



A guide to career  
options inside the field of:

# POLITICAL SCIENCE

Possible Occupations		Potential Employers		Skills To Develop & How To Gain Experience	
Business	Business Assessment Human Resources International Business Investment Banking Management Political Analysis/Strategic Planning Public Affairs/Public Relations	Consulting companies Financial institutions Insurance companies Major retail firms Manufacturers and wholesalers Nonprofit organizations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider an MBA for brand management, consulting, and research opportunities.</li> <li>Gain experience as a financial officer or treasurer of a campus organization.</li> <li>Get a strategy or business minor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtain experience through part-time jobs and internships.</li> <li>Join student professional associations.</li> <li>Secure leadership roles in campus organizations.</li> <li>Take basic business courses such as accounting, finance and marketing.</li> </ul>
Education	Community Education Corporate training Elementary, Middle, or Secondary Higher Education Teaching in Education Administration	Colleges and universities Libraries Private learning centers Public and private schools School board member		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Become an "expert" in a particular subject.</li> <li>Become skilled in the use of multimedia.</li> <li>Earn a graduate degree to teach in post-secondary institutions.</li> <li>Gain volunteer experience in an education setting.</li> <li>Learn how to develop curriculum and workshops.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtain dual certification/ licensure to teach grades K-12 to increase job opportunities.</li> <li>Work as a teaching assistant on campus.</li> <li>Work as an intern in higher education administration.</li> </ul>
Government & Public Administration	City or Town Management Congressional Research Judicial Services Legislative, Executive, or Program Administration Public Policy White House Advisor	<u><b>Federal Government</b></u> Congressional offices Defense Agencies Foreign Service Intelligence services Library of Congress National Archives and Records Research Institutions/Organizations	<u><b>State and Local Government</b></u> Archives and libraries Arts and humanities councils Municipal archives Museums, parks, and historic sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Become familiar with specialized government hiring procedures.</li> <li>Complete an internship with a government agency.</li> <li>Consider a variety of entry-level positions in all branches of government.</li> <li>Develop foreign language skills and have foreign travel experiences.</li> <li>Gain relevant experience in student government or other related organizations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtain a Civic Engagement minor.</li> <li>Participate in relevant volunteer experience.</li> <li>Participate in local or national campaigns.</li> <li>Plan on obtaining an advanced degree in political science, public administration or public policy.</li> <li>Supplement curriculum with courses in business, communications, economics, history and statistics.</li> </ul>
International Careers	Diplomat Foreign Service Intelligence- CIA, FBI, NSA Peace Corps Volunteer Policy Analyst Strategic Planning	Department of Defense International Monetary Fund International Trade Administration National Security Council United Nations U.S. Embassies U.S. State Department		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Become involved in international clubs or participate in Model United Nations.</li> <li>Do an internship with nonprofit enterprises, international relief organizations, or intergovernmental organizations.</li> <li>Gain foreign language proficiency. Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, and Spanish are highly marketable.</li> <li>Participate in a summer or semester abroad program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preform service in an international setting, such as with the Peace Corps or CARE.</li> <li>Pursue a graduate degree in economic development, comparative government, regional studies, international relations or political analysis.</li> <li>Take additional courses in economics, statistics, calculus, and international trade while doing undergraduate studies.</li> </ul>
Journalism	Broadcast News Programming Production Reporting Print Circulation Editing Reporting	Internet Sites Magazines/Newspapers National, State, and regional radio networks News departments of local, public, and commercial radio/TV stations Political action committees Political Parties Syndicated radio services Wire Services		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Become proficient in desktop publishing and photography.</li> <li>Choose writing intensive coursework.</li> <li>Consider obtaining a minor or double major in communications.</li> <li>Create a portfolio of published writing samples.</li> <li>Find summer or part-time work with a local newspaper/magazine or radio/TV stations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Get involved in theatrical productions (i.e., direct, act, or work with technical crew).</li> <li>Volunteer to announce local or campus sporting events.</li> <li>Volunteer with public TV or radio.</li> </ul>
Law	Judges Law Management Lawyer Paralegal	Corporate legal departments Federal courts Government agencies Law firms Public service agencies		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquire the ability to write and speak effectively to understand legal institutions, values and to think critically.</li> <li>Become skillful in debate and public speaking.</li> <li>Complete special training requirements for paralegal positions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earn a law degree to become an attorney.</li> <li>Obtain summer or part-time work in a law firm.</li> <li>Organize campus events, speakers, or political rallies.</li> </ul>
Non-Profit Organizations	Administration/Management Fund Raising Lobbyist Public Relations Research & Data Analysis	Foundations International organizations Nonprofit organizations	Professional associations Research institutions Special interest groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider supplementing curriculum with relevant course work in anthropology, sociology, or foreign languages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider obtaining a minor in non-profit management or international development</li> <li>Volunteer with various nonprofit organizations of interest.</li> </ul>
Politics, Campaigns & Polling	Campaign Administration/Management Elected or Appointed Leadership Political Polling Public Policy Institutes Special Interest Advocacy	Elected or appointed public officials <i>i.e., legislators, governors, mayors, judges</i> Federal Elections Commission National political party headquarters Political campaigns Public interest/advocacy groups		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be prepared to begin a political career as a volunteer before moving to full-time or paid positions.</li> <li>Gain experience and make contacts through internships with government agencies or public officials.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtain leadership roles in campus organizations.</li> <li>Participate in student government and campus politics.</li> <li>Volunteer to work with public interest groups, political campaigns, political associations, or community service projects.</li> </ul>

## STRATEGIES FOR PLACEMENT IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

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- If majoring in political science but interested in other careers such as psychology, law or business, research the pre-requisites of the area of interest and tailor your program of study to meet curricular and skill needs.
- Gain excellent verbal and written communication skills which are imperative for most careers related to politics or government.
- Become familiar with the government application process for opportunities in federal, state, or local government.
- For careers in politics, be prepared to volunteer extensively before being hired or elected as an employee or official. Begin by working with the campaign or official of choice while in college.
- For careers in international organizations, gain fluency in lesser known languages such as Chinese or Russian, as well as widely spoken languages such as Spanish and French. You may also want to consider a graduate degree after working for a few years or performing services such as with "Peace Corps" or "CARE."

## CAMPUS RESOURCES

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**Alumni Career Website**  
[alumnicareers.byu.edu](http://alumnicareers.byu.edu)

**Political Science Department**  
745 KMBL (801) 422-3423  
[politicalscience.byu.edu](http://politicalscience.byu.edu)

**Pre-Professional Advisement**  
3328 WSC (801) 422-3044  
[ppa.byu.edu](http://ppa.byu.edu)

**University Career Services**  
2410 WSC (801) 422-6535  
[ucs.byu.edu](http://ucs.byu.edu)

## INTERNET RESOURCES

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- **Careers In Government-**  
<http://www.careersingovernment.com>
- **Federal, State and Local Government Jobs-**  
<http://www.govtjobs.gov>
- **Foreign Policy Association-**  
<http://www.fpa.org>
- **International Job Center-**  
<http://www.internationaljobs.org>
- **National Association of School of Public Affairs and Administration-**  
<http://www.naspaa.org>
- **Wetfeet.com guide to Law-**  
<http://www.wetfeet.com/careers-industries/careers/law>



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1041 Joseph F. Smith Building (JFSB)  
801.422.3541  
[liberalarts.byu.edu](http://liberalarts.byu.edu)