

What can I do with a degree in Political Science?

A degree in Political Science can help you launch a career in a wide variety of fields such as civil service, federal/provincial/local government, international agencies such as the United Nations, business, journalism, broadcasting, public relations, policy analysis, market research, interest/lobby groups, law, and education.

A degree in Political Science will develop your critical thinking and problem solving abilities, skills that will help you to accurately assess ideas and construct answers to complex theoretical questions by developing logical arguments based on empirical evidence. These are the skills employers seek in the 21st century economy.

Careers Among Graduates of the Undergraduate Program in Political Science:

- Private sector, Government, Non-profit sector
- Public Administration programs, Management training
- Public relations
- Journalism
- International careers (i.e., United Nations, Non-Governmental Organizations)
- Continue on to Professional or Graduate Studies (Law School, Graduate programs in Political Science)

Resources for Students:

The Student Success Centre <http://success.uwo.ca/>

The Student Success Centre at Western can facilitate the development of career, educational, and life competencies for students and alumni through programs and services that guide successful transitions, foster local and global citizenship, promote leadership opportunities, encourage personal growth, deliver career resources, and ignite active engagement.

They offer job postings, classes and workshops, a drop-in Employment Help and Resource Centre, career and education fairs, employer information sessions, experiential learning opportunities, a resource library, and individual counselling and career assessments.

Working at Western – Employment Opportunities <http://www.uwo.ca/hr/working/staff/index.html>

On **Working at Western** you will find:

- Opportunities for research personnel, undergraduate, and summer students within Political Science
- Staff positions (part-time and full-time)
- Faculty positions (part-time)
- Working at Western opportunities have expanded to include online applications for Limited Duties appointments

Office of Faculty Relations http://www.uwo.ca/facultyrelations/faculty/academic_positions.html

You will find Academic Positions for Full-time, Administrative, Clinical, or Course Authoring opportunities listed by Faculty, including Social Science.



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AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<p><u>GOVERNMENT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Policy Survey Researcher or Pollster Regional Planning City or Town Management Intelligence or Policy Analyst Foreign Service Law Enforcement Legislative, Executive, or Judicial Services Program Administration Parliamentary Researcher Media Analyst 	<p>Federal, provincial, and local governments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete an internship in government or related area Serve in model United Nations Become involved in student government Participate in cross-cultural groups and organizations 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 Supplement curriculum with business courses Earn a graduate degree in political science or public administration Volunteer with the staff of a government official Participate in local or national election campaigns
<p><u>LAW</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law firms Private practice Federal, provincial, & local govt's Corporations Universities Special interest groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop excellent research, writing, analysis, and communication skills Plan to attend law school and earn a law degree Obtain specialized certification for paralegal positions
<p><u>POLITICS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected or appointed leadership Campaign management Staff administration Special interest advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative, executive, or judicial officials Federal, provincial, local governments Political action committees Special interest groups Political parties Campaigns (federal, provincial, local) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer for national or local election campaigns Gain experience through internships in government Obtain leadership roles in campus organizations Seek leadership roles on the regional/national level Become involved in campus political organizations (e.g., student councils, campus publications) Take courses in statistics, computer science, environmental protection, or public policy Develop a network of personal contacts Be prepared to begin a political career as a volunteer before moving to full-time or paid positions
<p><u>NONPROFIT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration Management Public Relations Fund Raising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nonprofit organizations (e.g., charities) Foundations Professional associations Special interest groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain experience through volunteering or internship Supplement curriculum with courses in business, psychology, sociology, or social work Obtain leadership roles in campus organizations Develop strong written and oral communication skills Demonstrate knowledge and experience in a specialty area (e.g., public health, environment, urban issues)

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<u>BUSINESS</u> Sales Human Resources Management Advertising & Public Relations	Product and service organizations Retail stores Hotels, restaurants, manufacturers Financial & Insurance companies Print and electronic media	Develop strong analytical, verbal, writing, and computer skills Acquire a business minor or add business as a double major Gain experience through internships or other employment Obtain leadership roles in campus organizations Demonstrate excellent interpersonal skills
<u>JOURNALISM</u> Editor Reporter Circulation Sales	Newspapers (national, local, trade) Wire services Magazines Internet sites Large corporations Political parties Political action committees	Obtain summer or part-time work experience with a newspaper or magazine Complete an internship in journalism Choose writing intensive coursework Become proficient in desktop publishing and photography Develop excellent verbal and written communication skills Join university newspaper, yearbook or other publication staff Become a student member of professional associations Create a portfolio of published writing samples Obtain experience in and knowledge of a specialty area of interest
<u>BROADCASTING</u> News Programming Production	Television stations (network, cable, or public) Radio stations (regional/national) Independent syndications	Complete an internship in radio or television Experience in government or political affairs is usually required for specialized reporting positions Volunteer with public or campus media Develop strong reporting, writing, and debating skills Cultivate an attractive and appealing appearance Volunteer to announce local or campus sporting events Become involved in drama (i.e., direct, act, or work with technical crew)
<u>EDUCATION</u> Elementary or high school teacher University or college professor Librarian	Public and private schools Colleges and universities	Obtain appropriate provincial teacher certification for public school opportunities Gain certification in more than one subject for greater marketability Earn a Ph.D. for college/university teaching or research positions Volunteer with community or church youth programs to gain experience working with children and adolescents Become involved in student organizations, debate, publications, government, and athletics

¹ Adapted from Career Services at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 1992 and acquired from Social Science Careers

RESOURCES:

Social Science Careers: <http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/careers/>

The Career Centre @ Western: <http://www.career.uwo.ca>

Canadian Politics on the Web: <http://polisci.nelson.com/canpol.html>

Rowh, Mark (2004). Great Jobs for Political Science Majors. Chicago: VGM Career Books.