# POLITICAL SCIENCE and GOVERNMENT

What can I do with this major?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT</strong></td>
<td>Counties</td>
<td>Research your local and/or state government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Policy</td>
<td>Cities</td>
<td>Employment opportunities in local government tend to follow population trends in terms of availability of positions. Check statistics on growing communities to find the most opportunities. Be prepared to relocate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Planning</td>
<td>Municipalities</td>
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<tr>
<td>City or Town Management</td>
<td>Townships</td>
<td>Develop a network of contacts through referrals and informational interviews.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative, Executive, or Judicial Services</td>
<td>School districts</td>
<td>Conduct research, e.g. education, homelessness, etc. that could be useful to your community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Administration</td>
<td>Departments of state government</td>
<td>Get involved in civic organizations and events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Services</td>
<td>Legislative agencies</td>
<td>Complete an internship in a government agency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Affairs</td>
<td>Court systems</td>
<td>Participate in local or national election campaigns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Services</td>
<td>School districts</td>
<td>Familiarize self with government application process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Enforcement</td>
<td></td>
<td>Considering earning a graduate degree in public administration (MPA) or public policy (MPP).</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEDERAL GOVERNMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Policy</td>
<td>There are over 170 federal departments and agencies. See <a href="http://gogovernment.org/">http://gogovernment.org/</a></td>
<td>Take courses or minor in applicable interest area(s).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td></td>
<td>Seek leadership roles in relevant campus organizations such as model United Nations, student government, and cross-cultural organizations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intelligence</td>
<td></td>
<td>Write for campus publications focused on national and international affairs.</td>
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<td>Foreign Service</td>
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<td>Develop skills in computers, statistics, and data analysis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law Enforcement</td>
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<td>Acquire foreign language competency and travel experience for international positions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Services</td>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative, Executive, or Judicial Services</td>
<td></td>
<td>Become familiar with the government application process. Utilize applicable websites and seek assistance from your college career center.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Administration</td>
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### AREAS

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONTINUED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAW</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAW</td>
<td>See also What Can I Do With This Major in Law?</td>
<td>Obtain an internship in a federal agency or department. Participate in national campaigns. Conduct informational interviews with government employees. Build a strong personal network.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prosecution</td>
<td>Law firms</td>
<td>Develop strong research skills and attention to detail. Participate in debate teams to hone communication skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defense</td>
<td>Federal, state, and local government</td>
<td>Choose courses or a minor to specialize in a particular area of law, e.g. a minor in business for a career in corporate law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate</td>
<td>Private practice</td>
<td>Gain practical experience through an internship, part-time job or summer work in a law firm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonprofit or Public Interest</td>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>Shadow an attorney to learn more about the field and various specialties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Special interest groups</td>
<td>Get involved in pre-law organizations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mediation</td>
<td>Universities and colleges</td>
<td>Plan to attend law school and earn a law degree (JD). Maintain a high GPA and secure strong faculty recommendations. Prepare for the LSAT (Law School Admission Test).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Assistance</td>
<td>Legal aid societies</td>
<td>Obtain specialized certification for paralegal positions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobbying</td>
<td>Nonprofit and public interest organizations, e.g. ACLU, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Legal Services Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Specialties</td>
<td>Legal clinics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Other private legal services</td>
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### POLITICS

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<tr>
<th>POLITICS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elected or Appointed Leadership</td>
<td>Legislative, executive, or judicial officials</td>
<td>Volunteer for national, state, or local campaigns. Be prepared to begin a political career as a volunteer before moving to paid positions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campaign Management</td>
<td>National, state, or local government</td>
<td>Many elected public officials begin careers in other fields (law, medicine, business) before campaigning for office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Administration</td>
<td>Political action committees</td>
<td>Gain experience through internships with government agencies, lobbying firms, or legislatures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Interest Advocacy</td>
<td>Political parties</td>
<td>Obtain leadership roles in campus organizations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Advising</td>
<td>Campaigns: national, state, or local</td>
<td>Become involved in campus political groups, student government, publications, or community service projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobbying</td>
<td>Industrial, educational, and public interest groups</td>
<td>Take courses in statistics, economics, public policy, or other specific interest areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Policy</td>
<td>Lobbying organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Relations</td>
<td>Large business firms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Organizing</td>
<td>Polling and consulting firms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government Relations</td>
<td>Advocacy organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>AREAS</td>
<td>EMPLOYERS</td>
<td>STRATEGIES</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>POLITICS CONTINUED</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Get involved with a political party/group and develop a personal network. The ability to build networks, coalitions and alliances with other associations is highly valued. Develop excellent public relations, interpersonal, and communication skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS</strong></td>
<td>Intergovernmental agencies, e.g. World Bank,</td>
<td>Earn a double major or minor in order to gain additional skills or knowledge, e.g. Africana studies, Asian studies, business, psychology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See also What Can I Do With This Major in Global Studies?</td>
<td>United Nations, etc.</td>
<td>Spend time studying or working abroad. Make and maintain contacts in foreign countries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance</td>
<td>National governments</td>
<td>Seek cultural experiences on campus and get involved with the international student population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Making and Analysis</td>
<td>Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)</td>
<td>Obtain internships or volunteer to gain experience in areas of interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Sector Reform</td>
<td>Religious organizations</td>
<td>Participate in overseas mission trips or spend a Semester at Sea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty-Reduction Strategy</td>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>Research the history and culture of interest areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethics and Anti-Corruption</td>
<td>Policy and research organizations</td>
<td>Become proficient in at least one foreign language.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Rights</td>
<td>Private businesses</td>
<td>Learn about international travel regulations and take steps towards obtaining work or study visas for various locations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Law</td>
<td>Contracting and consulting firms</td>
<td>Earn a relevant graduate degree in international affairs, foreign policy, or other speciality areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization and Management Development</td>
<td>Federal government including:</td>
<td>Consider entering the Peace Corps.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resource Development</td>
<td>Department of State</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public-Private Partnerships</td>
<td>Department of Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Media/Communication Policy and Practice</td>
<td>Department of Commerce</td>
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<td>Department of Defense</td>
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<td>National Security Council</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BUSINESS</strong></td>
<td>Product and service organizations</td>
<td>Develop strong analytical, verbal, writing, and leadership skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td>Retail stores</td>
<td>Earn a minor double major in business or supplement curriculum with business courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td>Hotels</td>
<td>Gain relevant experience in an area of interest through internships or other employment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>Restaurants</td>
<td>Obtain leadership roles in campus organizations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations</td>
<td>Manufacturers</td>
<td>Demonstrate excellent interpersonal skills.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Market Research</td>
<td>Insurance companies</td>
<td>Hone computer skills and learn software packages such as databases, spreadsheets and presentations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer Service</td>
<td>Print and electronic media</td>
<td>Become knowledgeable about corporate social responsibility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>Consulting firms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>Other business corporations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Product Design</td>
<td>Financial institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Real Estate</td>
<td>Real estate companies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Property management firms</td>
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### AREAS

