

What can I do with a major in **POLITICAL SCIENCE** from Valparaiso University?

Description of major:

The study of government and its structure and function in order to understand the necessity for human social order. Provides students with a better understanding of political parties, interest groups, international relationships, public law, public administration, liberty, freedom, justice, and power. It now stresses the use of sophisticated scientific procedures and research methods to analyze and explain how and why government structures operate the way they do. Students may concentrate in General Political Science, International Relations, Legal Studies, or Public Policy & Public Administration.

Relevant skills for a POLITICAL SCIENCE major:

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| ◆ Advise | ◆ Evaluate | ◆ Organize & interpret social, economic & political data |
| ◆ Analyze statistics | ◆ Explain | ◆ Relate to people from varying backgrounds |
| ◆ Answer questions | ◆ Gather information | ◆ Understand community needs |
| ◆ Communicate ideas to others | ◆ Give speeches | ◆ Work with computers |
| ◆ Conduct & explain scientific research clearly | ◆ Instruct | ◆ Write |
| ◆ Make decisions | ◆ Lead/Coordinate people | ◆ and others! |
| ◆ Develop ideas | ◆ Manage conflict | |
| | ◆ Market ideas | |
| | ◆ Organize projects | |

Sample work activities for Graduates in POLITICAL SCIENCE (some may require an advanced degree)

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| • Announcer | • Hospital Administrator | • Political Consultant |
| • Anthropologist | • Intelligence Specialist | • Political Scientist |
| • Campaign Worker | • Judge | • Professor – College/ University |
| • Chamber of Commerce Manager | • Judicial Clerk | • Public Recreation Director |
| • City Manager | • Labor Relations Specialist | • Public Health Official |
| • Congressional Aide | • Lawyer | • Research Assistant |
| • Corporate Practice | • Legislative Assistant | • School Administrator |
| • Diplomat | • Lobbyist | • Speech Writer |
| • Editor | • Mayor | • Technical Writer |
| • FBI/CIA Agent | • Military Officer | • Teacher – Secondary school |
| • Foreign Service Officer | • Political Scientist | • Urban Planner |
| • Geographer | • News Reporter | • and others! |
| • Government Worker | • Parole/Probation Officer | |
| | • Politician | |

Potential hiring institutions for POLITICAL SCIENCE majors:

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| ◆ Campaign organizations | Federal & International agencies | ◆ Political parties |
| ◆ Colleges & Universities | ◆ Labor unions | ◆ Polling organizations |
| ◆ Consulting firms | ◆ Law firms | ◆ Research organizations |
| ◆ Corporations/Businesses | ◆ Media organizations | ◆ Self-employed |
| ◆ Court System | ◆ Military | ◆ Special interest organizations |
| ◆ Embassies | ◆ Not-for-profit organizations | ◆ “Think Tanks” |
| ◆ Environmental groups | ◆ Political interest groups | ◆ and others! |
| ◆ Government – Local, State, | | |

Area of further education for POLITICAL SCIENCE majors:

- Business Administration
- City & Regional Planning
- Communication
- Communication & Rhetoric
- Comparative Politics
- Conflict Resolution & Mediation/Peace Studies
- Criminal Justice & Criminology
- Cultural Studies
- Demography & Population Studies
- Economic Science
- Economics
- Education
- English Literature
- Ethics
- Foreign Language/Literature
- Humanities
- Industrial & Labor Relations
- Information Studies
- International Development
- International Relations
- Law
- Legal & Justice Studies
- Liberal Studies
- Library Science
- Media Studies
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Public History
- Public policy
- Public Policy & Administration
- Religion/Theology
- Rural Planning & Studies
- Social Sciences
- Sociology
- Speech & Interpersonal Communication
- Sustainable Development
- Urban Studies
- Writing
- and others!

