political science department advisor regarding this requirement.
- ❖ The Arts & Sciences advisors strongly suggest that students apply to WMU at least 9 months before starting classes.

Approved by:

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