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>Local and national nonprofit agencies</td>
<td>Gain practical experience by volunteering or completing an internship with a nonprofit organization of interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>Earn a minor or supplement curriculum with courses in business, psychology, or social work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations</td>
<td>Charitable organizations</td>
<td>Obtain leadership roles in relevant campus and community organizations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Raising/Development</td>
<td>Trade or professional associations</td>
<td>Develop strong communication and research skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Analysis</td>
<td>Special interest groups</td>
<td>Learn grant writing skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Labor unions</td>
<td>Demonstrate knowledge and experience in a specialty area, e.g. public health, environment, urban issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Writing</td>
<td>Libraries</td>
<td>Research organizations' values to find a good fit for you. It is critical that you are knowledgeable and committed to the work you're going to do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Service</td>
<td>Museums</td>
<td>Investigate term of service or service corps positions as a way to gain entry into the field, e.g. AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, VISTA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>Historic sites/historical societies</td>
<td>Consider earning a graduate degree for more job opportunities and advancement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Coordination</td>
<td>Research organizations and think tanks</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Educational institutions</td>
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### MEDIA

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<tr>
<th>EDITING</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Editing</td>
<td>Newspapers: national, local, or trade</td>
<td>Obtain an internship or work experience with a newspaper, magazine, radio station, or television station.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporting</td>
<td>Wire services</td>
<td>Become proficient in desktop publishing and photography.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circulation</td>
<td>Magazines</td>
<td>Develop a professional network and become aware of various social medias.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td>Internet sites</td>
<td>Learn HTML and other computer programs to prepare for online work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publishing</td>
<td>Large corporations</td>
<td>Develop excellent verbal and written communication skills through communications courses or other writing intensive coursework.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Media</td>
<td>Political parties</td>
<td>Join the college newspaper, yearbook, or other publication staff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations</td>
<td>Political action committees</td>
<td>Become a student member of professional associations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News Programming</td>
<td>Professional publications/associations</td>
<td>Create a portfolio of published writing samples.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Production</td>
<td>Labor unions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Academic journals</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Broadcast media companies including television, radio, and the movie industry</td>
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<td>Major networks</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Public, cable, and private television stations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>National, state, or regional radio networks</td>
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<td>Independent radio syndications</td>
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<td>Video production companies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Government agencies</td>
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AREAS

MEDIA CONTINUED

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

Obtain experience in and knowledge of a specialty area of interest. Experience in government is usually required for specialized reporting positions.

Develop professional image for television or other visual media positions.

Volunteer to announce local or campus sporting events.

Become involved in drama e.g., direct, act, or work with technical crew.

EDUCATION

Elementary
   K-12 schools, public and private
   Boards of education

Middle
   Four-year colleges and universities

Secondary
   Two-year and community colleges
   Technical schools
   Medical and professional schools

Higher Education:
   Teaching
   Research
   Administration
   Student Affairs
   Information/Library Services

Complete a teacher preparation program to teach in the public school system.

Obtain teaching certificate/license for desired subject area and/or grade level. Requirements for certification/licensure vary by state. Seek multiple certifications to increase employability.

Private schools may not require certification or licensure but may prefer candidates with graduate degrees in subject areas.

Seek experiences with youth through summer jobs at camps or other community organizations.

A doctoral degree is required to teach and research at four-year institutions or to enter the highest levels of university administration. A master's or Ph.D. degree is required to teach at two-year schools.

Earn a master's degree in student personnel, student development, counseling, or library/information sciences for student affairs and librarian positions.

Gain related experience on campus through student leadership opportunities such as Peer Mentors, Resident Assistants, or Orientation Leaders.
GENERAL INFORMATION

- 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.