



Political Science

Political science is the systematic study of government and of political structures, processes, and policies, utilizing institutional, quantitative, and philosophical approaches. This diverse field encompasses political theory, international relations, American and comparative government, public policy, and research methodology. Study in political science prepares individuals for active citizenship, for careers in public affairs, and for advanced study in the social sciences and law.

Training in problem solving and systematic analysis prepares the political science concentrator for many different

types of government and private positions. Students with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science may find employment in such areas as civil service, public interest and advocacy groups, non-profit organizations, banking, or major corporations. An advanced degree in political science, law, public policy and administration, public health, urban planning, or geographical area studies is generally required for consulting work, administrative positions, college teaching, or research positions. Listed below are some characteristic skills developed by political science concentrators as well as representative occupations held by graduates.

SKILLS & ABILITIES

The skills developed in writing critical essays and research reports, evaluating the arguments of others and representing one's point of view in classroom discussion lead to careers requiring clear thinking, well documented analysis, and forceful expression. These abilities may be applied to job responsibilities in a variety of sectors and

occupational groups. For example, while an urban policy planner, an international lawyer, and a foreign service officer might use the skills of interpreting issues and data for different purposes, each may use these skills on a daily basis. A sampling of representative skills and abilities follows.

Communication	Research/ Quantitative Methods	Analysis	Planning and Development
Presenting ideas and data clearly	Interpreting data	Interpreting issues and data	Making projections
Influencing and persuading people/groups	Developing research designs and models	Understanding components of complex problems	Organizing people/equipment/ideas
Mediating/negotiating conflicts	Programming and systems analysis	Offering relevant perspectives	Logistical thinking
Public speaking	Utilizing survey research methods	Synthesizing themes from complex issues	Conceptualizing and implementing projects
Listening critically	Comparing/contrasting ideas and information		Decision making

OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The list that follows offers a glimpse of the wide-ranging career paths for which a political science degree provided preparation. The list was compiled from information on Michigan graduates, and from national data. For some

occupations listed below, such as industry lobbyist, related training may be desirable. Those occupations marked with a • generally require additional graduate study.

Politics/Government	Public Interest/ Social Change	Communication	Business/Industry
Staff assistant	•Environmental lawyer	Teacher, secondary level	Advertising account manager
Legislative aide	Canvass director	•College/university professor	Regulatory analyst
•International lawyer	Strategist	News public opinion analyst	Sales promotion manager
Paralegal	Publications director	Press agent	Public affairs officer
•Legal investigator	Issues director	Editorial assistant	•Systems analyst
•City manager	Direct mail specialist	Public affairs reporter	•Multinational marketing research analyst
Corrections officer	Development director	Web designer	Customer service representative
•Urban policy planner	Lobbyist		Industry lobbyist
Public opinion analyst	Event coordinator/activity planner		
•Public health administrator	Peace Corps volunteer coordinator		

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

The prerequisite to the concentration program requires two introductory courses chosen from subfields of political science. The concentration requires at least 24 hours in political science in addition to prerequisites, and two courses in a cognate department. The 24 hours at the concentration core must include two advanced, senior-level courses. Seniors are encouraged to elect an undergraduate

seminar. Students are expected to choose prerequisites and concentration core courses from at least four subfields.

The Institute of Public Policy Studies offers an accelerated program for exceptionally well qualified undergraduates to complete both the bachelor's degree and the Master's in Public Policy in five years of study.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For information about choosing a career, about graduate/professional school, internships, or job descriptions; and for library resources:

The Career Center
3200 Student Activities Building
764-7460
www.careercenter.umich.edu

For information about the concentration and degree requirements:

Department of Political Science
5700 Haven Hall
505 S. State Street
764-6313
polisci.lsa.umich.edu

LS&A Academic Advising Center
1255 Angell Hall
764-0332