



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Lansing Community College

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 Public Policy, and Secondary Education. Please visit the WMU Political Science department website for a complete look at your choices;
- All of the majors require the following courses:

<b>WMU courses</b>	<b>LCC courses</b>
PSCI 2000	POLS 120
PSCI 2400 or 2500	POLS 260 or 270

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

<b>WMU courses</b>	<b>LCC courses</b>
PSCI 2020	POLS 121
ECON 2010 or 2020	ECON 201 or 202
HIST 2100 and 2110	HIST 211 and 212
GEOG 1020 or 1050 or 2050	GEOG 121
- 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;
  - 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.
- 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:

- Please see the WMU [general education program transfer guide](#) for information about all of the courses that you can take at LCC that will count for the requirements at WMU. Courses in a political science major will usually fulfill two of your distribution Areas. Please consult with your WMU CAS advisor;
- 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 three ways:
  - Two years of one high school language, with a B- or better in the last (4<sup>th</sup>) 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. The MACRAO Agreement or the Michigan Transfer Agreement will satisfy this requirement.

### 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, the political science department recommends a minor, or at least some 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. Advisors may be contacted at [wmich.edu/politics/academics/undergraduate/advising](http://wmich.edu/politics/academics/undergraduate/advising);
- 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

#### Political Science Department:

John Clark - chairman  
(269) 387-5684  
[john.clark@wmich.edu](mailto:john.clark@wmich.edu)

#### Advising contact information:

[wmich.edu/arts-sciences/directory/advising](http://wmich.edu/arts-sciences/directory/advising)  
(269) 387-4366