Sources of additional information for POLITICAL SCIENCE majors:

- VU Department of Political Science: <http://www.valpo.edu/polisci/>
- VU Majors & Areas of Study: <http://www.valpo.edu/cas/departments/polisci.html>
- Occupational Outlook Handbook: the US Bureau of Labor Statistics compiles information about various occupations, including the nature of the work, the job outlook, the earnings, and other relevant information. <http://www.bls.gov/oco/oco1002.htm>
- America's Job Bank: a partnership between the US Department of Labor and the state operated public Employment Service for public and private sector jobs. <http://www.ajb.dni.us/>
- American Association of Political Consultants: the association for political & public affairs professionals. <http://www.theaapc.com>
- American Planning Association: organized to advance the art and science of planning and to foster the activity of planning -- physical, economic, and social -- at the local, regional, state, and national levels. Site contains an Educational Opportunities & Careers in Planning section. <http://www.planning.org/>
- American Political Science Association: the world's largest professional association for the study of politics. The association offers a full range of programs and services for individuals, departments, and institutions. Site contains a Jobs/Careers section. <http://www.apsanet.org>
- American Society for Public Administration: a professional association for public administration practitioners, academics, and students. Site contains a Careers in Public Administration section. <http://www.aspanet.org/>
- Careers in Government: Job opportunities with local, state & federal agencies. <http://www.careersingovernment.com>
- GovernmentJobs.Com: devoted to helping individuals find the jobs they are seeking in the public sector. <http://www.govtjobs.com/>
- H-Net Job Guide: covers positions in History, the Humanities, and Social Sciences, as well as listings in rhetoric, composition. <http://www.matrix.msu.edu/jobs/>
- Internet Legal Resource Guide: A categorized index of more than 4000 select web sites to serve as a comprehensive resource of the information available on the Internet concerning law and the legal profession, with an emphasis on the United States of America. Contains a section for Pre-Law students as well as a section on Law School Rankings. <http://www.ilrg.com/>
- National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration: institutional membership organization which exists to promote excellence in public service education. Site includes a listing of the degree programs in public affairs, public policy, public administration and nonprofit management. <http://www.naspaa.org/>
- OpportunityNOCs.org: nonprofit jobs and career opportunities. <http://www.opportunitynocs.org/>
- Philanthropy News Network: PNN delivers news, information, and resources to all segments of the nonprofit world in order to help them better achieve their goals. Site includes a Nonprofit Jobs section. <http://pnnonline.org/>
- The Chronicle of Philanthropy: online version of the newspaper for the non-profit world. Site includes a Jobs section with Job Market News & Trends and Employment Opportunities. <http://philanthropy.com>
- The Electronic Embassy: a resource of and for the Washington, DC embassy community. <http://www.embassy.org/>

- United Nations Homepage: Various information on the United Nations, including recent news, publications, etc. <http://www.un.org/>
- USAJobs: The U.S. Government's official site for jobs and employment information provided by the United States Office of Personnel Management. <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>

VU Career Center Resource Library Materials:

- *100 Best Nonprofits To Work For*
- *Alternatives To The Peace Corps : A Directory Of Third World And Us Volunteer Opportunities*
- *Book Of U.S. Government Jobs : Where They Are, What's Available, And How To Get One*
- *Career Opportunities For Writers*
- *Career Opportunities In Law And The Legal Industry*
- *Career Opportunities In Politics, Government & Activism*
- *Careers In Sociology*
- *Civil Service Career Starter*
- *Education For Action : Undergraduate And Graduate Programs That Focus On Social Change*
- *Essays That Worked For Law Schools : 35 Essays From Successful Applications To The Nation's Top Law Schools*
- *Graduate Programs In Education*
- *Graduate Programs In Humanities*
- *Graduate Programs In Social Sciences*
- *Great Jobs For Liberal Arts Majors*
- *Great Jobs For Political Science Majors*
- *Guide To America's Federal Jobs : A Complete Directory Of Federal Career Opportunities*
- *Guide To Homeland Security Careers*
- *Harvard Business School Guide To Careers In The Nonprofit Sector*
- *Law Schools*
- *LSAT 2006*
- *Opportunities In Government Careers*
- *Opportunities In Law Careers*
- *Opportunities In Social Science Careers*
- *Peterson's Game Plan For Getting Into Law School*
- *Peterson's Graduate Programs In Business, Education, Health, Information Studies, Law & Social Work*
- *Peterson's Graduate Programs In The Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences*
- *and others!*

For more information about majoring in POLITICAL SCIENCE, contact:

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For more questions about your career decisions, please make an appointment with a VU Career Counselor by calling 464-5005, stopping by the Career Center in Alumni Hall or e-mailing us at Career.Center@valpo.edu