

POLITICAL SCIENCE, BA/BS

Program Description

Political science is the systematic study of government, politics and public policy. It is one of a number of liberal arts majors that prepare students for a broad range of career opportunities.

Political science majors choose one of four tracks or concentrations: general political science, pre-law, public administration or historical and comparative politics. Each concentration provides a combination of knowledge and skills especially appropriate for those with particular career goals. However, choosing one concentration over the others does not limit you to a particular career path — each of the tracks provides a solid grounding in political science and a broad liberal arts background.

General education requirements and sufficient elective credits must be completed so that at least 124 semester credits have been earned.

Other Qualifications — Graduate degrees are required for some positions; thus, a law degree is required for work as an attorney and a Ph.D. is required for appointment to permanent teaching and research positions in colleges and universities.

Program Learning Outcomes

- **Critical Thinking:** Students will demonstrate the ability to think critically and analytically about politics.
- **Communication:** Students will communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, about political issues and theories.
- **World View:** Students will discuss and analyze the world and contemporary political issues from perspectives other than their own.
- **Think Globally:** Students will demonstrate the ability to think globally.
- **Analysis:** Students will analyze domestic and international political events and behaviors through the use of political theories and concepts.

Bachelor of Arts/Science Political Science–General

The general political science concentration is designed to provide a broad education in political science. It is most appropriate for students who plan to attend graduate school in political science and for those with an interest in government and politics who wish to get a broad, liberal education. Students who continue their education in graduate school most often pursue careers as professors, researchers, consultants or government officials. Students who do not pursue graduate study choose from a wide variety of career options in government, politics, teaching, journalism and business.

Code	Title	Hours
Political Science Courses		
POLI 101	Freshman Seminar	2
POLI 110	Intro American Govt/Politics	3-4
or POLI 160	Intro Canadian Govt Politics	
POLI 202	Soph Sem Political Res & Stats	3
POLI 303	Junior Seminar	4
POLI 351	Political Philosophy	3
POLI 404	Senior Seminar I	2
POLI 405	Senior Seminar II	2

Select a minimum of one course in each of three political science fields, and two courses in one of the fields:

American Politics		3-4
POLI 301	Policy Analysis and Evaluation	
POLI 325	Politics and Media	
POLI 367	Congress and the Presidency	
POLI 467	Constitutional Law/Civil Lib	
Comparative Politics		3-4
POLI 234	Women & Politics Around World	
POLI 331	Comparative Politics of Europe	
POLI 334	Middle East Politics	
International Relations		3-4
POLI 241	Intro International Relations	
POLI 245	United Nations/World Politics	
POLI 342	Internatl Environmental Policy	
POLI 411	US Foreign Policy	
POLI 413	The International Legal Order	
POLI 420	Politics of the World Economy	
Political Science Electives		
General Political Science Cognates		
COMM 302	Argumentation & Advocacy	3-4
or COMM 320	Public Relations	
ECON 201	Principles Macroeconomics	3
ENGL 306	Technical Writing	3
or ENGL 221	Intro to Creative Writing	
HIST 101	History World Civilization I	8
& HIST 102	and History World Civilization II	
or HIST 131	United States History I	
& HIST 132	and United States History II	
PHIL 205	Logic	3
Total Hours		48-53

A minimum of 21 credits must be at the 300/400 level, with at least nine of these at the 400 level.

General Education: All LSSU bachelor's degree candidates must complete the LSSU General Education Requirements.

Bachelor of Arts Cognates (8 credits): One year of a modern language other than English. If taken at LSSU, this would be OJIB 130 Ojibwe Lang I Anishinaabemowin-OJIB 131 Ojibwe Lng II Anishinaabemowin or SPAN 161 First Year Spanish I-SPAN 162 First Year Spanish II. One-half year of two different languages will not meet this requirement.

A minimum of 124 credits (at the 100 level or higher) must be earned for graduation with a cumulative gpa of 2.00 or higher. A gpa of 2.00 or higher is also required in your Major, as well as in your General Education Requirements.

Bachelor of Arts/Science Political Science–Pre-Law

The pre-law concentration is designed to provide students interested in legal careers with a planned curriculum that prepares them especially well for law school and for careers in law. Students who choose this option are often interested in careers as attorneys, prosecutors or judges. It should be noted that this is not a mandatory pre-law curriculum;

it is a curriculum for pre-law students who have a special interest in government and politics.

