

POLITICAL SCIENCE

What is Political Science?

“Political science is an academic and research discipline that deals with the theory and practice of politics and the description and analysis of political systems and political behavior.” (from <http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/political.html>)

“Conflict, rights, the environment, terrorism and globalization are just a few of the most pressing issues confronting our world today. Political science students at Albright College explore these issues and more through courses, internships and in a range of extracurricular experiences. We cover such areas as pre-law, U.S. government on all levels and international politics. We give students the skills they need to be successful in law, public service, business, the nonprofit world, diplomacy and many other areas in their careers and as active, engaged citizens in the 21st century.” (from <http://faculty.albright.edu/politicalscience/index.html>)

What are the career opportunities for a Political Science major? (Some may require education beyond bachelor’s degree)

<i>Federal Government</i>	<i>State and Local Government</i>
Civilian Consultant to...	County Treasurer
Assistant Secretary of State for...	Advisor
Deputy Undersecretary of...	County Council Member
Officer, FBI	Chief of Staff
Secretary, Department of...	Deputy Secretary
Teacher, Overseas School for...	Assistant Chief of Police
Program Analyst	Program Director
Management Auditor	Legislative Coordinator, Mayor’s Office
Tax Inspector	State Personnel Officer
Researcher	Juvenile Justice Specialist
Foreign Service Officer/Specialist	State Chief Purchasing Officer
Ambassador	City Planner
Archivist	Labor Relations Specialist
Budget Analyst	City Project Coordinator
Historian	Senior Criminologist
GAO Evaluator	Assistant Budget Examiner
Public Affairs Specialist	City Housing Administrator
Intelligence Specialist, CIA	City’s Coordinator of...
Staff Aid, Congressional Committee	Supervisor, State Department of...
Information Technology Manager	

<p><i>Nonprofit Organizations</i></p> <p>Director, Nonprofit Agency Field Officer, Human Rights Campaign Public Relations Specialist Director, Fund Raising Research Analyst Political Director Budget Analyst Program Manager Lobbyist</p>	<p><i>Campaigns and Polling</i></p> <p>Campaign Manager/Consultant Political Director Survey Researcher Political Reporter Pollster Fund Raiser Director, Political Action Committee Press Officer for Candidate Issue Analyst Political Consultant</p>
<p><i>Law</i></p> <p>Paralegal Deputy Secretary to the Governor Research Consultant Assistant Chief of Police Public Interest/Consumer Advocate Broadcast/Newspaper Reporter Public Policy Analyst State Legislator Mediator Judge CIA Inspector Criminologist Commissioner Juvenile Justice Specialist Lobbyist Labor Relations Specialist Assistant Budget Examiner Politician Labor Union Official Attorney Corporate Legal Counsel Law Professor</p>	<p><i>Journalism</i></p> <p>Writer/Editor Producer, Local Television News Director of Corporate Public Affairs Information Manager Television Reporter Press Officer Public Affairs Research Analyst Director of Surveys, Television Network</p> <p><i>Education</i></p> <p>Government/Politics Teacher Curriculum Developer/Supervisor Researcher Education Reporter College Professor Student Affairs Administrator</p>

<p><i>International</i></p> <p>Peace Corp Volunteer International Banker Analyst, CIA International Research Specialist Foreign Service Officer Press Officer Strategic Planning Specialist Translator Instructor Director of International Marketing Policy Analyst Lobbyist Field Staff Agent, International Bureau, FBI Consultant to Multinational Corporations International Correspondent</p>	
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How do you get ready? (from <http://career.utk.edu/students/majors.asp>)

- An undergraduate degree in political science is good preparation for graduate or professional study in areas such as psychology, law or business.
- Research the prerequisites 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.

Related Major Skills

Oral & written communication	Interact with diverse populations
Decision-making	Able to develop & market ideas
Problem-solving	Understanding of community needs
Analytical thinking	Computer literate
Research skills	Team worker
Leadership abilities	Work well under pressure

What about the future?

“Political organizations, lobbying firms, and many nonprofit, labor, and social organizations rely on the knowledge of political scientists to manage complicated legal and regulatory issues and policies. Political scientists will be needed at research and policy organizations to focus specifically on politics and political theory.”

For specific job outlook information, refer to www.bls.gov/ooh .

