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
Degree Offered: Bachelor of Arts
Major Offered: Political Science
Minor Offered: Political Science

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
### AREA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>INFORMATION/STRATEGIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GOVERNMENT</strong></td>
<td>• Complete an internship in government or related area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>• Serve in model United Nations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>• Become involved in student government.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local government</td>
<td>• Volunteer with the staff of a government official.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Participate in local or national campaigns.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LAW</strong></td>
<td>• Develop excellent research, writing, analysis, and communication skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law firms</td>
<td>• Plan to attend law school and earn a law degree.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>• Obtain specialized certification for paralegal positions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private practice</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Special interest groups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>POLITICS</strong></td>
<td>• Volunteer for national or local campaigns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative, executive, or judicial</td>
<td>• Gain experience through internships in government.</td>
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<tr>
<td>National, state, local government</td>
<td>• Obtain leadership roles in campus organizations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special interest groups</td>
<td>• Seek leadership roles on the regional or national level.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political parties</td>
<td>• Develop a network of personal contacts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campaigns</td>
<td>• Be prepared to begin a political career as a volunteer before moving to full-time or paid positions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NONPROFITS</strong></td>
<td>• Gain experience through volunteering or completing an internship.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nonprofit organizations</td>
<td>• Obtain leadership roles in campus organizations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>• Develop strong written and oral communication skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional associations</td>
<td>• Demonstrate knowledge and experience in a specialty area (e.g., public health, environment, urban issues, diversity, gender equality).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special interest groups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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/ooh](http://bls.gov/ooh)

- **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS To name a few...**
  - American Political Science Association
  - International Political Science Association