

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political science is the study of government and focuses on its structure and function and the necessity for human social order. Political science attempts to provide the student with a better understanding of political parties, interest groups, international Relationships, public law, public administration, liberty, freedom, justice, and power. It also traces how ideas about the rights and privileges of citizens evolved and how theories are developed about political processes.

TYPICAL SKILLS

Ability to conduct/explain scientific research	Personal charisma/public appeal
Ability to communicate ideas	Aptitude for leadership
Intellectual capacity	Understanding of community needs
Ability to relate to people from varying backgrounds	Ability to analyze data
Ability to speak articulately/read comprehensively	Ability to evaluate problems
Knowledge of survey research methods	Ability to make decisions
Ability to translate theories	
Ability to organize and interpret social/economic/political data	
Ability to think critically	
Ability to interact with diverse populations	
Knowledge of community needs	

TYPICAL JOBS LIST

The following are actual job titles of people who have graduated with an undergraduate degree in Political Science although some of these positions may require education beyond a bachelors.

ADVERTISING MEDIA PLANNER

Determines the most cost-effective means of reaching a target market via print and broadcast media. Researches demographics of different media outlets, and analyzes demographic and budgetary aspects of advertising proposals.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION REPRESENTATIVE

Researches, analyzes and monitors staffing policies in order to achieve affirmative action goals. Conducts outreach activities in order to identify and attract qualified women and minority applicants for company openings. Employers in all fields.

ARCHIVIST/HISTORIAN

Accesses and organizes records and documents; conducts historical research to verify authenticity and significance of historical material. Conducts tours, presents lectures on historical topics. Works for sites.

ASSOCIATE CONTRACT ADMINISTRATOR

Assists Contract Administrators in preparation of proposals and in negotiation and administration of contracts with government agencies. Works for companies selling products or services to the government.

CORRESPONDENT/STRINGER

Writes free-lance reports for one or more publications. Usually has special knowledge of the subject or geographic area covered. Works as an independent contractor.

CARTOGRAPHER

Prepares and uses maps of all types, including topographic, geologic, hydrographic, aeronautic, recreational, oceanographic, and a variety of thematic maps. Employers include government agencies, mapmaking firms, corporations that mine and drill for natural resources, and universities.

COORDINATOR OF VOLUNTEERS

Recruits, trains, assigns, and directs volunteers to provide services to an employer's constituency or clientele. Acts as liaison with professional staff to coordinate volunteer assignments, organizes programs for training and recognition of volunteers, carries out related administrative duties. Works primarily for service organizations such as hospitals, social service agencies, and cultural institutions.

CORRECTIONS OFFICER

Maintains order in a penal facility, enforces rules and regulations, and supplements counseling provided by psychology professionals.

CUSTOMS OFFICER

Assists in the regulation of importing and exporting goods to and from the United States and in the prevention of smuggling, fraud, and cargo theft. Inspects baggage and cargo, imposes appropriate duties and taxes, and investigates violations of customs regulations. Special agents concentrate on the prevention of narcotics and weapons smuggling. Works for the Customs Service, a branch of the U.S. Treasury Department.

EDUCATIONAL RESEARCHER

Creates new educational methods and materials; assesses the effectiveness of existing methods and materials. Employers include school districts, private schools, manufacturers of educational equipment, educational publishers, and national testing organizations.

ELIGIBILITY WORKER

Screens prospective beneficiaries of a government program to determine their eligibility for the program's services. Works for federal, state, and local government agencies.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADMINISTRATOR

Manages, plans, supports, or monitors work involving environmental issues in fields such as: earth, marine, and atmospheric sciences; mining; forestry; public works; and parks, wildlife, and water management. Works for government agencies, consulting firms, citizens' groups, research laboratories, scientific associations, and industry.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Conducts community relations and liaison regarding environmental issues in fields such as: earth, marine, and atmospheric sciences; mining; forestry; public works; and parks, wildlife, and water management. Works for government agencies, consulting firms, citizens' groups, research laboratories, scientific associations, and industry.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCHER

Researches, develops, and presents information regarding environmental issues in fields such as: earth, marine, and atmospheric sciences; mining; forestry; public works; and parks, wildlife, and water management. Works for government agencies, consulting firms, citizens' groups, research laboratories, scientific associations, and industry.

FILM RESEARCHER/COPYWRITER

Reviews scripts, checks for factual and technical accuracy, rewrites copy, assists in creating storyboard representations of scenes. Relevant course work or prior experience preferred. Works for entertainment, documentary, educational, and industrial film producers.

FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER

Works in foreign service posts to represent and administer United States embassies and various foreign service programs. Requires testing and security clearance.

FREELANCE WRITER

Writers for publications on an assignment basis for a negotiated fee, usually after submittal of a query letter.

HISTORICAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR

May perform diverse duties: editing, preservation, research, writing, media presentations. Often also manages and budgets for project activities, administers grants. Employers include universities, historical societies, foundations, government agencies, etc.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Does historical analysis; studies policy issues; prepares analytical reports; coordinates the interdisciplinary studies. Works for "think tanks", universities, public research agencies.

