“Political Science is the study of government, public policies and political behavior. The major in Political Science provides students with a broad program of study designed to promote effective civic participation as a citizen, public servant, or elected official” (CSUCI-Channel Islands).

**Political Science Skills**
- Ability to Work Well Under Pressure
- Able to Develop and Market Ideas
- Analytical Thinking
- Decision-Making
- Interact with Diverse Populations
- Leadership Abilities
- Oral and Witten Communication
- Problem-Solving
- Research Skills (Archival, Qualitative and Quantitative)
- Teamwork
- Understanding of Community Needs

**Government Agencies**
- Agency for International Development
- City governments
- County governments
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Education
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Executive Office of the President
- Federal Trade Commission
- General Services Administration
- Military
- NASA
- National Credit Union Administration
- National Science Foundation
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- Regional Planning Agencies
- State governments
- U.S. Information Agency
- U.S. Postal Service

**Possible Work Settings**
- Banking, Manufacturing, and Agriculture Industry
- Book/Magazine Publishing
- Campaign Headquarters
- College and Universities
- Criminal Justice
- Historical Societies
- Labor Unions
- Law Firms
- Libraries
- Lobbying Groups
- Museums & Archives
- Newspapers
- Public Interest Groups
- Public Relations
- Research Firms

**Areas of Study**
- Comparative Politics
- Constitutional Law
- Democratization
- Gender and Politics
- International Relations
- Legal Studies
- National Politics
- Peace Science
- Political Behavior
- Political Culture
- Political Institutions
- Political Methodology
- Political Theory
- Public Administration
- Public Law
- Public Policy
- State and Local Government
CAREER PATHS

(Some of the occupations outlined in this brochure may require additional education or training)

...in Education

Sample Job Titles

- Civics, Social Studies, American Government, Social Science Teacher
- College Professor
- Curriculum Developer/Supervisor
- Education Reporter
- Government/Politics Teacher
- High School and Middle School Teacher
- Law Professor
- Researcher
- Student Affairs Administrator

...in Campaigns and Polling

Sample Job Titles

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

...in Government (Public Service)

Sample Job Titles

**Federal Government**

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

**State & Local Government**

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

...in Journalism

Sample Job Titles

- Director of Corporate Public Affairs
- Director of Surveys, Television Network
- Information Manager
- Press Officer
- Producer, Local Television News
- Public Affairs Research Analyst
- Television Reporter
- Writer/Editor
...in Law

Sample Job Titles

- Assistant Budget Examiner
- Assistant Chief of Police
- Attorney
- Broadcast/Newspaper Reporter
- CIA Inspector
- Commissioner
- Corporate Legal Counsel
- Criminologist
- Deputy Secretary to the Governor
- District Attorney
- Judge
- Juvenile Justice Specialist
- Labor Relations Specialist
- Labor Union Official
- Law Professor
- Legislative Attorney
- Lobbyist
- Mediator
- Paralegal
- Politician
- Public Interest/Consumer Advocate
- Public Policy Analyst
- Research Consultant
- State Legislator

...in International

Sample Job Titles

- Agent, International Bureau, FBI
- Analyst, CIA
- Consultant to Multinational Corporations
- Director of International Marketing
- Field Staff
- Foreign Service Officer
- Instructor
- International Banker
- International Correspondent
- International Research Specialist
- Lobbyist
- Peace Corp Volunteer
- Policy Analyst
- Press Officer
- Strategic Planning Specialist
- Translator

...in Nonprofit Organizations/Public Interest

Sample Job Titles

- Budget Analyst
- Canvasser
- Community Development Associate
- Community Organizer
- Consumer Activist
- Director, Fund Raising
- Director, Nonprofit Agency
- Field Officer, Human Rights Campaign
- Human Rights Advocate
- Labor Union Organizer
- Lobbyist
- Political Director
- Program Manager
- Public Relations Specialist
- Research Analyst

Resources

Texas State University-Student Organizations

- Pi Alpha Alpha (Public Administration Honors Society), http://www.polisci.txstate.edu/people/organizations.html
- Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honors Society), http://www.polisci.txstate.edu/people/organizations/psa.html
Professional Organizations

- American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees, [http://www.afscme.org/](http://www.afscme.org/)
- American Society for Public Administration, [http://www.aspanet.org/public/](http://www.aspanet.org/public/)
- Association for Conflict Resolution, [http://www.acrnet.org/](http://www.acrnet.org/)
- International City/County Management Association, [http://www.icma.org](http://www.icma.org)
- National Association for Community Mediation, [http://www.nafcm.org](http://www.nafcm.org)
- National Association of Counties, [http://www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)
- National Governors Association, [http://www.nga.org](http://www.nga.org)
- National League of Cities, [http://www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org)
- Southern Political Science Association, [http://www.spsa.net/](http://www.spsa.net/)

Job/Internship Search Links

- GovSpot, [http://www.govspot.com](http://www.govspot.com)
- Govtjobs.com, [http://www.govtjobs.com](http://www.govtjobs.com)
- Idealist, [http://www.idealist.org/career](http://www.idealist.org/career)
- Internships in Political Science, [http://web.clas.ufl.edu/users/dhedge/internshipmainpage.htm](http://web.clas.ufl.edu/users/dhedge/internshipmainpage.htm)
- Internweb, [http://www.internweb.com](http://www.internweb.com)
- Moving Ideas (Jobs in Policy), [http://www.movingideas.org/content/en/jobs.htm](http://www.movingideas.org/content/en/jobs.htm)
- Political Resources-Political Job Board, [http://www.politicalresources.com](http://www.politicalresources.com)
- ProGovJobs, [http://www.govjobs.net](http://www.govjobs.net)
- State and Local Government on the Net, [http://www.statelocalgov.net](http://www.statelocalgov.net)
Career Library Resources

- *Career Opportunities in Politics, Government, and Activism* by Joan Axelrod-Contrada
- *An Insider’s Guide to Political jobs in Washington* by William T. Endicott
- *Top Careers for Liberal Arts Graduates* by Ferguson
- *Great Jobs for Political Science Majors* by Mark Rowh

Information for this handout compiled from:

- [Texas State University Career Services](http://www.careerservices.txstate.edu), [Career Center at University of North Carolina Wilmington](http://careerservices.txstate.edu), [University Career Center at North Carolina State University](http://careerservices.txstate.edu), [Career Services at the University of Montana-Missoula](http://careerservices.txstate.edu), [Career Services at University of Tennessee-Knoxville](http://careerservices.txstate.edu), [Career Services at University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire](http://careerservices.txstate.edu), and [Political Science Department at California State University Channel Islands](http://careerservices.txstate.edu)