Continuing Your Education Beyond a BA

Law School
A considerable proportion of undergraduate political science majors go on to law school. Many political science departments and most colleges and universities have a pre-law advisor to assist students with considering and applying to law school. For information on specific law schools, consult directories at your college or university library or career office. You may also contact the American Bar Association (www.abanet.org) or the Law School Admission Council (www.lsac.org) for further information. The National Association for Law Placement (www.nalp.org) also provides information about careers and career planning.

Masters Degree
If you are interested in political science graduate study but do not wish to pursue a career in research or college teaching, there are Masters degree programs in political science, many of which are specialized professional programs in public administration, public policy analysis, international relations, and political campaign management. To learn about these programs:

• Consult with your advisor and political science faculty, especially faculty who specialize in the field or policy area(s) and governing institution(s) that interest you.

• Visit their websites of departments and institutions whose programs interest you for full details on graduate faculty, course descriptions, and application procedures.

• Tap into relevant web resources listed in this brochure.

Ph.D. Degree
If you would like to continue to study political science beyond the B.A. or M.A., and are considering a career as a political scientist:

• Discuss your interest with your advisor and political science professors. Ask for guidance about graduate study and about the work of political scientists. You do not need an M.A. to enter a Ph.D. program.

• The American Political Science Association publishes a brochure to help you—Earning a Ph.D. in Political Science, and information for graduate students at www.apsanet.org/gradstudent.

• Visit the websites of departments and institutions whose programs interest you for information on graduate faculty, course descriptions, and application procedures. You can find websites for most departments at www.phds.org. Be sure to inquire about funding for Ph.D. students, including fellowships and research and teaching assistantships.

Career Sectors for Political Science

Business
Many political science majors go on to careers in business; undergraduate political science training offers a good preparation for graduate programs in business. Students who have focused on international relations or country/area studies may find opportunities in international business and trade. If you are interested in attending business school:

• Discuss your interest with an advisor or college career counselor.

• Review the appropriate guides and catalogues to identify graduate business programs. Contact the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (www.aacsb.edu) for more information.

• If you have a business school at your own institution, speak with the admissions director about graduate business programs.

Public Administration, Public Affairs, International Affairs
While careers in public affairs can be pursued with a bachelor’s degree in political science, there are graduate programs that offer specialized professional training for careers in public affairs and public service. Graduate programs in public administration, public policy, and political campaign management provide training for management positions in governmental agencies, professional and interest group organizations, governmental relations divisions of corporations, for-profit consulting and marketing agencies, and the expanding sector of NGOs.

For more information on careers in public administration, contact the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (www.naspa.org), and check with the American Society for Public Administration (www.aspanet.org). If you have a particular interest in international affairs, contact the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (www.apsia.org).

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
If you are thinking about a career in public service, consider non-profit, non-governmental organizations and associations. There are NGOs at all levels of government and geographical areas from the local to the global arena, and for virtually all public issues and policy areas, from neighborhood housing and environmental renewal to food banks and youth development to national policy areas such as health, education, civil rights, and criminal justice, to global issue areas of economic and democratic development, human rights, trade, and the environment. NGOs offer opportunities for political science graduates at all degree levels. Consult the Online Career Resources section of this brochure for more information.
Online Career Resources

Career Opportunities in Political Science
The following select websites vary in terms of offerings. Most include career information and job postings in different types of organizations, and can be used to search for jobs by job type and location. Several sites also allow you to post resumes and learn more about fields of interest. This is only a selection of websites that can help you explore career opportunities in political science.

General Job Search Engines
www.wetfeet.com   www.careerbuilder.com
www.monster.com   www.employmentguide.com

Careers in Government
U.S. Office of Personnel Management (www.usajobs.gov)
U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (www.cia.gov/careers/index.html)
Student jobs with the Federal Government (www.usajobs.gov/StudentsAndGrads)
Congressional Research Service (www.loc.gov/crsinfo/)
American Society for Public Service (www.aspanet.org)
Partnerships for Public Service (www.ourpublicservice.org)
In'tl City/Country Management Association (jobs.icma.org)
National League of Cities (www.nlc.org)
National Association of Counties (www.naco.org)
Careers in public service (www.publicservicecareers.org)

Careers in Law
Law School Admissions Council (www.lsac.org)
American Bar Association (www.abanet.org)
National Association for Law Placement (www.nalp.org)

Careers in Business
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (www.aacsb.edu)

Academic Research and Teaching
With a Ph.D. in political science, you will have gained key methodological skills that will prepare you for a career as a college or university professor conducting cutting-edge research in a variety of political science areas including American politics, comparative politics, political theory, international relations, research methods, and other sub-fields. Political scientists who work at colleges and universities often split their time between research, teaching, and service-orientated duties such as committee or advising responsibilities. Research conducted by political scientists appears in a variety of academic journals and textbooks. They often present their research findings at academic conferences like the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. For an up-to-date listing of academic positions available in the political science discipline, visit www.apsanet.org/ejobs.

