



Skills and Competencies

Like most liberal arts majors, the study of political science will give you the opportunity to master an array of various skills and competencies. Your writing and speaking skills are developed and honed through essays, papers, and oral presentations. Reading is also stressed in courses, and students are expected to be able to interpret, analyze, and evaluate texts. Critical thinking skills are developed, and students learn to formulate new ideas, problem solve, and reason logically.

If you are interested in state and local government, you would benefit from taking courses in state and local government, public policy, and public administration. Additional courses in state and local finance, budgeting, and intergovernmental relations are recommended to anyone planning to enter this field.

Opportunities for political science majors exist outside of the government fields as well. For example, there are growing international employment opportunities for persons trained in political science because so many social and economic issues require political intervention, in the form of public policies. If you major in political science, you should include some course work in comparative politics, international relations, political development, and interest group politics. The study of a foreign language is also important and could prove essential to career advancement.



Career Development

Opportunities for practical work experience are available to you as a political science major. The more hands-on experience you have in your major, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Internships of all types—with Congress, public policy groups, nonprofit organizations, and more—are available all over the U.S., and especially in Washington, D.C. Internships are a great way to put the skills you've learned in the classroom into practice. You can also gain valuable experience in one of the Political Science Department's student programs. The Pre-law and Mock Trial Program, the Political Science Symposium, the Model U.N., and various undergraduate research assistantships will all give you academic and professional experience. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can provide you with career planning help, and Career Services will help you fine-tune your resume.



Additional Resources and Info

For Career Planning and Opportunities:

Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
www.nmu.edu/acac

Department of Political Science
208 Cohodas
906-227-2019
www.nmu.edu/politicalscience

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:

Career Services
3502 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:

Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

Internet Resource Links:

www.careers.org
www.careerresource.net
www.bls.gov/oco Occupational Outlook Handbook

For Career Information with National Organizations:

www.aspanet.org American Political Science Association

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The Academic & Career Advisement Center

What To Do With A Major In....

Political Science



Northern Michigan University



Political Science

If you're intrigued by the study of law, government, public policy, or public administration, a degree in political science may align with your interests. The Department of Political Science at NMU offers majors designed to fit varying needs. Department majors include: Political Science, Public Administration, and Political Science (with prelaw emphasis). A secondary education teaching degree is offered as well, as are minors in Political Science and Public Administration.

A degree in political science will qualify you to work in various levels of government, business, law, or journalism. Of course, your career possibilities depend upon the competencies and skills you acquire through your academic work and extracurricular activities.

Classes such as PS 101 Introduction to Political Science, PS 105 American Government, PS 203 Comparative Government, PS 206 International Relations, and PS 207 History of Political Theory, are very appropriate to take if you'd like to explore the curriculum of the Political Science program.



Potential Careers

NMU's Political Science Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

Occupations

- Administration in Health or Business
- Campaign Manager
- CIA Agent
- City Manager
- FBI Agent
- Foreign Service
- Government Treasury Officer
- Graduate School Law
- Intelligence Specialist
- Journalism
- Labor Relations Specialist
- Media
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Peace Corps/VISTA Volunteer
- Politician
- Public & International Affairs
- Public Policy Maker
- Research Analyst
- Sales/Marketing Representative
- State or Federal Executive Branch Agency
- Teaching
- Underwriter
- University Professor

Additional Considerations

You can gain excellent experience in governmental fields by finding an internship related to your interests. Foreign language experience is required for some of these positions, and would be helpful for others.

A business minor may be helpful, and relevant experience would be beneficial. Some of these positions may require education beyond the bachelor's degree.

Remember to take any necessary exams early, it can take six weeks for results to be sent to the schools to which you applied. Foreign language competency, sometimes in two languages, is required in many graduate programs.

Job Outlook

Starting salaries are contingent upon geographic location and the individual applicants work experience and initiative, and usually range from \$40,000 to \$80,000. Political Scientists should find a very competitive field with only a 5% increase in jobs.