



What can I do with a Major in...

Political Science

What is Political Science at U of L?

The Political Science faculty is dedicated to teaching undergraduate and graduate students. While learning is primarily the responsibility of each student, every faculty member teaches, advises and in other ways assists students in the learning process. The faculty represent a wide diversity in areas of expertise and scholarship, and provide students with a thorough grounding in both academic and "real world" politics. Students will explore both classical and contemporary political science.

Degrees in Political Science at U of L:

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Bachelor of Science with a Concentration in Law and Public Policy

Bachelor of Science with a Concentration in Paralegal Studies

Master of Arts in Political Science

Occupational Overview

Political Science is the study of politics, power and government, including U.S. and foreign governments, as well as relationships among governments, their actions and policies. Political Science is useful for people seeking careers in law, business, government service, urban planning, education or journalism. It is also a vital part of a liberal arts education

Employment Requirements

A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required. However, many employers also require graduate school.

For example, they may require a master's degree, and some require a Ph.D., M.D., or J.D. (law degree).

Employers/Industries and Success Strategies:

Government: Public policy – Research – Regional planning – City/town management – Intelligence (e.g., CIA) – Foreign Service (e.g., Department of State) – Law enforcement – Legislative, executive, or judicial services – Program administration

Suggested Strategy: Complete internship or gain related experience in federal, state, or local governmental agency. Acquire foreign language skills for overseas work. Develop skill with computers, statistics, and data analysis. Consider a graduate degree in political science or public administration for advancement.



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Law: Law firms – Corporations – Federal, state, and local government – Private practice – Special interest groups - Universities

Suggested Strategy: Seek the pre-law track in the degree. Join pre-law organizations and seek pre-law advising through the College of Arts and Sciences in preparation for applying to law school. Obtain an internship in a law-related area.

Politics: Elected or appointed leadership – Campaign management – Staff administration – Special interest advocacy

Suggested Strategy: Be prepared for extensive volunteering (e.g., on political campaigns) prior to advancement. Gain experience through internships in government. Seek leadership roles on campus and in professional organizations. Develop a network of contacts through experience and informational interviewing.

Nonprofit: Administration – Management – Public Relations – Fundraising – Nonprofit organizations – Foundations – Professional associations – Special interest groups

Suggested Strategy: Gain related experience through internships or jobs. Supplement curriculum with related coursework.

Develop strong written, oral communication, and leadership skills. Demonstrate knowledge and experience in a specialty area.

Business: Sales – Human Resources – Management – Advertising – Public Relations

Suggested Strategy: Gain related experience through internships or jobs. Consider a double major or minor in business. Develop strong analytical, verbal, writing, computer, interpersonal, and leadership skills.

Journalism: Editing – Reporting – Circulation – Sales – Newspapers – Wire services – Magazine – Internet – Corporations – Political parties and action committees

Suggested Strategy: Gain experience with newspaper or magazine through internships or jobs. Choose writing intensive coursework and develop a portfolio. Become a student member of a professional organization. Join a publication staff.

Broadcasting: News programming – Production – TV stations – Radio stations – Independent syndications

Suggested Strategy: Complete an internship in radio or TV. Experience in government or political affairs are usually required for specialized reporting positions. Volunteer with public or campus media. Develop strong reporting, writing, and debating skills.

Education: Public schools – Private schools – Colleges and universities

Suggested Strategy: Obtain state teacher certification for public school teaching. Earn a Ph.D. for college teaching or research. Gain experience working with children if interested in K-12 teaching. Gain experience in leadership positions.

Related Links in the Political Science Discipline:

[Paul J. Weber Endowed Chair in Politics, Science and Religion](#)

[Undergraduate Research](#)

[McConnell Center](#)

[Paralegal Studies](#)

[Pi Sigma Alpha](#)

[Grawemeyer Award For Improving World Order](#)



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[North American Peacebuilders](#)

[The White Papers](#)

[Scholarship Web Sites](#)

[Institute for Democracy & Development](#)

[Center for Asian Democracy](#)

Ideas for Internship

Many internship opportunities for University of Louisville Political Science students are available on a recurring basis. These include positions in Senator McConnell's local office and his office in Washington D.C., positions with the Legislative Research Commission (Frankfort), positions in the Kentucky State Legislature (Frankfort), positions with the Public Radio Partnership (Louisville), and a variety of opportunities in the election campaigns of candidates for local, state, or national office. You can learn more about these opportunities by contacting the internship coordinator and by talking to students who have participated in these internships. The Political Science Department usually conducts brief internship workshops prior to fall and spring course registration to inform students about these opportunities. Watch for announcements.



<http://online.onetcenter.org>



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