

What Can I Do with a Major in Political Science?

Political Science is a social science concerned with the theory and practice of politics and the analysis of political systems and political behavior. Political science intersects with other fields including anthropology, public policy, public administration, economics, international relations, comparative politics, psychology, sociology, history, law, and political theory. Political science is commonly divided into four distinct sub-disciplines which together constitute the field: Political Theory, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and American Government.

Sample Job Titles (some of these may require further education)

Activist, Advocate/Organizer	High School Government Teacher
Administration-Corporate, Gov't, Non-Profit	Immigration Officer
Archivist, Online Political Data	Information Manager
Budget Examiner or Analyst	Intelligence Officer
Attorney	International Agency Officer
Banking Analyst or Executive	International Research Specialist
Campaign Operative	Issues Analyst, Corporate Social Policy
Career Counselor	Journalist
CIA Analyst or Agent	Juvenile Justice Specialist
City Planner	Labor Relations Specialist
City Housing Administrator	Legislative Analyst / Coordinator
Congressional Office/Committee Staffer	Lobbyist
Coordinator of Federal or State Aid	Management Analyst
Communications Director	Mediator
Corporate Analyst	Plans and Review Officer
Corporate Public Affairs Advisor	Policy Analyst
Corporate Economist	Political Commentator
Corporate Manager	Pollster
Corporate Information Analyst	Public Affairs Research Analyst
Corporate Adviser for Governmental Relations	Public Opinion Analyst
Corporate Executive	Publisher
Corporation Legislative Issues Manager	Research Analyst
Customs Officer	State Legislator
Editor, Online Political Journal	Survey Analyst
Entrepreneur	Systems Analyst
Federal Government Analyst	Teacher
Financial Consultant	University Administrator
Foreign Service Officer	University Professor
Foundation President	Urban Policy Planner
Free-lance writer	Web Content Editor

Related Major Skills

Oral and written communication
Decision-making
Problem-solving
Analytical thinking
Research skills
Leadership abilities
Present specific viewpoints
Instill leadership skills in others

Interact with diverse populations
Able to develop and implement ideas
Understanding of community needs
Computer literate
Work well under pressure
Team player
Attention to detail

International Organizations of Interest– A Brief Sampling

[Amnesty International](http://www.amnesty.org) (www.amnesty.org)

Amnesty International is a worldwide campaign that works to promote all the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international standards. In particular, Amnesty International campaigns to free all prisoners of conscience; ensure fair and prompt trials for political prisoners; abolish the death penalty, torture and other cruel treatment of prisoners; end political killings and "disappearances"; and oppose human rights abuses by opposition groups. Amnesty International has around a million members and supporters in 162 countries and territories. Activities range from public demonstrations to letter-writing, from human rights education to fundraising concerts, from individual appeals on a particular case to global campaigns on a particular issue.

[International Association of Political Consultants](http://www.iapc.org/) (www.iapc.org/)

The IAPC has two primary goals. First and foremost the organization is committed to fostering democracy and the democratic process throughout the world. Since 1982, the IAPC has presented its Democracy Award to an individual or organization who has worked courageously to foster, promote and sustain the democratic process anywhere in the world. Past recipients of this prestigious award include Lech Walesa, Nelson Mandela and, more recently, Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine. Secondly, the organization has remained true to its original mission of fostering the growing and diverse profession of political consulting as well as the practical aspects of democratic elections. The IAPC accomplishes this by bringing together members at its annual meeting to exchange views and information about political developments and campaign techniques. Organizationally, this conference which is held each November in a different city is the most important activity of the IAPC.

[International Association for Political Science Students](http://www.iapss.org/) (www.iapss.org/)

The International Association for Political Science Students (IAPSS) is a platform for political science students and students interested in political science issues. The Association is international, politically independent, non-profit and student-run, and aims to have global impact in the political science sphere. Founded in Leiden, The Netherlands in 1998, it is composed by 80 Associations, mostly from Europe and Latin America. In 2003, it has established a Permanent Seat



in Ljubljana, Slovenia. IAPSS represents some 10,000 students of political science worldwide and works in partnership with the International Political Science Association (IPSA) and other international bodies to develop the study of political science worldwide.

[International Atomic Energy Agency](http://www.iaea.org/) (www.iaea.org/)

The IAEA is the world's center of cooperation in the nuclear field. It was set up in 1957 as the world's "Atoms for Peace" organization within the United Nations family. The Agency works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote safe, secure and peaceful nuclear technologies.

