POLITICAL SCIENCE

An undergraduate degree in political science is good preparation for graduate or professional study in areas such as political science, public administration, foreign policy, law, business, and more. Here are four areas of concentration: Research this find and seek the classes and experiences that will best prepare you. Explore application to Administrative Careers with America (ACWA) and the Outstanding Scholar Program for federal positions.

Develop strong leadership skills; run for office in clubs and organizations in school or community. Know your candidate or project. Join related social and professional organizations. Build a strong personal network through informal contacts. Consider military experience and training as an entryway into government jobs and public service. The Peace Corps is also a good way to enter a career in government.

AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

- Public policy
- Prosecution
- Urban planning
- Defense
- City or town management
- Contractual
- Legislative, Executive, or Judicial Services
- Corporate
- Program administration
- Nonprofit or public interest
- Community affairs
- Government
- Social services
- Mediation
- Social services
- Law assistance
- Lobbying

COMMON EMPLOYERS

- Counties
- Cities
- Municipalities
- Townships
- Legislative agencies
- School districts
- Court systems
- Departments of state government
- Law firms
- Federal, state, and local government
- Private practice
- Corporations
- Special interest groups
- Universities and colleges
- Legal aid societies
- Large business firms
- Advocacy organizations
- Polling and consulting firms
- National governments
- Advocacy organizations
- Non-governmental organizations
- Religious organizations

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Political Science Association
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
International Association for Political Science Students

STRAATEGIES ON ENTERING THE FIELD

- Research your local and/or state government.
- Employment opportunities in local government tend to follow population trends in terms of growth and decline in availability of positions. Check statistics on growing communities to find the most opportunities. Be prepared to relocate.
- Develop a network of contacts through referrals and informational interviews.
- Conduct research, e.g., education, homelessness, etc. that could be useful to your community.
- Get involved in civic organizations and events.
- Complete an internship in a government agency.
- Participate in local or national election campaigns.
- Familiarize yourself with government application process.
- Consider earning a graduate degree in public administration (MPA) or public policy (MPP).
- Take courses in or minor in applicable interest areas.
- Seek leadership roles in relevant campus organizations such as Model United Nations, student government, and cross-cultural organizations.
- Write for campus publications focused on national and international affairs.
- Develop skills in computers, statistics, and data analysis.
- Acquire foreign language competencies and travel experience for international positions.
- There are a large number of specialized agencies within the federal government. Do extensive research in order to find the area that best fits your interests.
- Become familiar with the government application process. Utilize applicable websites and seek assistance from your college career center.
- Obtain an internship in a federal agency or department.
- Participate in national campaigns.
- Conduct informational interviews with government employees.
- Build a strong personal network.

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