

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 concentrator? (Some may require education beyond bachelor’s degree)

Federal Government

Civilian Consultant to...
Assistant Secretary of State for...
Deputy Undersecretary of...
Officer, FBI
Secretary, Department of...
Teacher, Overseas School for...
Program Analyst
Management Auditor
Tax Inspector
Researcher
Foreign Service Officer/Specialist
Ambassador
Archivist
Budget Analyst
Historian
GAO Evaluator
Public Affairs Specialist
Intelligence Specialist, CIA
Staff Aid, Congressional Committee
Information Technology Manager

State and Local Government

County Treasurer
Advisor
County Council Member
Chief of Staff
Deputy Secretary
Assistant Chief of Police
Program Director
Legislative Coordinator, Mayor’s Office
State Personnel Officer
Juvenile Justice Specialist
State Chief Purchasing Officer
City Planner
Labor Relations Specialist
City Project Coordinator
Senior Criminologist
Assistant Budget Examiner
City Housing Administrator
City’s Coordinator of...
Supervisor, State Department of...

Nonprofit Organizations

Director, Nonprofit Agency
Field Officer, Human Rights Campaign
Public Relations Specialist
Director, Fund Raising
Research Analyst
Political Director
Budget Analyst
Program Manager
Lobbyist

Law

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

Campaigns and Polling

Campaign Manager/Consultant
Political Director
Survey Researcher
Political Reporter
Pollster
Fund Raiser
Director, Political Action Committee
Press Officer for Candidate
Issue Analyst
Political Consultant

Journalism

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

Education

Government/Politics Teacher
Curriculum Developer/Supervisor
Researcher
Education Reporter
College Professor
Student Affairs Administrator

International

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

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 (from <http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/political.html>)

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?

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

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 Career Development Center.

Links found at <http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/index.htm>

Federal Government Job Search Links

- Federal Government Jobs, <http://www.usajobs.gov/>
- Making the Difference, <http://makingthedifference.org/index.shtml>
- Government Departments and Agencies, http://www.firstgov.gov/Agencies/Federal/All_Agencies/index.shtml
- StudentJobs.gov, <http://www.studentjobs.gov/>
- Students.gov, <http://www.students.gov/STUGOVWebApp/Public>
- U.S. Government Manual, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/gmanual/index.html>
- U.S. Government Office of Personnel Management, <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>

Nonprofit Organizations

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

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>
- National Republican Congressional Campaign Committee, <http://www.nrcc.org>
- Political Resources on the Net, <http://www.politicalresources.net/usa1.htm>
- Project Vote Smart, <http://www.vote-smart.org/index.htm>
- Republican National Committee, <http://www.rnc.org>

Law Related Links

- American Bar Association Career Corner, <http://www.abanet.org/lcd/jobopp.html>
- Association of American Law Schools, <http://www.aals.org/>
- Association of Corporate Counsel, <http://jobs.acca.com/search/browse/>
- Association of Trial Lawyers of America, <http://www.atlanet.org/>
- Attorney Jobs, <http://www.attorneyjobs.com>
- ChooseLaw, <http://students.chooselaw.com/>
- Counsel.net, <http://counsel.net/jobs/>
- FindLaw, <http://careers.findlaw.com>
- Internet Legal Research Group, <http://www.ilrg.com/pre-law.html>
- LawInfo Career Center, <http://jobs.lawinfo.com>
- LawJobs, <http://www.lawjobs.com>
- Lawyers Weekly Jobs, <http://www.lawyersweeklyjobs.com>
- Legal Employment, <http://www.legalemploy.com>
- National Association for Law Placement, <http://www.nalp.org>
- National Bar Association, <http://www.nationalbar.org>
- National Center for State Courts, http://www.ncsconline.org/D_KIS/info_court_web_sites.html
- National Federation of Paralegal Associations, <http://www.paralegals.org>
- U.S. Courts, <http://www.uscourts.gov/employment.html>
- Legal Jobs <http://www.lawcrossing.com>

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>
- National Diversity Newspaper Job Bank, <http://www.newsjobs.com>

International

- Foreign Policy Association, <http://www.fpa.org>
- Global Peace and Security Resources, <http://www.library.ucsb.edu/subjects/global/global.html>

- Global Service Corps, <http://www.globalservicecorps.org>
- International Affairs Resources, <http://www2.etown.edu/vl/>
- International Jobs Center, <http://www.internationaljobs.org>
- JobPilot (Europe), <http://www.jobpilot.net>
- NGO Global Network, <http://www.ngo.org/index2.htm>
- Overseas Recruitment, <http://www.overseas-recruitment.com>
- OverseasJobs, <http://www.overseasjobs.com>
- 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/>
- YMCA International, <http://www.ymca.net/international>

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/section_168.cfm
- Center for Civic Education, <http://www.civiced.org>
- Chronicle of Higher Education, <http://chronicle.com/jobs/100/800>
- Student Affairs, <http://www.studentaffairs.com>
- 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/index.jsp?setProtocol=true>
- Teaching Overseas, http://www.state.gov/www/about_state/schools/oteaching.html
- 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/>
- Public Agenda, <http://www.publicagenda.org/index.cfm>
- Think Tanks, <http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/psthink.html>

Miscellaneous Links

- American Political Science Association (eJobs), http://www.apsanet.org/section_74.cfm
- American Political Science Association, <http://www.apsanet.org>
- Organizations in Political Science, http://www.apsanet.org/section_192.cfm
- Political Science Quarterly, <http://www.psqonline.org>
- Political Science Resources <http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/polisci.html>