[International Political Science Association](http://www.ipsa.org/) (<http://www.ipsa.org/>)

The International Political Science Association (IPSA) is an international scholarly association. IPSA is devoted to the advancement of political science in all parts of the world. During its history, it has helped build bridges between East and West, North and South, and has promoted collaboration between scholars in both established and emerging democracies. Its aim is to create a global political science community in which all can participate. Since its beginning, national political science associations have constituted its core. Today, 52 national associations are collective members of IPSA.

[International Studies Association](http://www.isanet.org/) (<http://www.isanet.org/>)

The International Studies Association (ISA) was founded in 1959 to promote research and education in international affairs. With well over four thousand members in North America and around the world, ISA is the most well respected and widely known scholarly association in this field. ISA cooperates with 57 international studies organizations in over 30 countries, is a member of the International Social Science Council, and has nongovernmental consultative status with the United Nations.

[Interpol](http://www.interpol.int/) (www.interpol.int/)

INTERPOL is the world's largest international police organization, with 188 member countries. Created in 1923, it facilitates cross-border police co-operation, and supports and assists all organizations, authorities and services whose mission is to prevent or combat international crime. INTERPOL aims to facilitate international police co-operation even where diplomatic relations do not exist between particular countries. Action is taken within the limits of existing laws in different countries and in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. INTERPOL's constitution prohibits 'any intervention or activities of a political, military, religious or racial character.'

[North Atlantic Treaty Organization](http://www.nato.int) (www.nato.int)

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), also called the (North) Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance based on the North Atlantic Treaty which was signed on 4 April 1949. The NATO headquarters are in Brussels, Belgium and the organization constitutes a system of collective defense whereby its member states agree to mutual defense in response to an attack by any external party. NATO has added new members seven times since first forming in 1949 (the last two in 2009). NATO comprises 28 members: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia,



Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

[United Nations \(www.un.org/en/\)](http://www.un.org/en/)

The United Nations (UN) is an international organization whose stated aims are facilitating cooperation in international law, international security, economic development, social progress, human rights, and achievement of world peace. The UN was founded in 1945 after World War II to replace the League of Nations, to stop wars between countries, and to provide a platform for dialogue. It contains multiple subsidiary organizations to carry out its missions. There are currently 192 member states, including every sovereign state in the world but the Vatican City. From its offices around the world, the UN and its specialized agencies decide on substantive and administrative issues in regular meetings held throughout the year.

[World Bank \(www.worldbank.org\)](http://www.worldbank.org)

The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans to developing countries for capital programs. The World Bank has a goal of reducing poverty. By law, all of its decisions must be guided by a commitment to promote foreign investment, international trade and facilitate capital investment.

[World Health Organization \(www.who.int/en/\)](http://www.who.int/en/)

The World Health Organization is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends. In the 21st century, health is a shared responsibility, involving equitable access to essential care and collective defense against transnational threats.

National Organizations of Interest– A Brief Sampling

[American Association of Political Consultants \(www.theaapc.org/\)](http://www.theaapc.org/)

The American Association of Political Consultants (AAPC) is the trade group for the political consulting profession in the United States. Founded in 1969, it is the world's largest organization of political consultants, public affairs professionals and communications specialists. Its multi partisan membership consists of political consultants, pollsters, media consultants, campaign managers, corporate public affairs officers, professors, lobbyists, fundraisers, congressional staffers, and vendors.

[American Political Science Association \(www.apsanet.org\)](http://www.apsanet.org)

As the leading professional organization for the study of political science, APSA focuses on the following core objectives: promoting scholarly research and communication, domestically and internationally, promoting high quality teaching and education about politics and government, diversifying the profession and representing its diversity, increasing academic and non-academic opportunities for members and strengthening the professional environment for political science.



[Brookings Institute](http://www.brookings.edu/) (www.brookings.edu/)

The Brookings Institution is a nonprofit public policy organization based in Washington, DC. Our mission is to conduct high-quality, independent research and, based on that research, to provide innovative, practical recommendations that advance three broad goals: strengthen American democracy; foster the economic and social welfare, security and opportunity of all Americans and secure a more open, safe, prosperous and cooperative international system. Brookings is proud to be consistently ranked as the most influential, most quoted and most trusted think tank.

[Foreign Policy Association](http://www.fpa.org/) (www.fpa.org/)

The Foreign Policy Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring the American public to learn more about the world. Founded in 1918, the Foreign Policy Association serves as a catalyst for developing awareness, understanding of, and providing informed opinions on global issues. Through its balanced, nonpartisan programs and publications, the FPA encourages citizens to participate in the foreign policy process.

