



WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ... **POLITICAL SCIENCE**

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:

“Political Science is the study of politics, power and government, including U.S. and foreign governments, as well as relationships among governments, their actions and policies. Political Science is useful for people seeking careers in law, business, government service, urban planning, education or journalism. It is also a vital part of a liberal arts education” (from the UNM Course Catalog). UNM’s political science department offers three concentrations: international politics, pre-law, and public policy. Students are encouraged to gain related internships that correspond to their appropriate concentration area.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required. However, many employers also require graduate school. For example, they may require a master's degree, and some require a Ph.D., M.D., or J.D. (law degree).

EMPLOYERS/INDUSTRIES & SUGGESTED STRATEGY:

Please ask your Career Advisor (CDF) for identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Government: Public policy – Research – Regional planning – City/town management – Intelligence (e.g., CIA) – Foreign Service (e.g., Department of State) – Law enforcement – Legislative, executive, or judicial services – Program administration

Suggested Strategy: Complete internship or gain related experience in federal, state, or local governmental agency. Acquire foreign language skills for overseas work. Develop skill with computers, statistics, and data analysis. Consider a graduate degree in political science or public administration for advancement.

Law: Law firms – Corporations – Federal, state, and local government – Private practice – Special interest groups - Universities

Suggested Strategy: Seek the pre-law track in the degree. Join pre-law organizations and seek pre-law advising through the College of Arts and Sciences in preparation for applying to law school. Obtain an internship in a law-related area.

Politics: Elected or appointed leadership – Campaign management – Staff administration – Special interest advocacy

Suggested Strategy: Be prepared for extensive volunteering (e.g., on political campaigns) prior to advancement. Gain experience through internships in government. Seek leadership roles on campus and in professional organizations. Develop a network of contacts through experience and informational interviewing.

Nonprofit: Administration – Management – Public Relations – Fundraising – Nonprofit organizations – Foundations – Professional associations – Special interest groups

Suggested Strategy: Gain related experience through internships or jobs. Supplement curriculum with related coursework. Develop strong written, oral communication, and leadership skills. Demonstrate knowledge and experience in a specialty area.

Business: Sales – Human Resources – Management – Advertising – Public Relations

Suggested Strategy: Gain related experience through internships or jobs. Consider a double major or minor in business. Develop strong analytical, verbal, writing, computer, interpersonal, and leadership skills.

Journalism: Editing – Reporting – Circulation – Sales – Newspapers – Wire services – Magazine – Internet – Corporations – Political parties and action committees

Suggested Strategy: Gain experience with newspaper or magazine through internships or jobs. Choose writing intensive coursework and develop a portfolio. Become a student member of a professional organization. Join a publication staff.

Broadcasting: News programming – Production – TV stations – Radio stations – Independent syndications

Suggested Strategy: Complete an internship in radio or TV. Experience in government or political affairs are usually required for specialized reporting positions. Volunteer with public or campus media. Develop strong reporting, writing, and debating skills.

Education: Public schools – Private schools – Colleges and universities

Suggested Strategy: Obtain state teacher certification for public school teaching. Earn a Ph.D. for college teaching or research. Gain experience working with children if interested in K-12 teaching. Gain experience in leadership positions.

INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:

 <http://online.onetcenter.org>



<http://www.bls.gov/oco/>