What to do with a degree in POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political science is the study of conflict and cooperation within societies. In order to make sense of the political world, political scientists investigate concepts such as justice, liberty, representation and democracy.

Key Skills & Knowledge

International political and cultural perspective: Understanding of context and implications of current events.
Public speaking skills: Comfortable debating ideas and influencing people.
Critical and strategic thinking: Multi-disciplinary breadth and depth of knowledge.
Policy analysis: Knowledge of governance (global/national and current events); inclusion of local, provincial and national events simultaneously; understanding of judicial and political realms.
Logistical and critical thinking: Making observations; analyze and synthesize large amounts of data; organized and able to meet deadlines.
Communication skills: Explaining ideas, writing and presenting information articulately and analytically; public speaking; compiling carefully reasoned reports and essays.
Conflict resolution: Influencing and persuading people/groups; aptitude for leadership; mediation and negotiation within conflicts; critical listening and interview abilities.
Problem solving skills: Approaching topics and problems from various perspectives; analyzing multiple dimensions of a problem; identifying problems and developing solutions.
Research skills: Qualitative and quantitative research including data collection; processing information and presenting the findings in a clear and easy to understand format recognizing only the salient facts; application of information for policy development methods.

Sample Job Titles

Aboriginal Liaison
Campaign Worker
Citizenship & Immigration Officer
Civil Servant
Communications Advisor / Officer
Customs Officer / Inspector
Demographer
Development Officer
Diplomat
Editor
Elections Supervisor
Foreign Service Officer
Health & Social Policy Researcher
Human Rights Officer
Immigration & Revenue Officer
Industry Affairs Analyst
Intelligence Analyst
Labour Relations Specialist
Lobbyist
Market Analyst
Member of Parliament
Ministerial Assistant
Policy Advisor / Analyst
Political Commentator or Columnist
Political Scientist
Politician
Public Policy Analyst
Public Opinion Pollster
Public Relations / Affairs Specialist
Publisher
Researcher
Survey Poll Analyst
Teacher / Professor
Trade Development Advisor
Volunteer Coordinator
Youth Programs Officer

Some of these roles may require further training, certification or education. Check out the Alberta Government’s occupational profiles for salary info and more detail: alis.alberta.ca/occinfo

Need help deciding what to do?

Formal Career Assessments like the Strong Interest Inventory and the Myers Briggs Type Indicator can be helpful tools for your career development. Request an assessment via CareerLink
Associations provide an opportunity for continued professional development. Many also offer networking opportunities and other events for their members.

- American Political Science Association: [www.apsanet.org](http://www.apsanet.org)
- Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives: [www.policyalternatives.ca](http://www.policyalternatives.ca)
- Canadian Council for International Cooperation: [www.ccic.ca](http://www.ccic.ca)
- Canadian Global Affairs Institute: [www.cgai.ca](http://www.cgai.ca)
- Canadian Political Science Association: [www.cpsa-acsp.ca](http://www.cpsa-acsp.ca)
- Department Foreign Affairs & International Trade: [www.international.gc.ca](http://www.international.gc.ca)
- European Consortium for Political Research: [www.ecpr.eu](http://www.ecpr.eu)
- International Political Studies Association: [www.ipsa.org](http://www.ipsa.org)
- Institute for Research on Public Policy: [www.irpp.org](http://www.irpp.org)

Potential Industries

- Advertising
- Broadcasting
- Business Administration
- Communications
- Community Groups
- Consulting Firms
- Consumer Services
- Corporate Research & Analysis
- Editing
- Education
- Environmental
- Foreign Affairs
- Government
- Heritage Conservation
- International Agencies
- International Development
- International Trade
- Legislative Affairs
- Lobbying Firms
- Magazines / Newspapers
- Marketing Research
- News Analysis
- Non-profits & NGOs
- Policy Analysis / Research
- Political Office Holders
- Political Organizations
- Political Strategy
- Politics
- Post-Secondary
- Public Health
- Public Policy, Administration & Service
- Public Relations
- Research & Development
- Urban & Regional Planning
- Tourism

Career Services

**YOUR FUTURE STARTS HERE**

- Career Planning
- Job Search Support
- Resume Reviews
- Career Workshops
- Online Job Postings
- Career Fairs
- Networking Events
- Information Sessions & much more!

**Connect with us:**

MacEwan Student Centre, Room 188  
T: 403.220.8020  
E: csstdnt@ucalgary.ca  
CareerLink: [ucalgary.ca/careers](http://ucalgary.ca/careers)

**Job Boards**

- Indeed: [https://ca.indeed.com/](https://ca.indeed.com/)  
- Charity Village: [http://www.charityvillage.com](http://www.charityvillage.com)  
- Eluta.ca: [http://www.eluta.ca](http://www.eluta.ca)  
- CareerLink: [careerlink.ucalgary.ca](http://careerlink.ucalgary.ca)

**Additional Resources**

Career Opportunities in Politics, Government, and Activism by Joan Axelrod-Contrada
Great Jobs for Liberal Arts Majors by Blythe Camenson
Great Jobs for Political Science Majors by Mark Rowh
What to Do with Your History or Political Science Degree by Sarah Dunham and Lisa Vollmer

**Faculty Contact**

Social Sciences 756  
T: 403.220.5920  
E: ewensel@ucalgary.ca  
W: poli.ucalgary.ca  
W: ucalgary.ca/admissions/programs

**Student Clubs**

Political Science Association  
W: suclubs.orgsync.com/org/psa

**Aligned Majors**

Communications, History, International Relations, Sociology