[Great Plains Political Science Association](http://orgs.usd.edu/greatplainspsa/) (orgs.usd.edu/greatplainspsa/)

The Great Plains Political Science Association was created in 1997 to promote the study of political science and public affairs. The association has been particularly interested in supporting academic study of these topics and does so through its annual conference that serves as a forum for both faculty and student presentations, faculty development and public affairs workshops.

[Institute for Humane Studies](http://www.theihs.org/) (www.theihs.org/)

The Institute for Humane Studies is a unique organization that assists undergraduate and graduate students worldwide with an interest in individual liberty. The Institute for Humane Studies was founded in 1961 by Dr. F. A. "Baldy" Harper, a former economics professor at Cornell University. Part of a generation that had lived through two devastating world wars and seen the rise of numerous totalitarian dictatorships, Harper set up an institute devoted to research and education in the conviction that greater understanding of human affairs and freedom would foster peace, prosperity, and social harmony.

[Midwest Political Science Association](http://www.mpsanet.org/) (www.mpsanet.org/)

The Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) is an organization dedicated to political science, founded in the United States in 1939. In April of each year, in Chicago, MPSA holds one of the largest political science conferences, with more than 4,000 presenters. MPSA publishes the American Journal of Political Science.

Internships – A Brief Sampling[Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Internships](http://www.cbcfinc.org/cbcf-internships.html) (www.cbcfinc.org/cbcf-internships.html)

Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Internship programs bring the policy making process to life. The nation's capital serves as the backdrop for our internship programs that offer personal,



educational, and leadership development. Students leave our programs better prepared to meet the complex challenges facing current and future generations.

[Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Summer Internship](http://www.chci.org/internships/) (www.chci.org/internships/)

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Program focuses on increasing Hispanic Students' awareness of the U.S. political system and enhancing their leadership skills.

[Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute \(CHLI\) Leadership Program](http://www.chli.org/?page=Internship)
(www.chli.org/?page=Internship)

This program offers a unique internship experience for students to develop their personal, educational, and leadership skills. Opportunity for students to gain exposure to the inner workings of the United States Congress, Federal Government and Washington, D.C.-based think tanks and international institutions.

[DCInternships.org: The Fund for American Studies](http://www.dccinternships.org/) (www.dccinternships.org/)

The Fund for American Studies was founded to help instill in young people an appreciation for the American form of government and the free enterprise system. TFAS sponsors institutes that teach college students about the principles and values upon which the United States was founded. Each institute offers classroom study, internships, and special events. Students in the summer are housed together at Georgetown University while the Capital Semester students live in a newly-renovated intern residence building located on Capitol Hill.

[Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities National Internship Program](http://www.hnip.net/opportunities/)
(www.hnip.net/opportunities/)

This program offers internships to Hispanic Students who attend institutions that enroll significant numbers of Hispanic Students. Internships are offered in Washington D.C. as well as other locations throughout the country.

[Idealist.org](http://www.idealists.org/search/advanced) (www.idealists.org/search/advanced)

Idealist is a project of Action Without Borders, a nonprofit organization founded in 1995 with offices in the United States and Argentina. Idealist is an interactive site where people and organizations can exchange resources and ideas, locate opportunities, including jobs and internships, and take steps toward building a world where all people can lead free and dignified lives.

[Making The Difference](http://www.makingthedifference.org/index.shtml) (www.makingthedifference.org/index.shtml)

A joint initiative between the Partnership for Public Service and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) dedicated to helping you learn more about careers in the federal government.

[Morris K. Udall Foundation Native American Summer Congressional Internship Program](http://www.udall.gov/OurPrograms/NACInternship/NACInternship.aspx)
(www.udall.gov/OurPrograms/NACInternship/NACInternship.aspx)

This program is designed to provide Native American college students with experience in the legislative process, congressional matters, and governmental proceedings.



[National Academy of Social Insurance](http://www.nasi.org/internship-opportunities) (www.nasi.org/internship-opportunities)

The National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI), a non-profit, nonpartisan organization made up of the nation's leading experts on social insurance, is uniquely qualified to provide students with challenging internship opportunities. These are nationally-competitive internships with a select number of placements made each year.

[Public Policy and International Affairs Program \(PPIA\) Junior Summer Institutes](http://www.ppiaprogram.org/programs/internships.php) (www.ppiaprogram.org/programs/internships.php)

The PPIA Junior Summer Institutes (JSI) have been the hallmark of the PPIA Fellowship Program for over 20 years. JSI is an intensive seven-week summer program that focuses on preparing students for graduate programs in public and international affairs and careers as policy professionals, public administrators and other leadership roles in public service.

