



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

College of DuPage

Fall 2016

Western Michigan University Political Science Curriculum Guide

Pre-political science requirements:

- The Political Science department offers five undergraduate majors: a standard Political Science major and concentrations in International and Comparative Politics, Public Law, American Policy, and Secondary Education. Please visit the WMU Political Science department website for a complete look at your choices;
- All of the concentrations require the following courses:

WMU courses	COD courses
PSCI 2000	POLS 1101
PSCI 2400 or 2500	POLS 2203 or 2220

(The International and Comparative Politics concentration requires **both** 2400 and 2500)
- The secondary education major also requires:

WMU courses	COD courses
PSCI 2020	No equivalent
ECON 2010 or 2020	ECONO 2202 or 2201
HIST 2100 and 2110	HISTO 1130 or 1140
GEOG 1020 or 1050 or 2050	GEOGR 1130
- Education majors should check the College of Education and Human Development's website for further information about prerequisites, requirements, and advising for students who are intending to pursue secondary education-political science ;
- 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;
 - Or through passing a language proficiency test. Please contact the WMU World Languages department for languages other than Spanish, and the Spanish department for that language. American Sign language is also acceptable;
 - 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.
- All 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:

- For information about [General Education requirements](#) at WMU please use this website;
- Courses in a political science major will usually fulfill two of your distribution Areas. Please consult with your WMU CAS advisor. See contact information below;
- The political science majors are administered through the WMU College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). CAS requires a foreign language of all students that graduate in one of their many majors. You can meet that two-semester requirement in one of four ways:
 - Two years of one high school language, with a B- or better in the last (4th) semester;
 - Two semesters of a college level language;
 - Or through passing a language proficiency test. Please contact the WMU World Languages department for languages other than Spanish, and the Spanish department for that language. 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;
- The College of Arts and Sciences requires that a critical thinking course be chosen from Proficiency 4c. See the general education transfer guide link above.

Important notes:

- Typically this major appeals to students with career interests in politics and government, business, education, and law;
- For the American Public Policy major, the political science department recommends a minor, or additional course-work, 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 CAS advisors strongly suggest that students apply to WMU at least 9 months before starting classes.

Approved by:

Kevin Knutson
Director of Advising
College of Arts and Sciences

Advising contact information:

wmich.edu/arts-sciences/directory/advising
(269) 387-4366

Political Science Department:

John Clark – chairman
(269) 387-5684
john.clark@wmich.edu