Available at Albright College Career Development Center’s Resource Library

- Great Jobs for Political Science Majors, by Mark Rowh
- Career Opportunities in Politics, Government and Activism, Joan Axelrod-Contrada
- Career Opportunities in the Law and the Legal Industry, Susan Echaore-McDavid
- Careers for Born Leaders and Other Decisive Types, by Blythe Camenson
- Careers for Competitive Spirits and Other Peak Performers, by Jan Goldberg
- Careers for Courageous People and Other Adventurous Types, Jan Goldberg
- Careers for Good Samaritans and Other Humanitarian Types, by Marjorie Eberts and Margaret Gisler
- Careers for Legal Eagles and Other Law-and-Order Types, by Blythe Camenson
- Careers for Patriotic Types and Others Who Want to Serve Their Country, by Jan Goldberg
- Careers for Persuasive Types and Other Who Won’t Take No for an Answer, by Jan Goldberg
- Careers for Talkative Types and Others with the Gift of Gab, by Marjorie Eberts and Margaret Gisler
- Careers for Travel Buffs and Other Restless Types, by Paul Plawin
- Careers in International Affairs, Maria Pinto Carland and Lisa A. Gihring
- Opportunities in Federal Government Careers, by Neale Baxter
- Opportunities in Law Careers, by Gary Munneke
- Opportunities in Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Careers, by James Stinchcomb
- Opportunities in Nonprofit Organization Careers, by Adrian A. Paradis
- Opportunities in Overseas Careers, by Blythe Camenson
- Opportunities in Paralegal Careers, by Alice Fins
- Opportunities in State and Local Government Careers, by Neale Baxter

Disclaimer

Links to Internet sites are provided for your convenience and do not constitute an endorsement by Albright College or the Experiential Learning and Career Development Center.

Federal Government Job Search Links

- Federal Government Jobs, <http://www.usajobs.gov/>
- Government Departments and Agencies, <https://www.usa.gov/federal-agencies/a>

Nonprofit Organizations

- American Society of Association Executives, <http://www.asaecenter.org/>
- Corporation for National and Community Service, <http://www.nationalservice.gov/>
- Idealist <http://www.idealists.org>

Campaigns and Polling

- American Association of Political Consultants, <http://www.theaapc.org>
- American National Election Studies, <http://www.electionstudies.org/>
- American Presidency Project, <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/>
- Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, <http://www.dccc.org>
- Democratic National Committee, <http://www.democrats.org>
- Republican National Committee, <https://gop.com/>
- Rock the Vote <http://www.rockthevote.com>

Law Related Links

- American Bar Association Career Corner, <http://www.abanet.org/lsd/jobopp.html>
- Association of American Law Schools, <http://www.aals.org/>
- FindLaw, <http://careers.findlaw.com>
- Internet Legal Research Group, <http://www.ilrg.com/pre-law.html>
- LawJobs, <http://www.lawjobs.com>
- National Association for Law Placement, <http://www.nalp.org>
- National Bar Association, <http://www.nationalbar.org>
- National Federation of Paralegal Associations, <http://www.paralegals.org>

Journalism

- American Journalism Review, <http://www.ajr.org>
- Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, <http://www.aejmc.org>
- Broadcast Education Association, <http://www.beaweb.org>
- JournalismJobs, <http://www.journalismjobs.com>

International

- Foreign Policy Association, <http://www.fpa.org>
- Global Service Corps, <http://www.globalservicecorps.org>
- Rotary International, <http://www.rotary.org/foundation>
- The Peace Corps, <http://www.peacecorps.gov>
- Union of International Associations, <http://www.uia.org>
- United Nations, <http://www.un.org/english/>

Education

- Academic360, <http://www.academic360.com>
- American Education Research Association, <http://www.aera.net>
- American Federation of Teachers, <http://www.aft.org>
- American Political Science Association, <http://www.apsanet.org/>
- Center for Civic Education, <http://www.civiced.org>
- Chronicle of Higher Education, https://chroniclevitae.com/job_search/new
- HigherEdJobs, <http://www.higheredjobs.com>
- Constitutional Rights Foundation, <http://www.crf-usa.org>
- National Association of Independent Schools, <http://www.nais.org>
- National Association of State Boards of Education, <http://www.nasbe.org>
- National Center on Education and the Economy, <http://www.ncee.org/>
- World Teach, <http://www.worldteach.org>

Public Policy

- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, <http://www.cbpp.org/>
- Global Policy Forum, <http://www.globalpolicy.org/>

Miscellaneous Links

- Political Science Quarterly, <http://www.psqonline.org>
- Opportunities in Public Affairs, www.opajobs.com
- Central Intelligence Agency Internships, <https://www.cia.gov/careers/student-opportunities/index.html>
- United Nations Internships, <https://careers.un.org/lbw/home.aspx?viewtype=ip>
- Pennsylvania Legislative Correspondents' Association, www.palegislativecorrespondents.org/internship
- Commonwealth Foundation, www.commonwealthfoundation.org/about/page/careers-internships
- PA House Fellowship, <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/bmc/fellowship2.cfm>