[The Washington Center](http://www.twc.edu/internships) (www.twc.edu/internships)

The Washington Center is a non-profit organization that helps locate internships on Capitol Hill and in the Washington D.C. area.

[Washington Internship Institute](http://www.wiildc.org/d/index.php?q=internships) (www.wiildc.org/d/index.php?q=internships)

The Washington Internship Institute (WII) is a project of the Institute for Experiential Learning. The Institute for Experiential Learning (IEL), an educational nonprofit organization, is committed to individual development through excellence in experiential education. Active learning by participants, including disciplined reflection about individual goals, intercultural competence, and personal attention from IEL staff, are at the heart of IEL's mission. They offer resources for obtaining internships in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors offer first-hand knowledge and practical experience for all majors.

Volunteer opportunities (nationally and internationally) – A Brief Sampling[AmeriCorps](http://www.americorps.gov/) (www.americorps.gov/)

AmeriCorps is an opportunity to make a big difference in your life and in the lives of those around you. It's a chance to apply your skills and ideals toward helping others and meeting critical needs in the community. Each year, AmeriCorps offers 75,000 opportunities for adults of all ages and backgrounds to serve through a network of partnerships with local and national nonprofit groups. Whether your service makes a community safer, gives a child a second chance, or helps protect the environment, you'll be getting things done through AmeriCorps.

[Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago](http://www.cairchicago.org/volunteer-center/) (www.cairchicago.org/volunteer-center/)

CAIR-Chicago is the main office of the Illinois chapter of CAIR (Council on American-Islamic Relations) serving the neighboring Midwest. CAIR is the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy group. CAIR-Chicago is a not-for-profit organization registered in Illinois. Though it leverages the resources, expertise, and knowledgebase of CAIR (based in Washington), it functions as an independent organization that sets its own strategy and goals.



[The Foundation for Sustainable Development](http://www.fsdinternational.org/) (www.fsdinternational.org/)

An organization founded to support underserved communities, providing human and financial resources to more than 200 community-based partners. These organizations serve in areas such as microfinance, health, environment, youth and education, women's empowerment, community development and human rights. Partner agencies exist in Argentina, Bolivia, India, Kenya, Nicaragua, and Uganda.

[McCormick Foundation Civics Program](http://www.mccormickfoundation.org/Civics/programs/) (www.mccormickfoundation.org/Civics/programs/)

The Freedom Express is a 45-foot mobile museum that tells the story of our First Amendment freedoms of speech, religion, petition, press and assembly through artifacts and award-winning, computer-based interactive activities.

[Peace Corps](http://www.peacecorps.gov/) (www.peacecorps.gov/)

Peace Corps service is a life-defining leadership experience. Since 1961, the Peace Corps has shared with the world America's most precious resource – its people. Volunteers serve in 77 countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe, and the Middle East. Peace Corps Volunteers live, learn, and work with a community overseas for 27 months, providing technical assistance in six program areas: education, youth and community development, health, business and information and communications technology, agriculture, and environment.

[Politics1.com](http://www.politics1.com/parties.htm) (<http://www.politics1.com/parties.htm>)

This is a comprehensive website that lists all active political parties throughout the United States. Click on links to individual parties for direction to the party website. Information on volunteering can be found at these sites.

[United Nations Volunteers](http://www.unv.org) (www.unv.org)

This is a UN program for promoting and harnessing volunteerism for effective development. UNV mobilizes more than 7,500 volunteers annually. Volunteers help to organize and run local and national elections and support a large number of peacekeeping and humanitarian projects.

Employing Organizations– A Brief Sampling

[Chicago Council on Global Affairs](http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/) (<http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/>)

Founded in 1922 as The Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, the Council is one of the oldest and most prominent international affairs organizations in the United States. Independent and nonpartisan, The Chicago Council is committed to influencing the discourse on global issues through contributions to opinion and policy formation, leadership dialogue, and public learning.

[City of Chicago](http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dhr.html) (<http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dhr.html>)

The City of Chicago is located on Lake Michigan, in [Cook County](#), in northeastern Illinois. City government is divided into executive and legislative branches. The mayor is the chief executive while the City Council, elected from 50 wards, is the legislative body. Government



priorities and activities are established in a budget ordinance usually adopted in November of each year. The city takes official action through the passage of ordinances and resolutions.

[Cook County](http://www.cookcountygov.com/portal/server.pt/community/people/224/job_seekers) (http://www.cookcountygov.com/portal/server.pt/community/people/224/job_seekers)

Cook County is an urban county in the upper northeastern section of the State of Illinois that contains more than 800 local governmental units within its boundaries. With a population of approximately 5.3 million people, it is the second most populous county in the nation and the 19th largest government in the United States (2005 census statistics).