Code	Title	Hours
Political Science Courses		
POLI 101	Freshman Seminar	2
POLI 110	Intro American Govt/Politics	3-4
or POLI 160	Intro Canadian Govt Politics	
POLI 120	Introduction Legal Processes	3
POLI 130	Intro State/Local Government	4
POLI 202	Soph Sem Political Res & Stats	3
POLI 222	Intro to the Legal Profession	3
POLI 303	Junior Seminar	4
POLI 351	Political Philosophy	3
POLI 404	Senior Seminar I	2
POLI 405	Senior Seminar II	2
POLI 467	Constitutional Law/Civil Lib	4

Select a minimum of one course in each of two political science fields:

Comparative Politics			3-4
POLI 234	Women & Politics Around World		
POLI 331	Comparative Politics of Europe		
POLI 334	Middle East Politics		
International Relations			3-4
POLI 241	Intro International Relations		
POLI 245	United Nations/World Politics		
POLI 342	Internatl Environmental Policy		
POLI 411	US Foreign Policy		
POLI 413	The International Legal Order		
POLI 420	Politics of the World Economy		

Political Science Electives

Pre-Law Cognates		
ACTG 132	Principles of Accounting I	4
COMM 302	Argumentation & Advocacy	3
ENGL 306	Technical Writing	3
or ENGL 221	Intro to Creative Writing	
HIST 101 & HIST 102	History World Civilization I and History World Civilization II	8
or HIST 131 & HIST 132	United States History I and United States History II	
LAWS 102	Legal Research/Case Analysis	3
LAWS 202	Legal Writing and Analysis	3
PHIL 205	Logic	3

Select two law courses in different disciplines from the following:

BUSN 350	Business Law I	
BUSN 355	Business Law II	
CJUS 250	Correctional Law	
CJUS 319	Substantive Criminal Law	
CJUS 409	Procedural Criminal Law	
EVRN 311	Environmental Law	
INTB 375	International Business Law	
MGMT 451	Labor Law	
POLI 301	Policy Analysis and Evaluation	

POLI 342	Internatl Environmental Policy	
POLI 499	Pol Sci/Pub Admin Internship	
Total Hours		66-69

A minimum of 21 credits must be at the 300/400 level. (At least nine of these credits must be at the 400 level).

General Education: All LSSU bachelor's degree candidates must complete the LSSU General Education Requirements.

Bachelor of Arts Cognates (8 credits): One year of a modern language other than English. If taken at LSSU, this would be OJIB 130 Ojibwe Lang I Anishinaabemowin-OJIB 131 Ojibwe Lng II Anishinaabemowin or SPAN 161 First Year Spanish I-SPAN 162 First Year Spanish II. One-half year of two different languages will not meet this requirement.

A minimum of 124 credits (at the 100 level or higher) must be earned for graduation with a cumulative gpa of 2.00 or higher. A gpa of 2.00 or higher is also required in your Major, as well as in your General Education Requirements.

Bachelor of Science Political Science–Public Administration

The public administration concentration is most appropriate for students who plan to work in an administrative capacity in public agencies or nonprofit organizations with public missions. Students who choose this option are preparing for careers of public service. Such careers may be pursued through positions in government agencies at the local, state or provincial, and national levels. Other positions may be found in nonprofit organizations involved in public concerns, such as Common Cause, the Environmental Defense Fund, and the Michigan Health Council. Some of these careers of public service may be pursued with only a bachelor's degree. Others may require completion of a master's degree in public administration or a related field.

Code	Title	Hours
Political Science Courses		
POLI 101	Freshman Seminar	2
POLI 110	Intro American Govt/Politics	3-4
or POLI 160	Intro Canadian Govt Politics	
POLI 130	Intro State/Local Government	4
POLI 201	Intro to Public Administration	3
POLI 202	Soph Sem Political Res & Stats	3
POLI 301	Policy Analysis and Evaluation	3
POLI 303	Junior Seminar	4
POLI 351	Political Philosophy	3
POLI 401	Princ of Public Administration	3
POLI 404	Senior Seminar I	2
POLI 405	Senior Seminar II	2
POLI 499	Pol Sci/Pub Admin Internship	3

Select a minimum of one course in each of two political science fields:

Comparative Politics			3-4
POLI 234	Women & Politics Around World		
POLI 331	Comparative Politics of Europe		
POLI 334	Middle East Politics		
International Relations			3-4

POLI 241	Intro International Relations	
POLI 245	United Nations/World Politics	
POLI 342	Internatl Environmental Policy	
POLI 411	US Foreign Policy	
POLI 413	The International Legal Order	
POLI 420	Politics of the World Economy	
Public Administration Cognates		
ACTG 132	Principles of Accounting I	4
COMM 302	Argumentation & Advocacy	3-4
or COMM 320	Public Relations	
ECON 201	Principles Macroeconomics	3
ECON 305	Public Finance	3
ENGL 306	Technical Writing	3
or ENGL 221	Intro to Creative Writing	
HIST 101	History World Civilization I	8
& HIST 102	and History World Civilization II	
or HIST 131	United States History I	
& HIST 132	and United States History II	
MGMT 360	Management Concepts & Apps	3
MGMT 365	Human Resource Management	3
Total Hours		71-75

General Education: All LSSU bachelor's degree candidates must complete the LSSU General Education Requirements.

