POLITICAL SCIENCE and GOVERNMENT

What can I do with this major?

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

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONTINUED		Obtain an internship in a federal agency or department. Participate in national campaigns. Conduct informational interviews with government employees. Build a strong personal network.
LAW *See also What Can I Do With This Major in Law?* Prosecution Defense Contractual Corporate Nonprofit or Public Interest Government Mediation Law Assistance Lobbying Other Specialties	Law firms Federal, state, and local government Private practice Corporations Special interest groups Universities and colleges Legal aid societies Nonprofit and public interest organizations, e.g. ACLU, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Legal Services Corporation Legal clinics Other private legal services	Develop strong research skills and attention to detail. Participate in debate teams to hone communication skills. 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. Gain practical experience through an internship, part-time job or summer work in a law firm. Shadow an attorney to learn more about the field and various specialties. Get involved in pre-law organizations. 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). Obtain specialized certification for paralegal positions.
POLITICS Elected or Appointed Leadership Campaign Management Staff Administration Special Interest Advocacy Political Advising Lobbying Public Policy Public Relations Community Organizing Government Relations	Legislative, executive, or judicial officials National, state, or local government Political action committees Political parties Campaigns: national, state, or local Industrial, educational, and public interest groups Lobbying organizations Large business firms Polling and consulting firms Advocacy organizations	Volunteer for national, state, or local campaigns. Be prepared to begin a political career as a volunteer before moving to paid positions. Many elected public officials begin careers in other fields (law, medicine, business) before campaigning for office. Gain experience through internships with government agencies, lobbying firms, or legislatures. Obtain leadership roles in campus organizations. Become involved in campus political groups, student government, publications, or community service projects. Take courses in statistics, economics, public policy, or other specific interest areas.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
POLITICS CONTINUED		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.
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS		
See also What Can I Do With This Major in Global Studies? Governance Policy Making and Analysis Public Sector Reform Poverty-Reduction Strategy Ethics and Anti-Corruption Human Rights Public Law Organization and Management Development Resource Development Public-Private Partnerships Media/Communication Policy and Practice	Intergovernmental agencies, e.g. World Bank, United Nations, etc. National governments Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) Non-profit agencies Religious organizations Foundations Policy and research organizations Private businesses Contracting and consulting firms Research institutes Defense contractors Federal government including: Department of State Department of Agriculture Department of Commerce Department of Defense National Security Council	Earn a double major or minor in order to gain additional skills or knowledge, e.g. Africana studies, Asian studies, business, psychology. Spend time studying or working abroad. Make and maintain contacts in foreign countries. Seek cultural experiences on campus and get involved with the international student population. Obtain internships or volunteer to gain experience in areas of interest. Participate in overseas mission trips or spend a Semester at Sea. Research the history and culture of interest areas. Become proficient in at least one foreign language. Learn about international travel regulations and take steps towards obtaining work or study visas for various locations. Earn a relevant graduate degree in international affairs, foreign policy, or other speciality areas. Consider entering the Peace Corps.
BUSINESS		
Sales Human Resources Management Public Relations Market Research Customer Service Marketing Advertising Product Design Real Estate	Product and service organizations Retail stores Hotels Restaurants Manufacturers Insurance companies Print and electronic media Consulting firms Other business corporations Financial institutions Real estate companies Property mangement firms	Develop strong analytical, verbal, writing, and leadership skills. Earn a minor/double major in business or supplement curriculum with business courses. Gain relevent experience in an area of interest through internships or other employment. Obtain leadership roles in campus organizations. Demonstrate excellent interpersonal skills. Hone computer skills and learn software packages such as databases, spreadsheets and presentations. Become knowledgeable about corporate social responsibility.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
NONPROFIT Administration Management Public Relations Fund Raising/Development Policy Analysis Research Grant Writing Direct Service Advocacy Volunteer Coordination	Local and national nonprofit agencies Foundations Charitable organizations Trade or professional associations Special interest groups Labor unions Libraries Museums Historic sites/historical societies Research organizations and think tanks Educational institutions	Gain practical experience by volunteering or completing an internship with a nonproft organization of interest. Earn a minor or supplement curriculum with courses in business, psychology, or social work. Obtain leadership roles in relevant campus and community organizations. Develop strong communication and research skills. Learn grant writing skills. Demonstrate knowledge and experience in a specialty area, e.g. public health, environment, urban issues. Research organizations' values to find a good for you. It is critical that you are knowledgeable and committed to the work you're going to do. Investigate term of service or service corps positions as a way to gain entry into the field, e.g. AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, VISTA. Consider earning a graduate degree for more job opportunities and advancement.
MEDIA Editing Reporting Circulation Sales Publishing Electronic Media Public Relations News Programming Production	Newspapers: national, local, or trade Wire services Magazines Internet sites Large corporations Political parties Political action committees Professional publications/associations Labor unions Academic journals Broadcast media companies including television, radio, and the movie industry Major networks Public, cable, and private television stations National, state, or regional radio networks Independent radio syndications Video production companies Government agencies	Obtain an internship or work experience with a newspaper, magazine, radio station, or television station. Become proficient in desktop publishing and photography. Develop a professional network and become aware of various social medias. Learn HTML and other computer programs to prepare for online work. Develop excellent verbal and written communication skills through communications courses or other writing intensive coursework. Join the college newspaper, yearbook, or other publication staff. Become a student member of professional associations. Create a portfolio of published writing samples.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
MEDIA CONTINUED		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 Middle Secondary Administration Higher Education: Teaching Research Administration Student Affairs Information/Library Services	K-12 schools, public and private Boards of education Four-year colleges and universities Two-year and community colleges Technical schools Medical and professional schools	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.

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