



## POLITICAL SCIENCE

### Program Objectives

Political science is the systematic study of politics and government and is widely recognized as one of the core disciplines within the liberal arts curriculum. The political science major provides a substantive and analytic preparation that can lead to a variety of professions, giving the students access to a vast array of future careers. This discipline often serves those with an interest in entering politics and government. Yet, political science majors equally go on to become civic leaders, town managers, city planners, business leaders, budget specialists, foreign service officers, CIA analysts, FBI agents, policy researchers, and to hold a variety of management positions in local, state, national, and international organizations.

A political science degree leads naturally to graduate training, including law school. Similarly, teaching has been a traditional career for many political science students.

### Degrees & Concentrations Offered

**Graduation Planner:** [usm.maine.edu/advising/degreeplanning](http://usm.maine.edu/advising/degreeplanning)

**Degree Offered:** Bachelor of Arts

**Major Offered:** Political Science

**Minor Offered:** Political Science

## The Department of History & Political Science

Portland Campus, 55 Exeter Street  
(207) 780-4283

Web Address: [usm.maine.edu/pos](http://usm.maine.edu/pos)

Facebook: [MeMUNC - Maine Model United Nations](#)

### Career Possibilities\*

Author/Writer  
Communication Analyst  
Community and Social Service Specialists  
Community Involvement Activist  
Data Analyst  
Domestic and Foreign Policy Analyst  
Education Policy Advocate  
Homeland Security Specialist (Local, National)  
Interest Group Advocate  
International/Local Development Advocate  
Military Forces Leader  
Non-Governmental Organization Activist  
Not for Profit Organizer  
Political Commentator  
Political Consultant  
Political Science Teachers, Postsecondary  
Public Relations Specialists  
Public Servant (Local, State, National)  
Reporters and Correspondents  
School District Employee  
Small Business Leader  
Social Science Research Assistants

\* Additional education, training or experience may be required.

### Acquired Transferable Skills

Active Learning  
Active Listening  
Complex Problem Solving  
Critical Thinking  
Judgment and Decision Making  
Quantitative/Qualitative Analysis  
Reading Comprehension  
Social Perceptiveness  
Theoretical Framing  
Writing

For more information on transferable skills go to: [usm.maine.edu/community-engagement-career-development/career-tools](http://usm.maine.edu/community-engagement-career-development/career-tools)

## What can I do with this major?\*

AREA	EMPLOYERS	INFORMATION/STRATEGIES
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	Federal State Local government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete an internship in government or related area.</li> <li>• Serve in model United Nations.</li> <li>• Become involved in student government.</li> <li>• Volunteer with the staff of a government official.</li> <li>• Participate in local or national campaigns.</li> </ul>
<b>LAW</b>	Law firms Corporations Private practice Special interest groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop excellent research, writing, analysis, and communication skills.</li> <li>• Plan to attend law school and earn a law degree.</li> <li>• Obtain specialized certification for paralegal positions.</li> </ul>
<b>POLITICS</b>	Legislative, executive, or judicial National, state, local government Special interest groups Political parties Campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteer for national or local campaigns.</li> <li>• Gain experience through internships in government.</li> <li>• Obtain leadership roles in campus organizations.</li> <li>• Seek leadership roles on the regional or national level.</li> <li>• Develop a network of personal contacts.</li> <li>• Be prepared to begin a political career as a volunteer before moving to full-time or paid positions.</li> </ul>
<b>NONPROFITS</b>	Nonprofit organizations Foundations Professional associations Special interest groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gain experience through volunteering or completing an internship.</li> <li>• Obtain leadership roles in campus organizations.</li> <li>• Develop strong written and oral communication skills.</li> <li>• Demonstrate knowledge and experience in a specialty area (e.g., public health, environment, urban issues, diversity, gender equality).</li> </ul>

\*To learn about these areas and much more visit: [whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major](http://whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major) • © 2011 What Can I Do With This Major

## Enrichment Opportunities

### Internships

For more information contact Prof. Robert Klotz.

[usm.maine.edu/community-engagement-career-development/internships](http://usm.maine.edu/community-engagement-career-development/internships)

### Study Abroad

For more information contact the USM Office of International Programs.

[usm.maine.edu/international/study-abroad](http://usm.maine.edu/international/study-abroad)

### Clubs & Organizations

Political Science Student Association  
For a complete list of student organizations:  
[webapp.usm.maine.edu/pathways/list](http://webapp.usm.maine.edu/pathways/list)

### USM Corporate Partners

The USM Corporate Partners are over 350 business people, from nearly 100 companies. [usm.maine.edu/corporatepartners](http://usm.maine.edu/corporatepartners)

## Helpful Career Links

### **USMCareerConnections:**

USM's career network for job and internship searches. [usm.maine.edu/community-engagement-career-development/usmcareerconnections](http://usm.maine.edu/community-engagement-career-development/usmcareerconnections)

### **O\*NET OnLine:**

Learn more about a career opportunity by researching it with O\*NET. [onetonline.org](http://onetonline.org)

### **Occupational Outlook Handbook:**

Learn more about a career opportunity by researching it with OOH. [bls.gov/oooh](http://bls.gov/oooh)

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS To name a few...**

[American Political Science Association](http://americanpoliticalscience.org)

[International Political Science Association](http://internationalpoliticalscience.org)



PORTLAND • GORHAM • LEWISTON • ONLINE

Office of Community Engagement and Career Development • [usm.maine.edu/cecd](http://usm.maine.edu/cecd)

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