IMMIGRATION AGENT

Assists in the regulation of immigration into the United States, including prevention of illegal immigration. May serve as a publicist, a translator, or a border patrol officer. May provide special services to refugees. Employed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the U.S. Department of Justice.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCHER/HISTORIAN

Writes institutional and policy histories; researches and reports on current issues, long-range trends; edits public records, manages archives. Works for executive, legislative, and judicial agencies, international institutions, military services, cultural agencies, planning agencies, public archives and libraries, private industries and corporations.

INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

Researches and analyzes a diversity of geopolitical issues on behalf of the government. Employed by intelligence services such as the F.B.I., the C.I.A., the National Security Agency, and military intelligence agencies. Work requires testing and security clearance.

JUDICIAL CLERK

Performs clerical duties, schedules calendars, keeps records, and does research for federal, state, and local courts and judges.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Performs a variety of enforcement and investigative activities. May involve computer analyses. Works for federal, state, and local police departments and for special enforcement agencies such as the FBI, tobacco and firearms, drug enforcement, border patrol, etc.

LIBRARY AIDE

Administers school, corporate, or public library facilities. Jobs in technical and user services. Technical services deal with acquiring and preparing materials. User services deal directly with people using library facilities.

LABOR RELATIONS RESEARCHER

Assists labor relations specialists with detailed research required for contract negotiations. Prepares advisory reports on union-management agreements. Works for unions, unionized employers, and government arbitrators.

LEGISLATIVE AIDE

Performs research, writing, and liaison functions for a state or federal senator or congressional representative or for a municipal officeholder. Positions typically secured through direct contact with officeholders.

LOBBYING ORGANIZER

Distributes materials and disseminates information about a particular issue or organization, recruits volunteers, solicits funds, and organizes such efforts as rallies, letter-writing campaigns, and voter registration drives. Employers include special and public interest groups as well as professional lobbyists.

LOBBYING RESEARCHER

Identifies information that can be used to support the positions and the efforts of lobbyists. Involves library research, attendance at conferences and committee meetings, and writing of reports. Employers include a diversity of special and public interest groups as well as professional lobbyists.

PARALEGAL

Performs preparatory work required to research a case, develops documentation required to write a brief. May interview prospective witnesses. Works for private law offices, law firms, prosecutors, and public defenders.

PARK RANGER

Manages facilities and programs at federal, state, and local parks and historic sites. Typically works for a government parks department. Summer jobs are readily available to students interested in the field of parks management.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES ANALYST

Writes manuals on internal operating procedures and policies. Works for employers in all fields.

POLITICAL CAMPAIGN WORKER

Assists in planning, fund raising, research, writing issue statements, canvassing, and assessing voter attitudes. Works for candidates or interest groups during political election campaigns. Frequently leads to permanent positions with political organizations or officeholders.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COORDINATOR

Creates, implements, and coordinates a service to a community. May involve fund raising for charity, overseeing a scholarship fund, operating a service oriented program or facility, etc. Employers include nonprofit corporations, social service agencies, and the public affairs sections of commercial businesses.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/PUBLIC INFORMATION SPECIALIST

Assesses the public relations needs of an organization, and plans and implements programs to meet them. Distinct from advertising. Makes public appearances, produces special events, and prepares press releases and packets to generate favorable free publicity. Works for professional agencies, for businesses of all kinds, and for nonprofit and social service organizations.

PUBLICATIONS RESEARCHER

Researches story and script ideas; maintains research files on topics and people; checks stories for accuracy. Works for newspaper, magazine, or book publishers.

RADIO/TELEVISION RESEARCHER

Researches story and script ideas for broadcast media. Maintains research files on topics and people; checks stories for accuracy. Works for radio and television producers.

REPORTER/STAFF WRITER

Works and writes for a publication on a regular basis. Usually works under pressure of deadlines on general assignments before specializing in a particular area. In addition to newspapers and magazines, employers include corporations and agencies with in-house newsletters.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER

Instructs high school and junior high school students in specialized subject areas. Most secondary school teachers teach several courses in a single subject area. Public schools generally require certification; private schools typically do not.

SOCIAL WORK ASSISTANT

Helps social workers to furnish counseling and referral services to individuals and families. Handles intake, maintains files, interacts with referral agencies, and documents cases. Works for government agencies, hospitals, and social workers in private practice.

SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Does sociological analysis; studies policy issues; prepares analytical reports; coordinates interdisciplinary studies. Works for "think tanks", universities, public research agencies.

SPECIAL PROGRAM TEACHERS

Instructs students enrolled in special education programs. Settings (e.g., churches, social service agencies) and topics (e.g., vocational training, preschool Head Start, drug-abuse prevention) vary widely.

SURVEY ASSISTANT

Assists in the design of survey interviews and questionnaires, the interviewing of subjects, the management of interviewers, collection and analysis of data, and documentation and presentation of findings. Works for government agencies and private surveying and market research organizations.

