



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.

Related fields include Philosophy, Classical Studies, History, Economics, American Culture, Latino/a Studies, Survey Methodology, Statistics, Public Policy, Urban Planning, International Studies, and Russian and Eastern European Studies.

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 /contrasting 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.

Planning and

Development Skills

City manager 

Urban policy planner 

Public health administrator 

Strategist

Development director

Event coordinator / activity planner

Peace Corps volunteer coordinator

Research /Quantitative Skills

Staff assistant, political office

Legislative aide

Paralegal

Legal investigator 

Canvass director

Direct mail specialist

Advertising account manager

Systems analyst 

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

Analytical Skills

International lawyer 

Environmental lawyer  

Geographer  

Public opinion analyst

News analyst

Regulatory analyst

Public affairs officer

Foreign service officer

Multinational marketing

research analyst 

Communication Skills

Corrections /parole officer

Publications director

Lobbyist

Issues director

Teacher, K-12

College instructor 

Press agent

Editorial assistant

Public relations specialist

Public affairs reporter

For more career information, see O*Net at online.onetcenter.org

 = Green Jobs

 = Further Study Required

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.

Department of Political Science

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1255 Angell Hall
734-764-0332
lsa.umich.edu/advising

NEXT STEPS / RESOURCES

To begin connecting to professionals in fields that interest you, create your own LinkedIn account:
careercenter.umich.edu/article/getting-started-linkedin

To identify internships or job opportunities, visit Career Center Connector:
careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3

For more information about PSIP, please visit:
careercenter.umich.edu/article/psip

To learn more about the Michigan in Washington Program, see: lsa.umich.edu/michinwash

The Maize pages list hundreds of organizations for

students to get involved in:

maizepages.umich.edu

On campus jobs (work-study and non work-study jobs) are listed at:

studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx

Connect to Community lists volunteer opportunities in local organizations: connect2community.umich.edu

The Career Center

3200 Student Activities Building
734-764-7460
careercenter.umich.edu
facebook.com/careercenter.umich
twitter.com/careercenter
linkedin.com/company/the-career-center-at-the-university-of-michigan

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