


WHAT CAN I DO WITH A DEPAUL MAJOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE



A degree in Political Science equips students with research and analytical thinking abilities, as well as strong written and verbal communication skills. Below are just a few examples of the many fields or general areas you might consider. However, keep in mind


that Political Science majors have also found success in a much wider variety of professions. To learn more about some of the career options available for DePaul University Political Science alumni, visit ask.depaul.edu!

I CAN GO INTO... AND POSSIBLY WORK FOR... DOING THIS CAN HELP ME GET THERE...

CAREER AREA	POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS	JOB SEARCH STRATEGIES	SAMPLE EMPLOYERS	SAMPLE JOB TITLES
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT				
<p>Political Science majors will gain an in-depth understanding of government operations at various levels, equipping them for a career with state and local government.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City departments • State and local government • Cities and municipalities • Townships • School districts • Departments of state government • Legislative agencies • Court systems 	<p>Sharpen Your Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take courses to learn the history of the area you want to work in and how government functions. • Conduct research, e.g. education, homelessness, etc. that could be useful to your community. • Familiarize yourself with government application processes. <p>Gain Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get involved in civic organizations and events. • Complete an internship in a government agency or office. • Participate in local, state or national campaigns. <p>Pursue a Minor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider a second major or minor to complement your skillset, such as Finance, Accounting, Marketing or Communications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Chicago • City of Woodstock • Illinois Housing and Development Authority • Inspector General's Office, City of Chicago • Better Government Association • Center for Economic Progress • Chicago Council on Global Affairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Service Intern, Mayor's Office, Innovation Delivery Team • Accounting/Finance Intern • Asset Manager • Investigator • Public Policy and Economic Analysis Intern • Community Partnerships Intern • Research and Policy Intern
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT				
<p>Political Science majors develop an understanding of the operations of the Federal Government. Paired with strong communication and writing skills, graduates can pursue careers in this field.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government agencies • Advisory or research organizations • Lobbying organizations • Election commissions • Education, arts and cultural commissions 	<p>Sharpen Your Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write for campus publications focused on national and international affairs. • Develop skills in computers, statistics and data analysis. • Acquire foreign language competency and travel experience for international positions. <p>Gain Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek leadership roles in relevant campus organizations such as model United Nations, student government, and cross-cultural organizations. • Become familiar with the government application processes. • Obtain an internship in a federal agency or department. <p>Build a Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct informational interviews with government employees. • Build a strong personal network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US General Services Administration • Congressional Budget Office • Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Analyst • Private Sector Analyst • Field Agent



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LAW				
<p>Political Science majors develop strong analytical reasoning and writing skills that can help them succeed in law school and associated careers. Students learn to effectively communicate ideas assess difficult problems, work on negotiation and associated careers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private practice • Corporations • Special interest groups • Universities and colleges • Legal aid societies • Nonprofit and public interest organizations, e.g. ACLU, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Legal Services Corporation • Legal clinics • Other private legal services • State's Attorney's Office 	<p>Sharpen Your Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in mock trials or with forensic teams to hone communication skills. • Choose courses or a minor in order to specialize in a particular area of law, e.g. a minor in business for a career in corporate law. • Get involved in pre-law organizations. <p>Gain Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate these skills by participating on a debate team, mock trial or student government. • Find part-time or summer work in a law firm. • Shadow an attorney to learn more about the field and various specialties. <p>Prepare for Law School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internship at a law firm. • Plan to attend law school and earn a law degree. • Maintain a high grade point average and secure strong faculty recommendations. Prepare for the LSAT (Law School Admission Test). • Obtain a specialized certification for paralegal positions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAIR Chicago • Tressler LLP • Quarles & Brady LLP • Drinker Biddle & Reath • Illinois Advocates, LLC • Kirkland & Ellis LLP • The Chicago Bar Foundation (CBF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Rights Law Intern • Office Services Clerk • Real Estate Paralegal • Advocacy Intern • Political Consultant Intern • Civil Rights Law Intern 
POLITICS				
<p>Strong skills in verbal and written communication along with an understanding of government functions equip Political Science majors for careers in all areas of politics.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National, state or local government • Political action committees • Political parties • Campaigns: national, state or local campaigns, as well as campaigns with educational and public interest groups • Lobbying organizations • Large business firms 	<p>Sharpen Your Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue coursework in conflict resolution and multiculturalism. • Participate in student government. • Keep up with current events. <p>Gain Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer for national or local campaigns. • Intern in a government office or advocacy organization. <p>Consider a Minor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify a minor that will complement your skillset like Writing, Rhetoric & Discourse, Peace Justice & Conflict Studies, or Communication & Media. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KJD Strategies • Democratic Municipal Officials • Denis Detzel for Congress • U.S. PIRG • Chicago Votes • ASGK Public Strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political Fundraising Intern • Policy Advocacy and Research Intern • Public Affairs Intern • Campaign Aide • Field Organizer • International Relations & Protocol
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS				
<p>As a Political Science major, you gain multicultural awareness and strong communication skills that enable you to contribute in many areas of international relations, including diplomacy, policy analysis, community development and foreign affairs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intergovernmental agencies, e.g. World Bank, United Nations, etc. • National governments • Non-profit agencies • Religious organizations • Foundations • Policy and research organizations • Private businesses • Contracting and consulting firms 	<p>Sharpen Your Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earn a double major or minor in order to gain additional skills or knowledge, e.g. International Studies, African & Black Diaspora Studies, Latin American & Latino Studies, Business, or Psychology. • Seek cultural experiences on campus. • Research the history and culture of countries or geographic areas of interest and keep up on current events. • Become proficient in at least one foreign language. • Pursue an internship abroad or at an international organization. <p><i>Continued</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Chicago • Chinese American Service League • US Peace Corps • British Embassy • TXT International • US-China Chamber of Commerce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Service Intern, Mayor's Office, International Relations & Protocol • Citizenship & Immigration Service Instructor • Peace Corps Volunteer • Trade & Investment Officer: IT & Creative Media • International Risk Management Specialist <p><i>Continued</i></p>