URBAN PLANNING RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Under the supervision of a city or regional planner, conducts research into the economic, environmental, and social consequences of development in order to support strategies for appropriate growth and renovation of rural, suburban, or urban areas. Typically works for a government agency. May work for a consulting or architectural firm.

HIRING ORGANIZATIONS

Advertising agencies
Archives (federal/municipal)
Banks
Chamber of Commerce
Colleges/universities
Correctional institutions
Court systems
Government agencies
Historical societies
Import/Export companies
Labor unions

Libraries
Local officials
Political action committees
Political party headquarters
Professional periodicals
Public opinion research firms
Regional planning councils
Research firms
Senators/Representatives
Social service agencies

WEBSITES: JOB INFO

The Moving Ideas Network - Jobs in Policy <http://movingideas.org/jobs/>

American Political Science Association www.apsanet.org/jobplc/onlinejobs.cfm

A Call to Serve: http://www.ourpublicservice.org/info-url3739/info-url_list.htm?cat_id=43

Association for Public Policy And Management Job Bank
<http://www.appam.org//services/jobbank/pos/index.shtml>

Careers In Government: Careers In Government is a clearinghouse of information, resources and jobs available in public sector organizations in America and abroad.
www.CareersInGovernment.com

USA Jobs- United States Office of Personnel Management <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>

America's Job Bank (Labor Department)--80% of their postings are from public state employment service agencies. <http://www.ajb.dni.us>

Federal Jobs--This sites allows you to search databases of open US government jobs.
<http://www.fedworld.gov/jobs/jobsearch.html>

MonsterTRAK <http://www.monstertrak.com>

Internship Hot Spots www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/internhotspots.htm

Internship Hot Links <http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Hotlinks/internshipresources.htm>

Riley Guide: Employment Resources on the Internet <http://www.rileyguide.com>

WEBSITES: CAREER INFO

University of California Santa Barbara: The following web sites offer links to a broad spectrum of Political Science areas of interest <http://www.library.ucsb.edu/subj/politica.html>

Government and Political Science Resources : very comprehensive site
http://www.educationindex.com/poli_sci/

Political Resources on the Net: Listings of political sites available on the Internet sorted by country, with links to Parties, Organizations, Governments, Media and more from all around the world <http://www.politicalresources.net/>

Poly-Cy: Internet Resources for Political Science <http://pslab11.polsci.wvu.edu/PolyCy/>

Occupational Outlook Handbook <http://www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm>

What Color Is Your Parachute: The Net Guide <http://www.jobhuntersbible.com>

Political Science: An Ideal Liberal Arts Major
<http://www.polsci.wvu.edu/polsci/career/careers.html>

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION/ASSOCIATIONS

American Political Science Association <http://www.apsanet.org>

National Federation of Paralegals Association <http://www.paralegals.org/Choice/home.html>

Society for Political Methodology <http://web.polmeth.ufl.edu/>

Presidency Research Group <http://www.ibiblio.org/lia/prgnet/>

Southern Political Science Association <http://www.olemiss.edu/orgs/spsa/>

Peace Science Society (International) <http://pss.la.psu.edu/>

International Political Economy Network <http://csf.colorado.edu/ipe/>

State & Regional Political Science Associations <http://www.apsanet.org/PS/organizations/state/>

American Society for Public Administration <http://www.aspanet.org/>

Academy of Political Science
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1274
New York, NY 10115-1274
212-871-2500
www.jstor.org/journals/aps.html
email: aps@psqonline.org

American Association of Political Consultants
600 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Suite 330
Washington DC 20003
202-544-9815
www.theaapc.com
email: tallman@theaapc.org

International Political Science Association
SB-331
1590 Avenue Docteur Penfield
Montreal, Quebec H3G1C5
Canada
Tel/fax: 1-514-848-8717
www.ipsa-aispo.org
email: ipsa@alcor.concordia.ca

Women's Caucus for Political Science
Shari Garber Bax
Wood 8
Central Missouri State University
Warrensburg MO 64093
66-543-4478
<http://wcspss.wlu.edu>
email: bax@cmsu1.csmu.edu

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

University of Louisville
Political Science Dept.
Ford Hall Room 205
Louisville, KY 40292
Phone: (502) 852-6831
Fax: (502) 852-7923

The Department of Political Science at the University of Louisville offers a wide range of courses in all the subfields of the discipline. The department curriculum is designed to cultivate understanding of politics, groups processes, and organizational dynamics in the United States, in nations around the globe, and in the international arena.

Faculty help students become engaged citizens who possess the knowledge to participate successfully in contemporary political life. In addition to courses offered on campus, political science majors have opportunities to complete internships with city, state, and federal government agencies.

Overseas programs have been offered in England, France, Germany, China, and Hong Kong. The department also offers students opportunities to participate in Political Science Honors courses, mentoring programs, service learning projects, and a range of faculty-student social activities. In addition, each year the department brings major speakers to campus and creates opportunities for students to interact with national and international leaders.

Pi Sigma Alpha, Delta Beta Chapter <http://www.louisville.edu/~mjevan02/pisig/>
Political Science Honor Society

National Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society website <http://www.apsanet.org/~psa/>