Honors in Political Science
Information Sheet

Rules and Procedures:

• To be admitted into the honors programs students must have an overall and major GPA of 3.5.

• PS 381 is a prerequisite for students wishing to apply to the honors program. 381 is typically offered in both the Fall and Winter terms. Students should enroll in PS 381 during the sophomore or junior year. At the conclusion of the course students can apply for admission to the honors program. Decisions will be announced by the end of final exams. Students taking 381 in a semester other than in Winter of their junior year will be provisionally admitted into the program, with final admission contingent on maintaining the required GPA through the end of their junior year. Applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria.
  o Overall and major GPA
  o Overall performance in PS 381; as a rule, an A-range grade is required but a lower grade might suffice in extraordinary circumstances
  o Quality of research proposal, written as part of PS 381
  o Success at obtaining a faculty advisor

FAQ:

Q1: What if I take PS 381 and decide I don’t want to do an honors thesis, will I have to drop the course?

A: No. PS 381 is designed as a course for any sophomore junior student interested in social science research, including those interested in the honors program.

Q2: I’m not sure I want to do an honors thesis. Can I still enroll in PS 381?

A: Yes.

Q3: Will I get help finding an advisor if I want to apply to the honors program?

A: Yes, the PS 381 instructor will help students identify potential advisors from among the faculty. However, the primary responsibility for contacting potential advisors and securing their support rests with the student.

Q4: What if I haven’t secured an advisor by the end of PS 381?

A: A large part of academic work is establishing connections and persuading other scholars that your project is worthwhile. If you haven’t found an advisor, you will likely not be admitted into the honors program.
Q5: I am trying to decide between doing honors in Political Science or honors in Econ/Statistics/Biology/etc. and the other program requires me to decide in Fall. What should I do?

A: In the rare circumstance when a student must make an early decision about whether to pursue an honors degree s/he can apply in the Fall for early consideration and admission. Students seeking early consideration must justify in writing why they need an early decision and along with their letter provide: 1) a copy of their transcript, 2) two letters of recommendation, 3) a statement of the research topic they wish to pursue. Early application materials are due to the Honors Director by November 15. Successful applications will be granted admission to the honors program, provisional on their performance in PS 381.

Q6: I am a sophomore who intends to go abroad during my junior year. Can I still pursue Honors?

A: Yes. Sophomores can enroll in 381 and at the conclusion of the course can apply for admissions to the honors program for their senior year. Admission to the program will be provisional. At the conclusion of their junior year students who received early acceptance as sophomores must contact the Honors Director and let them know of their intention to enroll, and provide their current transcript. The Honors Director will then review the application and inform the student of the final decision.

Q7: Can PS 381 be waived?

A: No. PS 381 is a requirement for all students.

Q8: What will PS 381 count for?

A: PS 381 can be counted towards the PS major and upper-level writing credit.

Q9: I am going to be abroad during my senior year. Can I still write and honors thesis?

A: Unfortunately no. Honors students are required to enroll in a course (PS 493/494) their senior year and must be on campus to do so.

Q10: Whom do I contact for more information?

Your undergraduate advisor, the Honors Director, Mary Gallagher (metg@umich.edu).