

What to do with a degree in

Political Science

COLLEGE OF
**ARTS &
SCIENCES**
Career Services

Political Science website: www.polsci.okstate.edu

The Curriculum

The study of Political Science shows how governments operate and how politics is practiced. It is a diverse discipline studying governments and related institutions at local, state, national, and international levels. Students are encouraged to tailor their studies in anticipation of specific careers, graduate school, or law school. Students investigate the causes & effects of various forms of political behavior; analyze policy making process of governments; seek to understand political and social consequences of laws, political institutions, and procedures; and study the values that give rise to the rich variety of behaviors, institutional forms, and public policies that comprise the world of politics. .

Political Science Majors develop the following skills:

Political Science prepares students to:

- Think independently and conduct in-depth analyses
- Communicate effectively utilizing concise, persuasive writing and clear verbal communication skills
- Understand complex social structures
- Function effectively in a multicultural world, tolerance of others, and a concern for current affairs

These skills are broadly applicable to a wide variety of career choices. Moreover, the particular emphasis of a political science education uniquely prepares one for knowledgeable and effective citizenship at all levels of the political system.

Depending on your desired career path, additional skills may need to be developed to be competitive in the marketplace upon graduation. Make an appointment with a career consultant to design your individual career development plan.

College of Arts & Sciences Career Success Guide

Provided to all new, incoming students as an introduction to the career planning process. If you don't have a Guide...Get one!!!

Job & Internship Web Sites

- Federal Employment
www.usajobs.opm.gov
- American Political Science Organization
www.apsanet.org
- America's Job Bank
www.ajb.dni.us
- Carl Albert Public Internship Program
http://www.ok.gov/opm/State_Jobs/Carl_Albert_Public_Internship_Program.html
- Cato (Think Tank)
www.cato.org
- Nonprofit Organizations Employment
www.jobsinnonprofit.com
www.opportunitynocs.org/
- International Association for Political Science Students
www.iapsss.org
- Institute for Public Policy Research
<http://www.ippr.org.uk/jobsandinternships/?id=83>
- The Washington Center
www.twc.edu
- Presidential Management Fellowship
<https://www.pmf.opm.gov/Index.aspx>
- Moving Ideas Network
www.movingideas.org
- The Fund for American Studies
www.dcinternships.org
- Jefferson Consulting Group, LLC
www.jeffersonconsulting.com
- Public Policy & International Affairs Fellowship Program
<http://www.ppiaprogram.org/programs/jsi.php>
- Washington Internship Institute
<http://www.ielnet.org/>
- Idealist-Action Without Borders
www.idealist.org

Come See Us!

College of Arts & Sciences Career Services
Student Success Center, 213 LSE
phone: 405-744-5658
email: ascareers@okstate.edu
Appt calendar: ascalendar.okstate.edu

Potential Career Paths Include

Government

Many political science graduates obtain jobs working for local, state, or federal government agencies

Career Options

Congressional Aides	State Representatives
State Legislative	County/City Officials
Intelligence Officer	Research Assistant
State Executive Office Staff	Assistant District Attorney

Potential Employers

Federal Bureau of Investigation	State Board of Education
Social Security office	Department of Public Aid
Environmental Protection Agency	

Law

Law is a common route for many political science majors. Political science is one of the best undergraduate majors for students who want to go to law school because of its emphasis on conceptual thinking and public affairs

Career Options

Federal Clerk	Lawyer
Corrections Officer	Police Officer

Potential Employers

Local, State and Federal Courts
Local, State and Federal Government

Business/Finance

The study of political science develops an awareness of political, social, and economic trends and attitudes affecting the business community

Career Options

Business Developer	Claims Adjuster
Advertising Media Planner	Sales Manager

Potential Employers

Insurance Agencies	Consulting Firms
Agricultural Businesses	Financial Institutes

International Affairs

The United Nations, international business, and various international relief and aid groups look for people who understand the problems of our increasing economic and political interdependence with the rest of the world

Career Options

Political Analyst	Civil Service
Human Rights Analyst	Affirmative Action
Foreign Service Agent	Customs Officer
International Rights Activist	Research Assistant

Potential Employers

Foreign Civil Service Offices
International Rights Organizations
Local, State, and Federal Government Agencies
Non-Profit Organizations
Economic Development Agencies

Education

Many graduates choose to further their education by earning a teaching certificate, an MA, or PhD

Career Options

Teachers	Instructors
Professors	Staff
Administrators	Research Assistants

Potential Employers

K-12 Schools	Colleges/Universities
Prep Schools	Private Schools
Community Colleges	

Communications/Journalism

With its emphasis on public affairs, public attitudes and government, political science is one of the best preparations for a career in journalism

Career Options

Press Secretary	Reporter
Radio/Television Researcher	Film Researcher
Freelance Writer	

Potential Employers

Radio/Television Stations	Newspapers
Magazine or Book Publisher	Research Firm

Additional Career Paths for Political Science Majors

Archivist/Historian	Educational Research
Financial Analyst	Judicial Clerk
Paralegal	Law Enforcement Officer
Market Research Assistant	Public Affairs Coordinator
Policy and Procedures Analyst	Labor Relations
Public Information Specialist	Political Campaign Worker
Nonprofit Volunteer Coordinator	

Need help with the job search?
College of Arts & Sciences Career
Services offers:

Arts & Sciences 4111 Career Planning and Job Search Strategies

Course descriptions available at the Career Services website:

<http://ascareers.okstate.edu>

