

# 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. Carefully research programs in order to choose specializations or concentrations of interest. Maintain a high grade point average to ensure admission into a graduate or law program and/or a position within the government.

Expect keen competition for federal positions. Prepare yourself with a strong academic background and good experience. Many government jobs have strict guidelines and want to carefully match candidates' knowledge, skills, and abilities to the job description. Research this first 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. Volunteer to organize or lead an event or project. Join related social and/or 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
- Urban planning
- City or town management
- Legislative, Executive, or Judicial Services
- Program administration
- Community affairs
- Social services
- Prosecution
- Defense
- Contractual
- Corporate
- Nonprofit or public interest
- Government
- Mediation
- Law assistance
- Lobbying

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

## COMMON EMPLOYERS



## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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



## STRATEGIES 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 self with government application process.
- Consider earning a graduate degree in public administration (MPA) or public policy (MPP).
- Take courses or minor in applicable interest area(s).
- 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 competency 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.