

Career Exploration Report

Law & Political Science

by Letty Weimer, Technical Reading & Writing, DRSS

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report was to examine and research two prospective careers and possible internships. The two occupations chosen to research were political scientist and lawyer. The method to complete this report included selecting two careers to explore, establishing essential questions, locating resources, and researching potential internship options. Many sources were selected for this report: The Bureau of Labor Statistics', Learn To Become, The New Yorker, ABA Law Practice Today, The College Board, the UN Refugee Agency, and CNN. The answers to the essential questions included information about salary, job growth, international opportunities, colleges with the necessary programs, who this occupation works alongside, and the qualities needed to be successful in this career. Once these questions were answered, personal information regarding both careers and rational for selecting these careers were given. Last, potential internships were located along with information concerning what types of internship environments would be beneficial to joining the workforce. At the end of this report it was determined the career that would be the most beneficial and practical would be political science.

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CAREER EXPLORATION REPORT

OVERVIEW

The purpose of this document is to report the research process of Letty Weimer during her career exploration in Technical Reading and Writing at the Dayton Regional STEM School during the 2020-21 school year. The following sections document essential questions used to begin the career exploration process, potential career(s) and rationale(s) for choosing those career(s), an overview of the research process used during Letty Weimer's career exploration, resources found and used during the process, a resolution, and a reflection of the process as well as a daily logbook of all tasks completed.

The following Driving Question was used to guide this career exploration process: How can I locate a potential internship site, college, potential career by conducting extensive independent research?

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

Throughout the career exploration research process, the following questions were asked:

- WHAT IS THE SALARY FOR THIS CAREER?
- WHAT IS THE JOB GROWTH FOR THIS CAREER?
- WHAT ARE QUALITIES NEEDED FOR TO BE SUCCESFULL IN THIS CAREER?
- WHAT SCHOOLS IN THIS AREA OFFER SPECIFIC PROGRAMS FOR EACH CAREER?
- WHO DOES THIS CAREER WORK WITH?
- WHAT INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES DOES THIS CAREER OFFER?

POTENTIAL CAREERS & RATIONALES

This section provides a comprehensive list of potential future careers as well as rationale for choosing those careers.

LAWYER

A lawyer interprets the law and how it applies to the clients they are representing; a lawyer advises their clients in legal matters in criminal and civil cases. Lawyers gather and review evidence, analyze data, and organize necessary files to advocate for their clients. Lawyers generally work with paralegals, legal assistants, and legal secretaries to defend or prosecute defendants in legal cases. Defendants can range from ordinary people to big corporations.

According the Bureau of Labor Statistics, a lawyer's salary ranges from 59,670 to 208,000 dollars a year with the national average being 122,960 in 2019. Within the next ten years, employment of lawyers is expected to grow four percent nationwide. However, "competition for jobs should continue to be strong because more students are graduating from law school each year than there are jobs available." (BLS). This is not exactly promising for grad students however, Jeffery Toobin, the chief legal analyst for CNN, explains that many lawyers and law school graduates don't always practice law in a court setting. Some lawyers represent politicians and public figures, manage campaigns, or become legal analysts. While there are some unconventional careers paths for lawyers, there are also many different fields of law a lawyer could choose to

interpret, some examples are listed here; criminal law, civil law, immigration law, and medical malpractice law. With many career and law paths for lawyers to pursue, experts are hopeful for graduate students.

According to Learn How To Become, there are five main steps to becoming a lawyer: complete a bachelor's degree program, pass the law school admission test, identify law schools and complete applications, earn a juris doctor degree, and last, pass the BAR examination. The BAR examination is a multistage test that usually requires two days to complete. The test includes a writing portion, a multiple-choice section, as well as state board BAR examiners considering your personal and academic record. Some law schools in Ohio are Moritz College of Law and Ohio Northern University.

Learn How To Become states some professional skills needed for being a successful lawyer are basic legal knowledge, the ability to research thoroughly, and the ability to gather evidence. According to Law Practice Today, life skills needed by a lawyer are communication, patience, integrity, a strong will, and persistence. Some tips for law school and becoming a lawyer are to know your study skills, learn what conditions you study best in, and do keep organized.

This career is interesting to me for a couple of reasons; I like to argue, I see most things as black and white, and I like gathering evidence to support what I believe. There are many different job opportunities for people who study law and I don't want to do one thing my whole life, I want a career that is exciting every day. Because there are so many opportunities in this field, I could potentially create my own career based off my interests. Many things need to change in our world and one way to do that is through law, I would be very happy to advocate for the rights of others because I think that would be fulfilling work.

POSSIBLE INTERNSHIPS FOR POTENTIAL LAWYERS

Internships that would be supplemental to starting a career in law are atmospheres focused on law interpretation and lawyer-client relationships. This occupation encompasses many different types of law and legal specialties so, focusing on the basics would be helpful for a person interested in a career in law. In the legal field, understanding legal matters is just as important as the relationship between a lawyer and their clients. Two potential internship locations and information is listed below.

Greene County Prosecuting Attorney

Address: 61 Greene St # 2, Xenia, OH 45385

Phone: (937) 562-5250

Blaschak Law Office

Address: 1692 Woodman Dr, Dayton, OH 45432

Phone: (937) 252-1414

POLITICAL SCIENTIST

A political scientist studies politics and how they affect economics, current affairs, and relationships between other countries. Political scientists study the origins of government and predict how governments will change. Political scientists work for the government, political agencies, unions, and grassroots organizations alongside lawyers, politicians, activists, and other political scientists. According to the UN Refugee Agency, a grassroots organization is the movement of people from a specific district or community that advocates for policy change. There are many different opportunities for political scientists.

