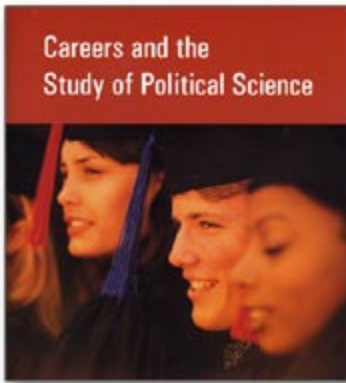


Why Study Political Science at KU?

What is Political Science?

Political science is the study of governments, public policies and political processes, systems, and political behavior. Political science subfields include political theory, political philosophy, political ideology, political economy, policy studies and analysis, comparative politics, international relations, and a host of related fields. Political scientists examine the process, systems, and political dynamics of all countries and regions of the world.

Why Study Political Science?



Are you interested in American politics? International affairs? Critical issues such as health, the environment, civil rights? Do you want to study these subjects and pursue a career based on your interest? If so, you should consider studying political science.

Political science students can gain a versatile set of skills that can be applied in a wide range of exciting careers in federal, state and local governments; law; business; international organizations; nonprofit associations and organizations; campaign management and polling; journalism; education; electoral politics; research and university teaching. Political science majors gain analytical skills, administrative competence and communication abilities that are valued in a wide spectrum of potential career areas.

Useful Skills that a Political Science major helps you to develop (applicable to any job):

Skills of Oral and Written Communication

- Present ideas clearly in writing and orally
- Turn data into useable information
- Argue and debate effectively
- Negotiate and mediate conflicts
- Listen critically.

Skills of Critical Thinking and Qualitative Literacy

- Interpret and analyze data
- Discern good information from bad
- Perform basic quantitative analysis
- Use summary statistics
- Understand the basics of a reliable sample survey
- Employ effectively a variety of research sources, including the Internet
- Use computers with facility
- Design research
- Summarize findings
- Test theories and hypotheses.

Source: American Political Science Association (APSA), www.apsanet.org
-APSA, *Careers and the Study of Political Science: A guide for undergraduates.* (6th edition)

Ability to Integrate Knowledge and Think Creatively

Interpret data
Understand components of complex problems
Synthesize themes from complex issues
Assess policy and propose solutions
Analyze and solve problems systematically and logically.

Planning, Development, and Group Skills

Organize information
Conceptualize problems
Implement strategies
Make effective decisions
Demonstrate leadership.
Work in a team and individually
Develop consensus

Respect Human Diversity and Expand Cultural Understanding and Global Awareness

Interact effectively within a diverse environment.
Think internationally
Think “outside the box”
See problems from a variety of perspectives

Practice Social Responsibility and Demonstrate Ethical Behavior

Enhance social and civic responsibility
Gain an awareness of and sensitivity for their physical and social environment.

Examples of Careers for Political Scientists:

Activist, Advocate/Organizer
Administration, Corporate, Government, Non-Profit, etc.
Ambassador
Archivist, Online Political Data
Budget Examiner or Analyst
Attorney
Banking Analyst or Executive
Campaign Operative, Worker
Career Counselor
CIA Analyst or Agent
City Planner
City Housing Administrator
Congressional Office/Committee Staffer
Congressional Research Service
Coordinator of Federal or State Aid
Communications Director
Consultant, Political
Corporate Analyst
Corporate Public Affairs Advisor

Source: American Political Science Association (APSA), www.apsanet.org
-APSA, *Careers and the Study of Political Science: A guide for undergraduates.* (6th edition)

Corporate Economist
Corporate Manager
Corporate Information Analyst
Corporate Adviser for Gov'tl. Relations
Corporate Executive
Corporation Legislative Issues Manager
County Treasurer
Customs Officer
Editor, Online Political Journal
Education Policy Analyst
Entrepreneur
FBI Agent
Federal Government Analyst
Financial Consultant
Foreign Service Officer
Foundation President
Free-lance writer
High School Government Teacher
Immigration Officer
Information Manager
Intelligence Officer
International Agency Officer
International Research Specialist
Issues Analyst, Corporate Social Policy Div.
Journalist
Juvenile Justice Specialist
Labor Relations Specialist
Legislative Analyst / Coordinator
Lobbyist
Management Analyst
Mediator
Plans and Review Officer, USIA
Policy Analyst
Political Commentator
Political Director
Pollster
Public Affairs Research Analyst
Public Opinion Analyst
Public Relations
Research Analyst
State Legislator
Survey Analyst, Systems Analyst
Teacher, University Professor
University Administrator
Urban Policy Planner
Web Content Editor

Source: American Political Science Association (APSA), www.apsanet.org
-APSA, *Careers and the Study of Political Science: A guide for undergraduates.* (6th edition)