

POLITICAL SCIENCE

What Can I do With This Degree?

One of the most common questions that prospective students and their parents have is “what can I do with a degree in political science?” They know that they can go to law school or work in politics, but they are not sure what else. So why should you major in political science and what can you do with this degree? You should major in political science because studying politics develops your leadership skills, refines your oral and written communication skills, teaches you how to research issues and solve problems, improves your interpersonal skills, and produces a greater understanding of the world in which you live. With these skills, you can pursue exciting careers in Law, Business, Journalism, Intelligence, and Foreign Policy making, Teaching in High School or College, Nonprofit Organization, Campaign Management, Policy Analysis, Government Consulting, Humanitarian Relief, Government Management, and many other fields.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Government</u></p> <p>Public Policy Research Regional Planning City or Town Management Intelligence Foreign Service Law Enforcement Legislative, Executive or Judicial Services Program Administration</p>	<p>Federal, State, and Local Government</p>	<p>Complete an internship in government or related area. Serve in model United Nations. Become involved in student government. Participate in cross-cultural groups and 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. Supplement curriculum with business courses. Earn a graduate degree in political science or public administration for advancement. Volunteer with the staff of a government official. Participate in local or national campaigns.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Law</u></p>	<p>Law Firms Corporations Federal, State, And Local Government Private Practice Special Interest Groups Universities</p>	<p>Develop excellent research, writing, analysis, and communication skills. Plan to attend law school and earn a law degree. Obtain specialized certification for paralegal positions.</p>

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<p><u>Politics</u> Elected or Appointed Leadership Campaign Management Staff Administration Special Interest Advocacy</p>	Legislative, Executive, Or Judicial Officials National, State, Or Local Government Political Action Committees Special Interest Groups Political Parties Campaigns (national, state, or local)	Volunteer for national or local campaigns. Gain experience through internships in government. Obtain leadership roles in campus organizations. Seek leadership roles on the regional or national level. Become involved in campus political organizations, student government, campus publications, or community service projects. Take courses in statistics, computer science, environmental protection, or public policy. Develop a network of personal contacts. Be prepared to begin a political career as a volunteer before moving to full-time or paid positions.
<p><u>Nonprofit</u> Administration Management Public Relations Fund Raising</p>	Nonprofit Organizations Foundations Professional Associations Special Interest Groups	Gain experience through volunteering or completing an internship. Supplement curriculum with courses in business, psychology, sociology, or social work. Obtain leadership roles in campus organizations. Develop strong written and oral communication skills. Demonstrate knowledge and experience in a specialty area (e.g., public health, environment, urban issues).
<p><u>Business</u> Sales Human Resources Management Advertising Public Relations</p>	Product And Service Organizations Retail Stores Hotels Restaurants Manufacturers Financial Companies Insurance Companies Print And Electronic Media Other Business Corporations	Develop strong analytical, verbal, writing, and computer skills. Acquire a business minor or add business as a double major. Gain experience in an area of interest through internships or other employment. Obtain leadership roles in campus organizations. Demonstrate excellent interpersonal skills.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<p><u>Journalism</u> Editing Reporting Circulation Sales</p>	Newspapers (National, Local, Or Trade) Wire Services Magazines Internet Sites Large Corporations Political Parties Political Action Committees	Obtain summer or part-time work experience with a newspaper or magazine. Complete an internship in journalism. Choose writing intensive coursework. Become proficient in desktop publishing and photography. Develop excellent verbal and written communication skills. Join the college newspaper, yearbook, or other publication staff. Become a student member of professional associations. Create a portfolio of published writing samples. Obtain experience in and knowledge of a specialty area of interest.
<p><u>Broadcasting</u> News Programming Production</p>	Television Stations (network, cable, or public) Radio Stations (regional or national) Independent Syndications	Complete an internship in radio or televisions. Experience in government or political affairs are usually required for specialized reporting positions. Volunteer with public or campus media. Develop strong reporting, writing, and debating skills. Cultivate an attractive and appealing appearance. Volunteer to announce local or campus sporting events. Become involved in drama (i.e., direct, act, or work with technical crew).
<p><u>Education</u></p>	Public Schools Private Schools Colleges And Universities	Obtain appropriate state teacher certification for public school opportunities. Gain certification in more than one subject for greater marketability. Earn a Ph.D. for college teaching or research positions. Volunteer with community or church youth programs to gain experience working with children and adolescents. Become involved in student organizations, debate, publications, government, and athletics.

We'd like to acknowledge that portions of this document were taken from work done by the Career Planning staff of Career Services at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and the department of Political Science at Union University (<http://www.uu.edu/dept/politicalscience/careers.cfm>).