

Political Science

What can I do with this degree?

Political science is the study of constitutions, law, and government at the local, national, and international levels; and of those things that influence the exercise of political power such as individual interests and attitudes, norms, institutions, and culture.

Political Science Marketable Skills

Ability to...

- Work well under pressure
- Develop and market ideas
- Think analytically
- Make decisions and solve problems
- Interact with diverse populations
- Demonstrate leadership abilities
- Strengthen oral and written communication
- Exhibit research skills (archival, qualitative and quantitative)
- Work with a team
- Better understand the needs of a community
- Understand the workings of the American political system

Areas of Study

- American Government and Politics
- Comparative Politics
- Constitutional Law
- International Conflict
- International Relations
- Legal Studies
- National Security
- Parties, Campaigns, and Interest Groups
- Political Culture and Behavior
- Political Institutions
- Political Methodology
- Political Theory
- Public Policy
- Race and Politics
- State and Local Government
- Women and Politics

Benefits of an Internship

- Gain practical experience specific to your career goals
- Develop a valuable professional network
- Earn 3-6 hours of college credit towards your degree
- Paid / unpaid opportunities are available
- Part-time / full-time opportunities are available
- Flexibility, internships are built to work around your school schedule
- Internships are available everywhere, from the local to international
- Internships offer the possibility of an easy transition into a job
- Increase marketability to employers
- Increase the possibility of a higher starting salary
- Learn about your strengths and weaknesses while in an educational environment and gain confidence in your abilities



Career Paths & Sample Job Options

Some of the occupations outlined in this brochure may require additional education or training.

... in Government (Public Service)

FEDERAL

- Ambassador
- Archivist or Historian
- Assistant Secretary of State
- Budget Analyst
- Civilian Consultant
- Deputy Undersecretary
- Foreign Service Officer / Specialist
- GAO Evaluator
- Information Technology Manager
- Intelligence Specialist, CIA
- Management Auditor
- Officer, FBI

- Program Analyst
- Public Affairs Specialist
- Researcher
- Secretary, Department
- Staff Aid, Congressional Committee
- Tax Inspector
- Teacher, overseas school

STATE & LOCAL

- Advisor
- Assistant Budget Examiner
- Assistant Chief of Police
- Chief of Staff
- City Housing Administrator

- City Planner
- City Project Coordinator
- County Council Member
- County Treasurer
- Deputy Secretary
- Juvenile Justice Specialist
- Labor Relations Specialist
- Legislative Coordinator, Mayor's office
- Program Director
- Senior Criminologist
- State Chief Purchasing Officer
- State Personnel Officer

... in Education

- Civics, Social Studies, American Government, or Social Studies Teacher
- College Professor
- Curriculum Developer / Supervisor
- Education Reporter
- Government / Politics Teacher
- High School and Middle

- School Teacher
- Law Professor
- Researcher
- Student Affairs Administrator

... in Campaigns & Polling

- Campaign Manager / Consultant
- Director, Political Action Committee
- Fundraiser

- Issue Analyst
- Political Consultant
- Political Director
- Political Reporter
- Pollster

- Press Officer for Candidate
- Survey Researcher

... in Journalism

- Director of Corporate Public Affairs
- Director of Surveys, Television Network

- Information Manager
- Press Officer
- Producer, Local Television News

- Public Affairs Research Analyst
- Writer / Editor

... in Nonprofit Organizations / Public Interest

- Budget Analyst
- Canvasser
- Community Development Associate
- Community Organizer
- Consumer Activist

- Director, fundraising
- Director, Nonprofit Agency
- Field Officer, Human Rights Campaign
- Human Rights Advocate

- Labor Union Organizer
- Lobbyist
- Political Director
- Program Manager
- Public Relations Specialist
- Research Analyst



... in Law

- Assistant Budget Examiner
- Assistant Chief of Police
- Attorney
- Broadcast / Newspaper Reporter
- CIA Inspector
- Commissioner
- Corporate Legal Counsel
- Criminologist

- Deputy Secretary to the Governor
- District Attorney
- Judge
- Juvenile Justice Specialist
- Labor Relations Specialist
- Labor Union Official
- Law Professor
- Legislative Attorney
- Lobbyist

