## Consider Studying Political Science

Are you interested in American politics? International affairs? Critical issues such as public policy, globalization, terrorism, the environment, civil rights, political development, or foreign policy? Theories of ideal government and how power and resources are allocated in society? Do you want to study these subjects and pursue a career in them? If so, you should select political science as a major. Political science is the study of governments, public policies, and political behavior. Political science uses both humanistic perspectives and scientific skills to examine the United States and all countries and regions of the world.

As a political science major, you will hone the writing, communication, analytical, and data skills that are fundamental to a liberal arts education. This type of education will prepare you to think critically and independently, help you appreciate differing points of view, and give you knowledge of current affairs. Today, students can reasonably expect to change jobs more than once and have more than one career. An undergraduate education in the liberal arts is excellent preparation for flexibility in employment.

Majoring in political science can qualify you for many different careers in private for-profit and nonprofit organizations, as well as the public sector. Graduates will be able to pursue careers in business, law, consulting, teaching, journalism and communications, polling and campaign management, international organizations, finance, community service, nongovernmental organizations, and state, local, and federal government.

Political science training also provides valuable preparation for participating in community and advocacy organizations, electoral politics, advocacy on behalf of specific policies, and elective or administrative positions in government.







## Learn More Online at apsanet.org

Dig deeper than the information in this brochure by browsing APSA's online career information. You can find it here: **www.apsanet.org/PScareers**, or you can scan the QR code below. Content and links will help you research the following:

- Majoring in Political Science
- Tips for High School Students
- Tips for Undergraduate Students
- Entering the Job Market
- Quicksheet of Careers and Resources

## Read the APSA Careers Booklet

You can also read Careers and the Study of Political Science at **www.apsanet.org/careermaterials** to learn more about how to choose the career that's right for you. This free booklet presents a detailed look at 11 different career areas ranging from the federal government to campaigning and polling. The complete booklet is available for free online to download and read!

## Become an APSA Member!

The American Political Science Association provides many resources for graduate and undergraduate political science students—from awards and research funding to ways for students to connect and programs for diversity and inclusion. Learn more at **www.apsanet.org/membershipbenefits**. Join today to take advantage of these opportunities!

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# Why Study Political Science?

## Information for High School & College Students

American Political Science Association

## Majoring in Political Science

**Political science is fundamental** to understanding your rights and responsibilities as a citizen and to understanding international politics and law. If political issues interest you, you can pursue them in just about every college and university in the United States.

Undergraduate study of politics usually consists of courses on American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and political theory. These courses will introduce you to political concepts, political behavior, policy issues, and structures of government within societies and among nations. In addition to giving you new insight into the political process happening around you every day, these courses also provide valuable analytical and communication skills.

To pursue the study of politics further, you can take advanced undergraduate courses about specific institutions, policies, and aspects of political life in the United States, other nations, or at the international level.



# *Prepare for Your Future with a Degree in Political Science!*

## Tips for High School Students

- **Talk to your high school guidance counselor** and teachers about your interests.
- **Visit university and college websites** to review the political science or government department faculty, courses, and requirements for the major. Examine catalogues of the colleges that interest you to confirm that they offer courses in political science, government, and politics.
- **Consider taking a community college course** in political science. Most BA programs give students credit toward their BA degree for successful completion of community college courses. Also, think about taking an Advanced Placement course in government and politics.
- **Review career resources** including information on potential career sectors and APSA career publications.

## Tips for Undergraduate Students

- **Consult with your undergraduate advisor** and professors.
- **Review information** on objectives and requirements for the major. Consider any distribution requirements needed for the major. Many departments also now offer specialized “tracks” or “concentrations” within political science, such as pre-law, public administration, international relations, or area studies focusing on specific countries or regions.
- **To broaden your training, look into programs** to study or work abroad. Studying or working abroad is one way to increase your knowledge about other cultures and political systems and potentially strengthen your foreign language skills.
- **Consider pursuing a minor or double-major.** Minoring or double-majoring in a related social science and humanities discipline, or an interdisciplinary field, can complement the study of political science. Consider subjects such as environmental studies, health policy, urban politics, race and ethnicity, or women’s studies. Computer science and statistics, with their emphasis on technical and quantitative theories, can also be useful.
- **Check out internships or service learning.** Your campus may provide opportunities for education through internships or service learning in local, state, and federal government agencies, political parties, campaign organizations, and other national or community-based nongovernmental organizations. An internship can enhance your undergraduate education not only by helping you develop career skills, but also teaching you to participate in public life as a career, volunteer, and citizen.

