Political Science

FROM STUDY TO SKILLS

All academic programs offered at the UM help students develop valuable transferable skills. Political science is the systematic study 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. Students in political science will develop a broad range of skills to prepare them for careers in areas such as government, business, and nonprofit organizations.


SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Planning and Development Skills
Making projections
Organizing people/ideas
Thinking logically
Conceptualizing and implementing projects
Decision-making

Research and Quantitative Skills
Developing research designs and models
Programming and systems analysis
Utilizing survey research methods
Developing data
Comparing/contrastings ideas and information

Analytical Skills
Understanding components of complex problems
Interpreting data
Offering relevant perspectives
Synthesizing themes from complex issues

Communication Skills
Presenting ideas and data clearly
Influencing and persuading people/groups
Mediating/negotiating conflicts
Public speaking
Critical listening

BUILDING YOUR SKILLS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Employers seek out individuals who can demonstrate excellent verbal and written communication skills, teamwork and interpersonal skills, initiative, and a strong work ethic. Student organizations and campus employment offer valuable opportunities to add to the skills you are developing in your classes. Other options include study abroad, off-campus employment, or volunteering in the community. Finally, an internship may be the best way of all to test out a career field and develop marketable skills. The Political Science Department sponsors Michigan in Washington DC Program, which offers a fall or winter internship along with coursework. The Career Center’s Public Service Intern Program (PSIP) assists undergraduates in securing summer internships in Washington D.C.
FROM SKILLS TO CAREER

Political Science concentrators develop both general and technical skills applicable to a wide range of careers. For example, research and communication skills may be equally useful whether working as an international lawyer, a political lobbyist, or a freelance journalist.

Many concentrators go on to graduate or professional school. The list below is a sample of careers undertaken by Political Science graduates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planning and Development Skills</th>
<th>Research/Quantitative Skills</th>
<th>Analytical Skills</th>
<th>Communication Skills</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City manager</td>
<td>Staff assistant, political office</td>
<td>International lawyer</td>
<td>Corrections/parole officer</td>
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<td>Urban policy planner</td>
<td>Legislative aide</td>
<td>Environmental lawyer</td>
<td>Publications director</td>
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<td>Public health administrator</td>
<td>Paralegal</td>
<td>Geographer</td>
<td>Lobbyist</td>
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<td>Strategist</td>
<td>Legal investigator</td>
<td>Public opinion analyst</td>
<td>Issues director</td>
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<td>Development director</td>
<td>canvass director</td>
<td>News analyst</td>
<td>Teacher, K-12</td>
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<td>Event coordinator/activity planner</td>
<td>Direct mail specialist</td>
<td>Regulatory analyst</td>
<td>College instructor</td>
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<td>Peace Corps volunteer coordinator</td>
<td>Advertising account manager</td>
<td>Public affairs officer</td>
<td>Press agent</td>
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<td>Systems analyst</td>
<td>Foreign service officer</td>
<td>Editorial assistant</td>
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<td>Multinational marketing research analyst</td>
<td>Public relations specialist</td>
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<td>Public affairs reporter</td>
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For more career information, see O*Net at http://online.onetcenter.org/

CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS

The Department offers courses in Political Theory, Comparative Government and Politics, World Politics, American Government and Politics, Public Policy, and Research Methods. To major in political science, two prerequisites are required. In addition, the concentration requires at least 24 hours in political science, including two advanced senior-level courses, along with two courses in a cognate department.

NEXT STEPS / RESOURCES

Maize Pages list hundreds of organizations for students to get involved in: http://studentorgs.umich.edu/maize

On-campus jobs (work-study and non work-study jobs) are listed at: https://studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx

Volunteer Connection lists volunteer opportunities in local organizations: http://volunteer-connection.umich.edu/

The Career Center
3200 Student Activities Building
734-764-7460
www.careercenter.umich.edu
www.facebook.com/careercenter.umich
http://twitter.com/careercenter

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