

# Political Science

## What can I do with this major?

OCCUPATIONS	EMPLOYERS	SKILLS TO DEVELOP
<p><b><u>GOVERNMENT</u></b></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 agencies including:            The Smithsonian Institute            National Archives and Records            Library of Congress            National Park Service            Intelligence services            Foreign service</p> <p>State and local agencies including:            Archives and libraries            Museums, parks, and historic sites            Municipal archives            Arts and humanities councils</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gain relevant experience in student government or other related organizations.</li> <li>• Volunteer with the staff of a government official.</li> <li>• Complete an internship with a government agency.</li> <li>• Develop foreign language skills as well as foreign travel experiences.</li> <li>• Become familiar with specialized government hiring procedures.</li> <li>• Consider a variety of entry-level positions in all branches of local, state, and federal government.</li> <li>• Plan on obtaining an advanced degree in political science or public administration for advancement.</li> <li>• Participate in local or national campaigns.</li> <li>• Supplement curriculum with business courses.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>POLITICS</u></b></p> <p>Elected or Appointed Leadership            Campaign Management            Staff Administration            Special Interest Advocacy</p>	<p>Elected or appointed public officials (i.e., legislators, governors, mayors, judges)            National political party headquarters            Public interest/advocacy groups            Political campaigns</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gain experience and make contacts through internships with government agencies or public officials.</li> <li>• Volunteer to work with public interest groups, political campaigns, political associations, or community service projects.</li> <li>• Participate in student government and campus politics.</li> <li>• Obtain leadership roles in campus organizations.</li> <li>• Be prepared to begin a political career as a volunteer before moving to full-time or paid positions.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>LAW</u></b></p>	<p>Law firms            Corporate legal departments            Government agencies            Public service agencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend law school and earn a law degree to become an attorney.</li> <li>• Obtain summer or part-time work in a law firm.</li> <li>• Complete special training requirements for paralegal positions.</li> <li>• Become skillful in debate and public speaking.</li> <li>• Organize campus events, speakers, or political rallies.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS</u></b></p> <p>Administration            Management            Public Relations            Fund Raising</p>	<p>Nonprofit organizations            Foundations            Professional associations            Special interest groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteer with various nonprofit organizations of interest.</li> <li>• Consider supplementing curriculum with relevant course work in anthropology, sociology, art history, or foreign languages.</li> </ul>

## OCCUPATIONS

## EMPLOYERS

## SKILLS TO DEVELOP

### **EDUCATION**

Teaching  
Elementary, Middle, or Secondary  
Higher Education  
Community Education

Libraries  
Private learning centers  
Public and private schools  
Colleges and universities

- Obtain appropriate state certification for public school teaching.
- Earn certification to teach multiple subjects/age groups for increased job opportunities.
- Earn a graduate degree to teach in post-secondary institutions; master's degree required for two-year colleges and a doctoral degree for four-year institutions.
- Become skilled in the use of multimedia.
- Learn how to develop curriculums and workshops.
- Become an "expert" in a particular subject.
- Gain experience as a tutor, camp counselor, church schoolteacher.
- Build strong relationships with professors, supervisors, or other community leaders for strong personal recommendations.
- Volunteer as a tutor.

### **BROADCASTING**

News Programming  
Production

News departments of local, public, and commercial radio and TV stations  
Syndicated radio services  
National, state, and regional radio networks

- Work on the on the Capital cable TV program Skyline Columbus.
- Find summer or part-time work with local commercial TV or radio station.
- Volunteer with public TV or radio.
- Consider obtaining a minor or double major in communication.
- Volunteer to announce local or campus sporting events.
- Become involved in drama (i.e., direct, act, or work with technical crew).

### **JOURNALISM**

Editing  
Reporting  
Circulation  
Sales

Newspapers  
Wire Services  
Magazines  
Internet Sites  
Large corporations  
Political parties  
Political action committees

- Work on the Chimes or yearbook
- Find summer or part-time work with local newspaper or magazine.
- Create a portfolio of published writing samples
- Consider obtaining a minor or double major in communication.
- Choose writing intensive coursework.
- Become proficient in desktop publishing and photography.

## OCCUPATIONS

## EMPLOYERS

## SKILLS TO DEVELOP

### **BUSINESS**

Sales  
Human Resources  
Management  
Advertising  
Public Relations

All major retail firms including drug, specialty, variety, and department store chains  
Wholesalers  
Manufacturers  
Insurance companies  
Real estate agencies  
Financial institutions  
Nonprofit organizations  
Hotels  
Restaurants  
Print and electronic media  
Other business corporations

- Consider an MBA for brand management, consulting, and research opportunities.
- Secure leadership roles in campus organizations.
- Gain experience as financial officer or treasurer of a campus organization.
- Join student professional associations.
- Take basic business classes such as accounting and finance.
- Gain business experience through part-time jobs, summer work, and internships.
- Develop excellent computer skills. Learn to use software applications such as spreadsheets, databases, and word processing.

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### **Strategies For Placement In Political Science**

- An undergraduate degree in political science is good preparation for graduate or professional study in areas such as psychology, law, or business.
- Research the pre-requisites of the area of interest and tailor program of study to meet curricular and skill needs.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills are imperative for most careers related to politics or government.
- Become familiar with the government application process for opportunities in federal, state, or local government.
- For careers in politics, be prepared to volunteer extensively before being hired or elected as an employee or official.
- Begin by working with the campaign or official of choice while in college.
- Many elected public officials begin careers in other fields (law, medicine, business) before campaigning for office.

### **Internet Resources:**

Vault: more information on the every day life of a political aide and attorney. As well as information about how to get into law school. This site is accessible through the Career Services Website: [www.capital.edu/careers](http://www.capital.edu/careers)

Industry Profile – Law: [www.wetfeet.com/asp/careerlist.asp](http://www.wetfeet.com/asp/careerlist.asp)

WetFeet.com guide to Law: covers Industry Trends & Overview, "Love-Hate" (pros and cons of this field), Major Players and Job Descriptions & Tips.

Careers In Government a clearinghouse of information, resources and jobs available in public sector organizations in America and abroad. [www.careersingovernment.com](http://www.careersingovernment.com)

American Bar Association

[w3.abanet.org/home.cfm](http://w3.abanet.org/home.cfm)