A minimum of 124 credits (at the 100 level or higher) must be earned for graduation with a cumulative gpa of 2.00 or higher. A gpa of 2.00 or higher is also required in your Major, as well as in your General Education Requirements.

Bachelor of Arts/Science Political Science–Historical and Comparative Politics

The historical and comparative politics concentration is designed to provide a broad education in these areas of political science. It is most appropriate for students who plan to attend graduate school in political science or history and for those with an interest in working in the international community. Students who continue their education in graduate school most often pursue careers as professors, researchers, consultants or government officials. Students who do not pursue graduate study choose from a wide variety of career options in government, politics, teaching, journalism and business.

Code	Title	Hours
Political Science and History Courses		
POLI 101	Freshman Seminar	2
POLI 110	Intro American Govt/Politics	3-4
or POLI 160	Intro Canadian Govt Politics	
POLI 202	Soph Sem Political Res & Stats	3
POLI 303	Junior Seminar	4
POLI 351	Political Philosophy	3
POLI 404	Senior Seminar I	2
POLI 405	Senior Seminar II	2
HIST 101	History World Civilization I	4
HIST 102	History World Civilization II	4

Area Studies-Europe

HIST 315	Europe Napoleon World War I	4
or HIST 316	Europe in the 20th Century	
POLI 331	Comparative Politics of Europe	3

Issue Studies-International Relations

HIST 250	The Atlantic World	3
POLI 241	Intro International Relations	4

Issue Studies-US Foreign Policy

HIST 441	Hist Am Foreign Pol 1776-1950	3
POLI 411	US Foreign Policy	3

Political Science or History Electives ¹

General Political Science Cognates

COMM 302	Argumentation & Advocacy	3-4
or COMM 320	Public Relations	
ECON 201	Principles Macroeconomics	3
ENGL 306	Technical Writing	3
or ENGL 221	Intro to Creative Writing	
PHIL 205	Logic	3

Total Hours **59-61**

¹ Additional political science or history electives to reach 40 credits. A minimum of 21 credits must be at the 300/400 level, with at least nine of these at the 400 level.

A minimum of 21 credits must be at the 300/400 level, with at least nine of these at the 400 level.

General Education: All LSSU bachelor's degree candidates must complete the LSSU General Education Requirements.

Bachelor of Arts Cognates (8 credits): One year of a modern language other than English. If taken at LSSU, this would be OJIB 130 Ojibwe Lang I Anishinaabemowin-OJIB 131 Ojibwe Lng II Anishinaabemowin or SPAN 161 First Year Spanish I-SPAN 162 First Year Spanish II. One-half year of two different languages will not meet this requirement.

A minimum of 124 credits (at the 100 level or higher) must be earned for graduation with a cumulative gpa of 2.00 or higher. A gpa of 2.00 or higher is also required in your Major, as well as in your General Education Requirements.

Prelaw (Non-degree) Program Description

There is essentially a three-step process in becoming a licensed attorney. First, an individual must complete an undergraduate degree at a college or university. Second, one must then go on to law school to obtain a juris doctorate degree. Finally, successful completion of the state bar exam is required for licensure. In being admitted into law school, the two most important factors that are evaluated by most law schools are undergraduate grades and Law School Admission Test (LSAT) scores — an entrance exam required of nearly all law schools in the United States and some in Canada.

The American Bar Association and most law schools do not recommend any particular undergraduate major before going on to law school. Consequently, a student should choose a major in which he/she has both interest and aptitude. Yet, there are important skills, values, and certain knowledge that can be acquired prior to law school which will assist a

student in being successful at law school. Such values and knowledge include: analytical and problem-solving skills, critical reading abilities, writing skills, oral communication and listening abilities, research skills, task organization and management skills, ethical values, and, of course, knowledge of the law. In fact, a prelaw minor is available at LSSU which consists of courses that will assist a prelaw student in further developing these skills, values and knowledge.

Since there is no required prelaw major, the American Bar Association and law schools strongly recommend that law school bound students contact the Prewlaw Advisor at their university as early in the educational process as possible. At LSSU, our approach to advising prelaw students is very individualized. We want to help each student fulfill their goals and to be successful at law school and beyond.

The Prewlaw Advisor at LSSU can provide individualized guidance with regard to selecting an undergraduate curriculum (both a major and a minor); recommending particular courses that will enhance necessary skills, values and knowledge; assisting in the law school admission process; and providing relevant career and professional trend information.

Degree Requirements

Although there is no recommended or required prelaw curriculum, there are some excellent options that students may want to consider at LSSU. The following LSSU programs include key components with regard to legal knowledge as well as writing, analytical and research skills:

- Political Science–Prewlaw Concentration (major)
- Prewlaw (minor)

Students should seek guidance from LSSU's Prewlaw Advisor as early as possible to ensure they are individually counseled with regards to their respective interests, undergraduate curriculum choice, as well as personal and professional goals.