

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A **POLITICAL SCIENCE** MAJOR?

	AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
LOCAL AND STATE GOVT.	<p>Public policy / Regional planning / City or town management / Legislative, executive, or judicial services / Social services / Law enforcement</p>	<p>Counties / Cities / Municipalities / Townships / School districts / Departments of state government / Legislative agencies / Court systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get involved in civic organizations and events. • Complete an internship in a government agency, like the Olympia internship program. • Consider applying for an AmeriCorps position - http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/amicorps • Employment opportunities in local government tend to follow population trends in terms of growth and decline in 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. • Familiarize yourself with the government application process.
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	<p>Public policy / Research / Intelligence / Foreign service / Law enforcement / General services / Legislative, executive, or judicial services / Program administration</p>	<p>There are over 17 federal departments and agencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for and obtain an internship, like the American Studies Program in D.C. • Seek leadership roles in relevant campus organizations such as student government and cross-cultural organizations. • Consider applying for an AmeriCorps position - http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/amicorps • Write articles on national and international issues for <i>The Whitworthian</i>. • 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 the Career Services Office. • Conduct informational interviews with government employees.

LAW

Prosecution / Defense
/ Contractual /
Corporate / Nonprofit
or public interest /
Government /
Mediation / Law
assistance

Law firms / Federal, state and
local government / Private
practice / Corporations / Special
interest groups / Universities /
Legal aid societies / Nonprofit
and public interest organizations,
e.g. ACLU, NAACP Legal Defense
Fund / Legal clinics

POLITICS

Elected or appointed
leadership /
Campaign
management / Staff
administration /
Special interest
advocacy / Political
advising / Lobbying

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

- Talk with Dr. Julia Stronks, the pre-law adviser.
- Develop strong research skills and attention to detail.
- Participate in debate or ethics bowl to hone communication skills.
- Find part-time or summer work in a law firm, and/or obtain a law-related internship with an agency like Center for Justice or the Spokane Public Defender's Office.
- Shadow an attorney to learn more about the field and various specialties.
- Volunteer for national or local campaigns, or intern with government agencies.
- Be prepared to begin a career as a volunteer before moving to paid positions.
- Obtain leadership roles in campus organizations.
- Become involved in campus political groups, student government, publications, or community service projects.
- Take courses in statistics, or other specific interest groups.
- 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

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 / Media

Intergovernmental agencies, e.g.
World Bank, United Nations, etc.
/ National governments / Non-
profit agencies / Religious
organizations / Foundations /
Policy and research
organizations / Private
businesses / Contracting and
consulting firms

- Earn a double major or minor in international business in order to gain additional skills or knowledge, e.g. Asian studies, foreign language.
- Spend time studying or working abroad. Make and maintain contacts in foreign countries.
- Seek cultural experience on campus.
- Obtain internships or volunteer to gain valuable experience in areas of interest.
- Participate in Jan-Term overseas trips or the Tanzania semester trip.
- Research the history and culture of the countries or geographic areas of interest.
- Become proficient in at least one foreign language.
- Take steps toward obtaining work or study visas for various locations.
- Plan to earn a graduate degree in international affairs, foreign policy, or other specialty areas.
- Consider entering the Peace Corps – www.peacecorps.gov

BUSINESS

Sales / Human resources / Management / Public relations / Market research

Product and service organizations / Retail stores / Hotels / Restaurants / Manufacturers / Insurance companies / Print and electronic media / Consulting firms

- Acquire a business minor or add business as a double major.
- Gain experience in an area of interest through internships or other employment.
- Obtain leadership roles in campus organizations.
- Hone computer skills and learn software packages such as databases, spreadsheets and presentations.
- Become knowledgeable about corporate social responsibility.

NONPROFIT

Administration / Management / Public relations / Fund raising, development / Policy analysis / Research / Grant writing / Direct service

Local and national nonprofit agencies / Foundations / Charitable organizations / Trade or professional associations / Special interest groups / Labor unions / Libraries / Museums / Historic sites / Research organizations and think tanks / Educational institutions

- Obtain an internship with World Vision, Project Hope or Community Garden.
- Consider applying for an AmeriCorps position - <http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ Americorps>
- Supplement curriculum with courses in business, psychology or sociology.
- Obtain leadership roles in relevant campus and community organizations.
- Learn how to write grants.
- Demonstrate knowledge and experience in a specialty area, e.g. environment.
- Research organizations' values to find a good fit with yours. It is critical that you are knowledgeable about 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.
- 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 / Wire services / Magazines / Internet sites / Large corporations / Political parties / Political action committees / Professional publications / Labor unions / Academic journals / Broadcast media companies / Major networks / Television stations / Radio networks / Independent radio syndications / Video production companies / Government agencies

- Minor in communication studies.
- 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.
- Become a student member of professional associations.
- Create a portfolio of published writing samples.
- Obtain experience in and knowledge of a specialty area of interest. Experience in government is usually required for specialized reporting positions.
- Develop a professional image for television or other visual media positions.
- Volunteer to announce local or campus sporting events.
- Become involved in the theatre program e.g., direct, act or work with technical crew.

EDUCATION

Elementary / Middle /
Secondary /
Administration /
Higher Education:
teaching, research,
administration,
student affairs,
information 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 desire 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.
- 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 Resident Assistants.
- Apply for programs such as Teach For America – www.teachforamerica.org, or international teaching programs.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- For current political science career opportunities visit <http://gspp.berkeley.edu/career-services/career-resource-links>.
- An undergraduate degree in political science is good preparation for graduate or professional study in areas such as political science, public administrations, 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.
- Develop strong leadership skills; run for office in clubs and organizations in your 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.