In 2019, the median pay for a political scientist was \$122,220 per year according the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In the next ten years there is expected to be a six percent growth in political science careers, which is faster than the four percent average. However, there is a lot of competition for jobs in this field, “Political scientists should face strong competition for most jobs. “The small number of positions, combined with the popularity of political science programs in colleges and universities, means that there will likely be many qualified candidates for relatively few positions.” (BLS). According to the BLS, half of political scientist are employed by the federal government to help oversee budget changes and proposed improvements, predict the outcome of policy changes, and keep public service efficient. Political scientists not employed by the government help lobbying firms, labor unions, and political campaigns that rely on their knowledge of complicated legal and government issues.

The education requirements for becoming a political scientist are simple; complete a bachelor’s program in Political Science. However, there are many qualities employers look for. Political scientists should have strong writing and analytical skills and experience researching or performing policy analysis. Many employers also look for candidates with advanced degrees in similar subjects. It is important as a political scientist to have a strong worldview of government and be aware of current affairs. Some schools with political science programs in Ohio are Ohio University, Case Western University, and Miami University.

Making a Global Impact: Guide to International Jobs in Government, contains information about the options in pursuing an international career in government. Some examples of international careers are economic, management, and political officers. Another opportunity is the Peace Corps, which offers many benefits to volunteers: medical insurance coverage, housing allowance, and the opportunity to travel the World. Also, by joining the Peace Corps volunteers could gain hands-on experience to later apply for an international government job.

Political science is a career of interest to me because from a practical standpoint, I could get a degree in Political science and then go to law school if I want to further my education. With a political science degree, there are many employment opportunities with the federal government or with grassroot organizations and labor unions. There are also many international opportunities in political science that excite me. From what I have researched, political scientists get the chance to preform meaningful work and advocate for others which means the most to me.

POSSIBLE INTERNSHIPS FOR POTENTIAL POLITICAL SCIENCE

Because there are many different careers in political science, internships focused around government analysis, public relations, or local government would be beneficial to those interested in pursuing a career in political science. Political scientists are often employed to predict how changes in the government will affect citizens or to share their knowledge with political campaigns, lobbying corporations, and labor unions. Two internship locations and their information are listed below.

Leaders For Equality & Action

Address: 11 W Monument Ave, Dayton, OH 45402

Phone: (937) 252-2018

The League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area

Address: Talbott Tower, 127 N Ludlow St, Dayton, OH 45402

Phone: (937) 228-4041

RESOURCES

This section provides a list of resources found during the career exploration research process (can include resources used to explore your career fields, possible internships, etc.).

Become a Political Scientist | Careers | The College Board. (n.d.). The College Board. Retrieved November 9, 2020, from <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/careers/social-science-political-scientists>

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<https://www.careerexplorer.com/careers/political-scientist/how-to-become/>

How to Become a Lawyer. (2020, October 15). Criminal Justice Degree Schools.
<https://www.criminaljusticedegreeschools.com/careers/lawyer/>

Political Scientist. (2020, May 19). Truity. <https://www.truity.com/career-profile/political-scientist>

Political Scientists: Occupational Outlook Handbook: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2020, September 1). Bureau Of Labor Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/political-scientists.htm>

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<https://www.lawpracticetoday.org/article/legal-keys-become-successful-lawyer/>

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Wong, J. B. D. (2020, September 29). *Types of Lawyers.* Legalzoom.Com.
<https://www.legalzoom.com/articles/types-of-lawyers>

Writer, S. (2020, October 6). *Political Science Careers | Best Colleges.* BestColleges.Com.
<https://www.bestcolleges.com/careers/humanities-and-social-sciences/political-science/>

Writers, S. (2020, November 9). *Law Schools & Careers | How to Become a Lawyer.* LearnHowToBecome.Org.
<https://www.learnhowtobecome.org/lawyer/>

REFLECTION

The career exploration project encouraged me to think about career opportunities in a way I had not before: I learned about job growth, salary, international opportunities, and daily responsibilities for each career. The process of researching and analyzing different careers brought to my attention that any sort of career that requires me to perform the same tasks every day would be very unfulfilling. Career opportunities that include trying new activities every day, traveling, and meeting new people would be the most satisfying. While both the careers researched have similar ties to government and law, a lawyer's job is to interpret the law while a political scientist predicts how proposed laws affects citizens. A career as a lawyer has many opportunities outside of a courtroom setting, but the daily routine seems monotonous. Similarly, there are many prospects within a political science career, but unlike a career in law, there are many more international openings.

Writing this type of report reminded me of writing science fair papers. That being said, I think this type of report may be useful in a career where employees write about projects or research they have completed. In a law career, lawyers must gather evidence, draw conclusions from that evidence, and determine how that evidence relates to the law. A research report similar to this could be very helpful organizing evidence.

At the end of this report four different internship opportunities were located; however, I have not made much contact with these places. The report examines many colleges in Ohio but, I want to go to school out of state. Of the two careers researched, political science interests me the most because of all the international careers available and from a practical standpoint, a degree in political science opens many doors to further my education. The next step I would take to further my research would be to explore more colleges out of state with political science programs.

LOGBOOK

The following logbook was kept during Letty Weimer's career exploration process. It details the tasks completed during this process including sources consulted, essential questions asked and answered, as well as any other information collected each day.

11/6/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researched articles for Career 1
11/9/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued research for Career 1 and 2
11/12/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researched opportunities abroad for Career 1 and 2
11/16/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Career 1 and 2 sections
11/22/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Career 1 and 2 • Answered all essential questions
11/30/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer critique • Review
12/1/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer critique • Review
12/2/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Began drafting internship opportunities
12/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Began drafting abstract
12/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafted reflection • Finished abstract
12/7/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received feedback for abstract • Revised abstract
12/8/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher meeting • Formatted document