WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN... POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political science is a branch of social science concerned with theory, description, analysis and prediction of political behavior, political systems and politics broadly construed. It examines the ways in which legislative, electoral, judicial, and administrative structures vary among countries, the reasons why governments change, fall, and engage in wars, and the behavior of public officials. *

*Taken from the UNC Charlotte Department of Political Science & Public Administration and the College Board Book of Majors

SAMPLE OCCUPATIONS

Government
Foreign Service Officer
FBI/CIA Agent
Policy Maker
Diplomat
Law Enforcement Officer

Law/Politics
Lobbyist
Lawyer
Elected Official
Political Advisor
Congressional Aid

Business/Media
Sales Manager

Marketing Director
Product Designer
Journalist
Foreign Correspondent
Community Relations Mgr.

Nonprofit
Policy Analyst
Volunteer Coordinator
Fundraiser
Community Organizer
Program Director

Education
High School Teacher
Political Scientist/Faculty

TYPES OF EMPLOYERS

Political Action Committees
Peace Corps
Educational Institutions
Government Agencies
Large Corporations

Broadcast Media Stations
Library of Congress
Legal Aid Societies
Labor Unions
World Bank

PREPARING FOR YOUR CAREER IN

Government: Gain knowledge about local, state, and federal government organizations and the various branches of government, seek leadership roles in campus organizations like the model United Nations and student government, complete a thesis to demonstrate research and writing skills, intern at a government agency, acquire a foreign language.

Law/Politics: Take courses in criminal justice or debate, join the pre-law society and take the LSAT to get into law school, shadow or intern in a courtroom, political campaign, public interest group, or law firm to gain experience and confirm your direction, participate in a debate, mock trial, or forensic team, build skills working with diverse populations, be prepared to begin a political career as a volunteer before moving to paid positions, take courses in statistics and public policy.

Business/Media: Join a business-oriented student organization, do an internship in a corporation or publisher, take business elective classes, hone leadership, public speaking, and writing skills, be willing to start in a management-trainee program, become proficient in computer and software use.

Nonprofit: Gain experience through extensive volunteering or interning as this is crucial in finding full-time positions, develop strong communication and researching skills, learn about fundraising, budgeting, and grant writing, earn graduate degree in library/information science or museum studies.

RELATED WEBSITES

American Political Science Association: Careers
www.apsanet.org/CAREERS/Careers-In-Political-Science

American Bar Association
www.abanet.org

American Federation of Government Employees
www.afge.org

Go Government
gogovernment.org

HOW DO I KNOW IF IT’S RIGHT FOR ME?

ASSESS: Take a career assessment, such as the Strong Interest Inventory or MBTI, to see how your interests, values, and personality fit with majors and careers.

RESEARCH: Research the careers on this WCIDWAMI and thousands of other careers using these top career websites:


EXPLORE: Learn more about a career field of interest by job shadowing, attending a career panel, or participating in a Company Trek. Further your exploration while gaining valuable skills by completing an internship, co-op, volunteer, or research experience.

For the expanded version of this WCIDWAMI, visit
career.uncc.edu/majors/PoliticalScience