

The Major in Political Science

The major in political science requires a minimum of 30 upper level credits and includes the following three requirements:

- Prerequisite Coursework (not included in the 30 upper level credits)
- Breadth Requirement
- Depth Requirement

The Prerequisite

Prerequisite coursework serves as a broad introduction to the discipline and its subfields. Students prepare for advanced study in the discipline by completing two of the following introductory courses:

- POLSCI 101: Introduction to Political Theory
- POLSCI 111: Introduction to American Politics
- POLSCI 140: Introduction to Comparative Politics
- POLSCI 160: Introduction to World Politics

Credit from the prerequisite coursework is not counted toward the 30 credits required for the major. A student must complete the prerequisite coursework before declaring the major. To declare, make an appointment with an advisor at www.lsa.umich.edu/polisci.

The Breadth Requirement

Breadth coursework exposes the student to a range of ideas, concepts, and skills through coursework in four of five major subfields in the discipline:

- American Politics
- Comparative Politics
- Political Theory
- Research Methods in Political Science
- World Politics (also referred to as International Relations)

To satisfy the breadth requirement, a student must take coursework in four of the five areas listed above. Prerequisite coursework can be used to fulfill two of the four subfields needed to complete the requirement.

The Depth Requirement

This requirement develops a student's skills through exposure to advanced topics in the discipline. To satisfy this requirement, a student must complete either

- two 400 level POLSCI courses
- or-
- one 400 level POLSCI course *and* one ULWR POLSCI course.

The depth requirement must be completed on the Ann Arbor campus.

Upper Level Coursework

Apart from the requirements described above, the rest of the major consists of at least 30 credits of POLSCI coursework in any combination of the subfields at the 300 or 400 level.

Additional requirements and restrictions

All students majoring in political science must have at least a 2.0 GPA in their major courses in order to graduate. At least 12 credits, including the depth requirement credits, must be taken on the Ann Arbor campus. Only eight credits of EXPERIENTIAL and INDEPENDENT STUDY credit may be included in the major. Only four of these credits can come from POLSCI 399. Only 12 credit hours of study abroad coursework in political science may be counted toward the major. Students are encouraged to seek preapproval of study abroad selections.

The Major in Political Science: Checklist

Prerequisite courses

Students must take two introductory courses before declaring the major.

- POLSCI 101
 POLSCI 111
 POLSCI 140
 POLSCI 160

Upper Level Coursework

Excluding the prerequisite courses, a student must complete a minimum of 30 POLSCI credits at 300 or 400 level.

	<i>course #</i>	<i>credits</i>	<i>total</i>
POLSCI	_____	_____	_____
POLSCI	_____	_____	_____
POLSCI	_____	_____	_____
POLSCI	_____	_____	_____
POLSCI	_____	_____	_____
POLSCI	_____	_____	_____
POLSCI	_____	_____	_____
POLSCI	_____	_____	_____
POLSCI	_____	_____	_____
POLSCI	_____	_____	_____

Depth Requirement

From the upper level coursework listed above (not including the prerequisite), students must take EITHER two 400 level POLSCI courses OR one 400 level POLSCI course and one ULWR POLSCI course. The depth requirement will overlap with upper level coursework listed above.

- Two 400 level courses: POLSCI _____ and POLSCI _____

OR

- One 400 level course and one ULWR course: POLSCI _____ and POLSCI _____

Breadth Requirement

From the coursework listed above, including the prerequisite courses, students must take one course in FOUR of the following five subfields. The breadth requirement may overlap with the prerequisite courses and all upper level coursework.

<input type="checkbox"/> American Politics	<input type="checkbox"/> Comparative Politics	<input type="checkbox"/> Political Theory	<input type="checkbox"/> Research Methods	<input type="checkbox"/> World Politics
POLSCI _____	POLSCI _____	POLSCI _____	POLSCI _____	POLSCI _____

Questions?

Email polsci-advisor@umich.edu for answers to quick advising questions. Visit our website at www.lsa.umich.edu/polisci to make an advising appointment to declare, get answers to more complex advising questions, or to review plan progress.