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		<p>Gain Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spend time studying or working abroad. Make and maintain contacts in foreign countries. • Participate in overseas mission trips or spend a "Semester at Sea." 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solidarity without Borders: International Fellowship • Carnegie Endowment Junior Fellows Program • Program Associate
BUSINESS				
<p>Strong communication and research skills coupled with analytical skills can help Political Science students gain entry-level positions across a wide variety of business functions including sales, human resources, marketing and office administration in for-profit organizations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizations • Retail stores • Hotels • Restaurants • Manufacturers • Insurance companies • Print and electronic media • Consulting firms • Other business corporations 	<p>Sharpen Your Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take coursework with a focus on developing analytical and communication skills. • Become knowledgeable about corporate social responsibility. <p>Gain Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue an internship in a corporate or business setting. • Obtain leadership roles in campus organizations. • Practice networking at Career Center events. • Consider a minor. • Hone computer skills and learn software packages such as databases, spreadsheets and presentations. • Acquire a Business minor or add Business as a double major. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Chicago • Chicago Loop Alliance • The CARA Group • Human Capital Research • Baker Tilly • Changing Worlds • Chicago Council on Global Affairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Service Intern, Business Affairs and Consumer Protection • Marketing Assistant • Recruiter Associate • Analyst • Business Development Account Manager • Development and Program Intern • Economic Research Intern
NON-PROFIT				
<p>Political Science majors can leverage their strong writing and research skills to pursue a career in nonprofit organizations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and national nonprofit agencies • Foundations • Charitable organizations • Trade or professional associations • Special interest groups • Labor unions • Libraries • Museums • Historic sites/historical societies • Research organizations and think tanks • Educational institutions 	<p>Sharpen Your Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take coursework that will help you develop strong communication and research skills. • Supplement curriculum with courses in business, psychology, sociology or social work. <p>Gain Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer or complete an internship at a nonprofit organization. • Get involved with campus and community organizations. <p>Broaden Your Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn how to write grants. • Research the values of organizations to find a good fit with your own values. It is critical that you are knowledgeable about and committed to the work you're going to do. • Investigate term of service or service corps positions as a way to gain entry into the field. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Peace Corps • Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa • Active Transportation Alliance • The Bronx Defenders • Defenders of Wildlife • Heartland Alliance International • Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago & Northwest Indiana 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace Corps Volunteer • Northwest Field Crew Member • Bicycling Ambassador • Criminal Defense Social Worker • Conservation Data Specialist • Job Developer • Strategy and Governance Administrator



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<p>MEDIA</p> <p>Political Science majors can utilize their research capabilities as well as their communication and writing skills to excel in communication fields such as journalism or international reporting, corporate communication and public relations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspapers: national, local or trade • Wire services • Magazines • Blogs and online media outlets • Large corporations • Political parties • Political action committees • Professional publications/ associations • Labor unions • Academic journals • Broadcast media companies including television, radio and the movie industry • Major networks • Public, cable and private television stations • National, state or regional radio networks • Independent radio syndications • Video production companies • Government agencies 	<p>Sharpen Your Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take courses in CDM to learn HTML and other computer programs to prepare for online work. • Pursue courses with significant writing requirements to improve your skills and build a portfolio. <p>Gain Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain an internship or work experience with a newspaper, magazine, radio station or television station. • Develop a professional network and build a professional presence on social media. • Join the campus newspaper, online magazine or other publications. • Become a student member of professional associations. • Obtain experience in and knowledge of a specialty area of interest. Experience in government is usually required for specialized reporting positions. <p>Expand Your Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider a minor or double major in a related area such as Communication & Media, Journalism, or Radio, TV and New Media. • Use various forms of media to keep up on current events and political issues. • Become involved in theater e.g., direct, act or work with a technical crew. • Develop your professional image for television or other visual media positions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic Municipal Officials • McGraw-Hill Higher Education • Media Diversity Institute • Phoenix Tree Publishing Inc. • Rise Interactive • BBC Worldwide Americas • WTTW • CNN • MSNBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications & Policy Messaging Intern • Digital Content Specialist • Marketing and Communication Coordinator • Ecommerce and Digital Publishing Associate • Communications Intern • Public Relations Intern • Digital Ad Sales Intern

