

# Thinking About A Political Science Degree?

Learn about career opportunities and the suggested educational strategies to achieve your goal

One of the most common questions that prospective students have is “what can I do with a degree in political science?” Most individuals know that they can go to law school or work in politics, but they are not sure what other careers are available. This document will tell you what areas of employment are available to those with a political science degree, the suggested concentration to take, and your educational strategies. 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.

AREAS OF EMPLOYMENT	EMPLOYERS	CONCENTRATION	EDUCATIONAL STRATEGIES
<p><b><u>Government &amp; Advocacy Jobs</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Policy</li> <li>Research</li> <li>Regional Planning</li> <li>City or Town Management</li> <li>Intelligence</li> <li>Law Enforcement</li> <li>Legislative, Executive or Judicial Services</li> <li>Program Administration</li> <li>Tribal Governance</li> <li>Social Work</li> </ul>	<p>Federal, State and Local Government</p> <p>Opinion Research NGO's</p>	<p>American Government</p> <p>Indian Affairs Administration</p> <p>Peace &amp; Justice Studies</p> <p>Public Administration &amp; Policy</p>	<p>Acquire foreign language competency and travel experience for international positions.</p> <p>Serve in model United Nations.</p> <p>Become involved in student government.</p> <p>Participate in cross-cultural groups and organizations.</p> <p>Write for campus publications focused on national and international affairs.</p> <p>Develop skills in computers, statistics, and data analysis.</p> <p>Complete an internship in government or related area.</p> <p>Supplement curriculum with business courses.</p> <p>Earn a graduate degree in political science or public administration for advancement.</p> <p>Volunteer with the staff of a government official.</p> <p>Participate in local or national campaigns.</p>

AREAS OF EMPLOYMENT	EMPLOYERS	CONCENTRATION	EDUCATIONAL STRATEGIES
<p><b><u>Law</u></b></p>	<p>Law Firms Corporations Federal, State, and Local Government Private Practice Special Interest Groups Universities</p>	<p>American Government Indian Affairs Administration Public Administration &amp; Policy Public Law &amp; Political Philosophy</p>	<p>Plan to attend law school and earn a law degree Develop excellent research, writing, analysis, and communication skills. Obtain specialized certification for paralegal positions.</p>
<p><b><u>Politics</u></b></p> <p>Elected or Appointed Leadership Campaign Management, &amp; Staff Interest Advocacy/Lobbyist</p>	<p>Legislative, Executive, or Judicial Officials  National, State, or Local Government Political Action Committees Special Interest Groups Political Parties Campaigns (national, state, or local)</p>	<p>American Government Global Politics  Indian Affairs Administration Peace &amp; Justice Studies Public Administration &amp; Policy Public Law &amp; Political Philosophy</p>	<p>Become involved in campus political organizations, student government, campus publications, or community service projects. Be prepared to begin a political career as a volunteer before moving to full-time or paid positions Seek leadership roles on the regional or national level. Obtain leadership roles in campus organizations. Gain experience through internships in government. Take courses in statistics, computer science, environmental protection, or public policy. Volunteer for national or local campaigns. Develop a network of personal contacts.</p>
<p><b><u>Nonprofit</u></b></p> <p>Administration Management Public Relations Fund Raising Humanitarian Relief Consulting</p>	<p>Nonprofit Organizations Foundations Professional Associations Special Interest Groups</p>	<p>American Government Public Administration &amp; Policy  Peace &amp; Justice Studies</p>	<p>Gain experience through volunteering or completing an internship. Supplement curriculum with courses in business, psychology, sociology, or social work. Demonstrate knowledge and experience in a specialty area (e.g., public health, environment, urban issues).  Develop strong written and oral communication skills.</p>

AREAS OF EMPLOYMENT	EMPLOYERS	CONCENTRATION	EDUCATIONAL STRATEGIES
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**Business**

Sales  
 Human Resources  
 Management  
 Advertising  
 Public Relations

Product & Service Organizations  
 Retail Stores  
 Hotels  
 Restaurants  
 Manufacturers  
 Financial Companies  
 Insurance Companies  
 Print And Electronic Media  
 Other Business Corporations

American Government  
 Global Politics  
 Indian Affairs Administration  
 Peace & Justice Studies  
 Public Administration & Policy  
 Public Law & Political Philosophy

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.

**Journalism**

Editing  
 Reporting  
 Circulation  
 Sales

Newspapers (National, Local, Or Trade)  
 Wire Services  
 Magazines  
 Internet Sites  
 Large Corporations  
 Political Parties  
 Political Action Committees

American Government  
 Global Politics  
 Peace & Justice Studies  
 Public Administration & Policy  
 Public Law & Political Philosophy

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.

AREAS OF EMPLOYMENT	EMPLOYERS	CONCENTRATION	EDUCATIONAL STRATEGIES
<p><b><u>Broadcasting</u></b></p> <p>News Programming Production</p>	<p>Television Stations (network, cable, or public)</p> <p>Radio Stations (regional or national)</p> <p>Independent Syndications</p>	<p>American Government Global Politics</p> <p>Peace &amp; Justice Studies Public Administration &amp; Policy</p> <p>Public Law &amp; Political Philosophy</p>	<p>Experience in government or political affairs are usually required for specialized reporting positions.</p> <p>Become involved in drama ( i.e., direct, act, or work with technical crew).</p> <p>Volunteer with public or campus media.</p> <p>Develop strong reporting, writing, and debating skills.</p> <p>Cultivate an attractive and appealing appearance.</p> <p>Volunteer to announce local or campus sporting events.</p> <p>Complete an internship in radio or televisions.</p>
<p><b><u>Education</u></b></p> <p>Teaching</p>	<p>Public Schools Private Schools Colleges &amp; Universities</p>	<p>American Government Global Politics</p> <p>Indian Affairs Administration Public Administration &amp; Policy Public Law &amp; Political Philosophy</p> <p>Peace &amp; Justice Studies</p>	<p>Obtain appropriate state teacher certification for public school opportunities.</p> <p>Earn a Ph.D. for college teaching or research positions.</p> <p>Gain certification in more than one subject for greater marketability.</p> <p>Volunteer with community or church youth programs to gain experience working with children and adolescents.</p> <p>Become involved in student organizations, debate, publications, government, and athletics.</p>
<p><b><u>Mediation</u></b></p>	<p>Non-Governmental Organizations</p> <p>Local Governments United Nations &amp; other International &amp; Regional Associations</p>	<p>Peace &amp; Justice Studies</p>	<p>Take mediation courses</p> <p>Seek interships that involve mediation</p>