Journalism
If you are interested in a career in print or broadcast journalism, political science training can give you the substantive and analytical background you need. Typically political science courses place heavy emphasis on developing fluid and clear writing and speaking skills. The journalism field can be entered with a bachelor’s degree or after completing a graduate program in journalism. To find out more about this career, contact the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (www.aejmc.org) or the Broadcast Education Association (www.beaweb.org).

Careers in Journalism/Communications
Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (www.aejmc.org)
Broadcast Education Association (www.beaweb.org)
JournalismJobs.com (www.journalismjobs.com)
NewsLink (www.newslink.org)

Careers in Academic Research and Teaching
APSA eJobs (http://www.apsanet.org/jobs_search.asp)
Academic 360 (academic360.com)
The Chronicle of Higher Education (www.chronicle.com/jobs)
HigherEdJobs.com (www.higheredjobs.com)
H-Net Job Guide (www.h-net.org/jobs/)
Teaching positions in the U.S. (www.nationjob.com/education)
Teaching jobs overseas (joyjobs.com)
National Council of Social Studies (www.socialstudies.org)
Teach for America (www.teachforamerica.org/)

Careers in Non Profit Organizations
Americorps (www.americorps.org)
American Society for Association Executives (www.asaenet.org)
The Carter Center (www.cartercenter.org)
The Chronicle of Philanthropy (www.philanthropy.com/jobs)
Idealist.org (www.idealist.org)
National Endowment for Democracy (www.ned.org)
Nonprofit Career Network (www.nonprofitcareer.com)
NonprofitJobs (www.nonprofitjobs.org)
Peace Corp (www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm)
United Nations (www.jobs.un.org)
The World Bank (www.worldbank.org)
**Hitting the Job Market with an BA**

A bachelor’s degree in political science can lead to employment in business, government, journalism, NGOs, interest groups and professional associations. These jobs utilize the analytical skills, administrative competence and communication abilities of political science majors. To prepare to seek employment:

- Consult your professors and college placement counselors. Seek advice about opportunities and how your own skills and achievements can best be used. It is never too early to contact your college placement office and determine how to identify and prepare yourself to apply for jobs that interest you. Many universities and colleges offer online advice and information about on-campus recruiting by companies.

- Pursue direct contacts for jobs that interest you by talking with people in these jobs and asking for their suggestions.

- Contact corporations, local, state, and federal employment agencies, newspapers, professional associations to explore job opportunities. See the Online Career Resources section for additional resources.

- Prepare a resume. Emphasize broad analytical and communicative skills, as well as substantive knowledge gained from political science courses. Highlight internship and job experiences. Have an advisor critique your resume. Make sure you have no grammatical or spelling errors as prospective employers will take such mistakes as signs of sloppiness or inability.

- Send your resume to organizations that interest you and work with your college placement office to schedule interviews with businesses and government agencies recruiting on your campus.

- While in college, seek an internship with a business or organization that interests you. Many internships lead to permanent jobs.

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**Careers in Political Science**

- Advocate/Organizer
- Ambassador
- Archivist
- Association/Nonprofit/Interest Manager or Staffer
- Banking, Political Risk Manager
- Budget Analyst
- Campaign Worker
- CIA Agent
- City Housing Administrator
- City Planner/Manager
- Civilian Consultant, Department of Defense
- Community Relations Director
- Congressional Committee Staff Member
- Congressional Office Staff Member
- Congressional Research Service
- Consultant
- Corporate Legislative Issues Manager
- Corporate Planning/Public Affairs Manager
- Corporate Social Policy
- County or City Council Member
- County Economic Development Officer
- County Treasurer
- Development Director
- Editor
- Education Policy Analyst
- Educator/Teacher
- Environmental Policy Analyst
- Events Planner
- FBI Agent
- Federal or State Agency Employee
- Financial Services
- Foreign Affairs Specialist
- Foreign Service Officer or U.N. Diplomat
- Foundation Employee
- Fundraiser
- General Accounting Office Evaluator
- Government Relations Manager
- Grassroots Organizer
- Historian
- Human Resources Specialist
- Human Rights Officer
- Import Export Manager
- Information Technology Officer
- Intelligence Specialist or Analyst
- International Business Analyst
- International Research Specialist
- Journalist
- Juvenile Justice Specialist
- Labor Relations Specialist
- Legal Investigator
- Legislative Director/Analyst
- Lobbyist
- Media Specialist
- Mediator
- Nonprofit Employee
- Interest Group Public Policy Analyst
- Paralegal
- Parole/Probation Officer
- Peace Corps Worker
- Police Officer/Administrator
- Policy Analyst/Development/Researcher
- Political Action Committee
- Political Consultant
- Political Correspondent
- Political Director
- Politician
- Pollster
- Professor
- Public Affairs Specialist
- Public Interest/Consumer Advocate
- Public Policy Analyst
- Public Relations
- Researcher
- Social Services Advocate
- State Governor’s Office Staff Member
- Strategic Planning Consultant
- Trade Policy Analyst
- University Administrator
- Urban Policy Planner
- White House Advisor