

What can I do with a major in POLITICAL SCIENCE?

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE THAT POLITICAL SCIENCE GRADUATES POSSESS:

- understanding of the development and processes of various political systems
- studying and teaching the meaning and application of political concepts and ideas
- collecting, analyzing and interpreting data related to political issues
- ability to understand underlying influences in society that impact politics
- appreciating and evaluating divergent perspectives and engaging in debates

It is important to enhance and diversify your skills and knowledge with work, volunteer, research and field study experiences while in university.

EXAMPLES OF CAREER PATHS POLITICAL SCIENCE GRADUATES HAVE PURSUED:

Political Science graduates can pursue a variety of career paths, including those that might not seem to have a direct connection to political science at first glance. The following is a non-exhaustive list of some examples:

DIRECT career paths: The skills and knowledge acquired in a political science education are often required or considered an asset in the following positions.	LESS DIRECT career paths: The generic skills and knowledge obtained in a liberal arts education are pertinent in the following positions.	The following paths may require FURTHER STUDY or SPECIALIZED TRAINING* in addition to a Bachelor of Arts in political science.
Constituency Assistants provide administrative and communications support to build and maintain positive relationships between constituents and MPs or MLAs. They work for elected officials.	Academic/Admissions Advisors provide advice and guidance on admission into educational programs and other academic related matters. They work for post-secondary institutions.	Health Policy Analysts collect and analyze data on the effectiveness of current health care policies and programs. They work for government, non-profit organizations, research institutes and post-secondary education institutions.
Consumer Advocates educate and inform the public about important consumer issues. They work with organizations to develop and lobby for policies and legislation in the interests of consumers. They work for advocacy organizations and associations.	Communication Assistants help develop communications materials to present a point of view or clarify information to the public via various forms of media. They work for a variety of public or private organizations.	Human Rights Officers work with local governments and peacekeeping groups to identify and address human rights violations. They work for non-profit and government-sponsored organizations.
Governance Assistants provide administrative and communication support to ensure the quality of governance activities. They work for non-profit, public or government organizations.	Course Material Editors review and edit course materials in preparation for distance study delivery. They work for post-secondary institutions.	Regulatory Counsels provide legal and related strategic services to organizations in relation to regulatory and jurisdictional matters. They work for federal, provincial or municipal governments, public agencies or corporations.
Political Strategy Consultants provide strategy and communication advice to businesses or industry representatives in all interactions with the government or regulatory agencies. They work for consulting firms or independently.	Foreign Aid Workers provide assistance and emergency relief to help families and communities in other countries recover from natural or man-made disasters. They work for non-profit or non-governmental organizations.	*NOTE: Qualifications for similar jobs might vary depending on the employer. Try checking with the employer(s) you're interested in working for to see what they require and recommend in terms of education and/or experience.
Public Affairs Research Associates collect and analyze data to support policy and advocacy work. They work for associations, consulting firms or government agencies.	Student Recruitment Officers promote certain education programs or institutions to prospective students, parents and counselors. They work in training and educational programs or institutions.	



WANT MORE INFORMATION? CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES:

PRINT:

Available in MacEwan University Libraries:

- Great Jobs for Political Science Majors
- Careers and the Study of Political Science: A Guide for Undergraduates
- Fifty Legal Careers for Non-Lawyers

ONLINE:

- American Political Science Association: apsanet.org
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management: appam.org
- Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives: policyalternatives.ca
- Canadian Political Science Association: cpsa-acsp.ca
- The Council of Canadians: canadians.org
- Employment Opportunities on Parliament Hill: jobs-emplois.parl.ca
- Jobs at the Legislative Assembly: assembly.ab.ca/lao/hr/index.htm
- Parliamentary Internship Programme: pip-ppsp.org
- The Political Studies Association (UK): psa.ac.uk
- Prairie Political Science Association: prairiepsa.com
- Relief Web – International Humanitarian Job Opportunities: reliefweb.int/jobs

WANT TO DISCUSS YOUR OPTIONS WITH SOMEONE?

- Book an appointment with a [career advisor in the C&E office](#)
- Talk to a [political science discipline advisor](#)

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