[Illinois PIRG](http://www.uspirg.org/jobs) (<http://www.uspirg.org/jobs>)

Illinois PIRG is an advocate for the public interest. When consumers are cheated, or the voices of ordinary citizens are drowned out by special interest lobbyists, Illinois PIRG speaks up and takes action. We uncover threats to public health and well-being and fight to end them, using the time-tested tools of investigative research, media exposés, grassroots organizing, advocacy and litigation. Illinois PIRG's mission is to deliver persistent, result-oriented public interest activism that protects our health, encourages a fair, sustainable economy, and fosters responsive, democratic government.

[Lake County](http://www.lakecountyil.gov/Pages/default.aspx) (<http://www.lakecountyil.gov/Pages/default.aspx>)

Lake County, IL is located on the shore of Lake Michigan between Chicago and Wisconsin. It is home to more than 700,000 residents, some of whom live in highly developed urban centers while others live in beautiful rural communities.

[State of Illinois](http://www2.illinois.gov/employment/Pages/default.aspx) (<http://www2.illinois.gov/employment/Pages/default.aspx>)

Organizations of Interest in Illinois – A Brief Sampling

[Better Government Association](http://www.bettergov.org/) (<http://www.bettergov.org/>)

The BGA works for integrity, transparency, and accountability in government by exposing corruption and inefficiency; identifying and advocating effective public policy; and engaging and mobilizing the electorate to achieve authentic and responsible reform.

[CHANGE Illinois!](http://www.changeil.org/) (<http://www.changeil.org/>)

The Coalition for Honest and New Government Ethics is a coalition of civic, business, labor, professional, non-profit and philanthropic organizations and individuals united to combat Illinois' culture of political corruption.

[Chicago Greens](http://www.chicagogreens.org/index.html) (<http://www.chicagogreens.org/index.html>)

The Ten Key Green Values include Ecological Wisdom, Social Justice, Grassroots Democracy, Nonviolence, Decentralization, Community Based Economics, Feminism, Respect for Diversity, Personal and Global Responsibility and Future Focus.



[Illinois Campaign for Political Reform](http://www.ilcampaign.org/) (<http://www.ilcampaign.org/>)

The Illinois Campaign for Political Reform is a non-partisan public interest group that conducts research and advocates reforms to promote public participation in government, address the role of money in politics and encourage integrity, accountability, and transparency in government.

[Illinois Center for Violence Prevention](http://www.icvp.org/icvp.asp) (<http://www.icvp.org/icvp.asp>)

The Illinois Center for Violence Prevention fosters safe communities for people at every stage of life. We identify, promote and evaluate the best ways to prevent violence.

[Illinois Conservation Foundation](http://www.ilcf.org/) (<http://www.ilcf.org/>)

The role of the Illinois Conservation Foundation and its partners is to preserve and enhance our precious natural resources by supporting and fostering ecological, educational, and recreational programs for the benefit of all citizens of Illinois and for future generations to come.

[Illinois National Organization for Women](http://www.now.org/chapters/il.html) (<http://www.now.org/chapters/il.html>)

The National Organization for Women (NOW) is the largest organization of feminist activists in the United States. NOW has 500,000 contributing members and 550 chapters in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

[Illinois Political Science Association](http://castle.eiu.edu/~ipsa/index.php) (<http://castle.eiu.edu/~ipsa/index.php>)

The Illinois Political Science Association (IPSA) seeks to represent the full range of fields and specializations in the political science discipline while providing a forum for Illinois political scientists to assemble to discuss their research and ideas on government, politics and policies.

On-line Job Boards

www.collegecentral.com/neiu

www.politixgroup.com/

www.publicservicecareers.org/

www.loc.gov/crsinfo/

www.nga.org

www.academic360.com/

www.h-net.org/jobs/

www.higheredjobs.com/

www.idealists.org

www.ncsl.org/public/joblegis.htm

<http://www.indeed.com/q-Political-Science-jobs.html>

<http://collegerecruiter.com/>

<http://www.simplyhired.com/a/jobs/list/q-political+science/l-chicago,+il>

<http://jobs.politicalwire.com/a/jobs/find-jobs>

<http://www.careerjet.com/>

<http://guides.nextstepu.com/>

<http://chicagoil.localguides.com/>

www.ncobps.org

www.usajobs.opm.gov/

www.journalismjobs.com/

<http://philanthropy.com/jobs/>

<http://www.collegejobbank.com>

<http://www.studentjobs.gov/>

<http://politicalsciencejobs.net/>

www.nlc.org/job_opportunities/jobpostings.aspx