- Mediator
- Paralegal
- Politician
- Public Interest / Consumer Advocate
- Public Policy Analyst
- Research Consultant
- State Legislator

... in International

- Agent, International Bureau, FBI
- Analyst, CIA
- Consultant to Multinational Corporations
- Director of International Marketing

- Field Staff
- Foreign Service Officer
- Instructor
- International Banker
- International Correspondent
- International Research Specialist

- Lobbyist
- Peace Corp Volunteer
- Policy Analyst
- Press Officer
- Strategic Planning Specialist
- Translator

Resources

Texas State University - Student Organizations and Services

- Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honors Society)
- Phi Alpha Delta (Pre-Law Society)
- Supporting Women in Political Science (SWIPS)
- Model Organization of American States Program (MOAS)
- Model United Nations Program (MUN)
- Career Services, Division of Student Affairs

Professional Organizations

- American Association for Public Opinion Research: www.aapor.org
- American Association of Political Consultants: www.theaapc.org
- American Federation of Government Employees: www.afge.org
- American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations: www.aflcio.org
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees: www.afscme.org
- American Political Science Association: www.apsanet.org
- American Society for Public Administration: www.aspanet.org
- American Society of Association Executives: www.asaecenter.org
- Association for Conflict Resolution: www.acrnet.org
- Association of Fundraising Professionals: www.afpnet.org
- Association of Government Relations Professionals: www.grprofessionals.org
- Corporation for National and Community Service: www.nationalservice.gov
- International Association for Political Science Students: www.iapss.org
- International City / County Management Association: www.icma.org
- National Association for Community Mediation: www.nafcm.org
- National Association of Business Political Action Committees: www.nabpac.org
- National Association of Counties: www.naco.org

National Conference of State Legislatures: www.ncsl.org
National Council for the Social Studies: www.socialstudies.org
National Council of Nonprofits: www.councilofnonprofits.org
National Governors Association: www.nga.org
National League of Cities: www.nlc.org
Peace and Justice Studies Association: www.peacejusticestudies.org
Southern Political Science Association: www.spsa.net
U.S. Conference of Mayors: www.usmayors.org

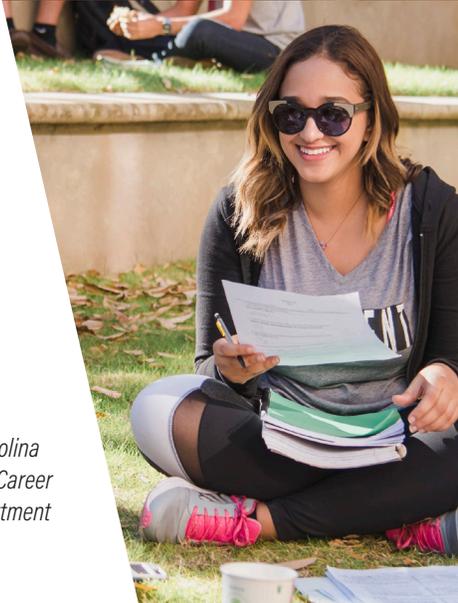
Job / Internship Search Websites

Careers in Government: www.careersingovernment.com
Federal Agencies: www.dcjobsources.com/fed.html
Federal Jobs Network: www.federaljobs.net
Federal Job Search: www.federaljobsearch.com
Federal Jobs, Where to Begin?: www.gogovernment.org
Global Jobs: www.globaljobs.org
Global Policy Forum: www.globalpolicy.org
Idealist: www.idealists.org
Lobbying Jobs: www.lobbyingjobs.com
Nonprofit Jobs: nonprofitjobs.org
Public Affairs Council: www.pac.org
State and Local Agencies: www.statelocalgov.net
USAJobs: www.usajobs.gov
U.S. Office of Personnel Management: www.opm.gov

Additional Resources

American Political Science Review: www.apsanet.org/apsr
American Presidency Project: www.presidency.ucsb.edu
Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies: www.american.edu/spa/ccps
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: www.cbpp.org
Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee: www.dccc.org
Democratic National Committee: www.democrats.org
National Association of Schools of Public Affairs: www.naspaa.org
National Republican Congressional Campaign Committee: www.nrcc.org
Public Agenda: www.publicagenda.org
Republican National Committee: www.gop.com
Vote Smart: www.votesmart.org

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