

**Achieving an excellent education is about many things:** becoming a well-educated citizen, gaining knowledge for thoughtful and well-considered decisions, engaging your curiosity, and developing skills that will contribute to the greater good, to name a few. In addition, your education also prepares you to pursue a **wide variety of career paths**.

**Depth of knowledge** generally refers to the information and ways of thinking that are directly related to your academic major. In addition, you have developed an **incredibly versatile set of more general skills:** to think analytically and critically; to view issues in context and from multiple perspectives; to ask and address questions about ethical and societal implications; to pursue research; to engage your creativity; and to communicate complex issues clearly. Thus, **Political Science majors** offer an array of skills which are **highly valued by employers** from all sectors.

**Many Possibilities.** Because your major is not narrowly focused on specific career paths, you have a wide array of professional options. While this kind of career flexibility is definitely good news, it requires you to be more **proactive** in identifying and articulating your skills to potential employers.

**Ready for the Work World.** The top critical skills identified by employers in a recent national survey included:

- Ability to communicate clearly
- Interpersonal / Teamwork skills
- Ability to plan, organize, and prioritize
- Problem-solving / Decision-making abilities
- Ability to find and process information

*You have undoubtedly developed these skills while studying at UW.*

**JOB SKILLS RELATED TO MAJORING IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

*Here are even more career-related skills and strengths that employers value:*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Read/interpret/synthesize complex material                      | Comprehend political & economic implications                      |
| See situations from multiple perspectives                       | Analyze data for patterns, causes, and meaning                    |
| Produce well-balanced, persuasive writing                       | Understand power dynamics, inequality, agency                     |
| Design and implement engaging presentations                     | Identify issues and target them for improvement                   |
| Understand influence of public opinion and media                | Understand influence of social environments                       |
| Incisively observe/analyze effects of politics & policy         | Propose and support recommendations                               |
| Comprehend long-term trajectories                               | Simultaneously see big picture and details                        |
| Conduct thorough, accurate, in-depth research                   | Engage intellectual curiosity                                     |
| Apply mental agility to creative problem-solving                | Bring motivation, imagination, enthusiasm, initiative             |
| Adeptly access vast range of informational resources            | Work well individually and on teams                               |
| Evaluate validity of information and resources                  | Understand & appreciate cultural diversity                        |
| Gather, code, organize, analyze large data sets                 | Understand interplay between governmental & economic institutions |
| Link abstract concepts to practical applications                | Understand how to create consensus                                |
| Understand political/social effects of information technologies | And many more!  |

**EXAMPLES OF JOBS FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJORS**

1. POLITICAL SCIENCE is required/preferred & job duties are directly related to Political Science (Entry-level)
2. POLITICAL SCI/SOCIAL SCIENCE is required/preferred but main job duties not directly related (Entry-level)
3. POL SCI isn't required or preferred but your other transferable skills make you highly qualified (Entry-level)
4. Actual job titles that real UW Political Science graduates have secured
5. "Career Trajectory" positions (Political Sci jobs you might apply for one to several years after graduation)

### **1. Political Science degree is *required/preferred* & primary duties directly relate to your major (Entry Level)**

Foreign Policy Research Assistant (Brookings Institute)  
Intelligence Analyst (National Security Agency)  
Policy Associate (American Association of People with Disabilities)  
Research Assistant (Urban Institute)  
Targeting Analyst (Central Intelligence Agency)  
Health Policy Analyst (Maricopa County)  
Foreign Affairs Officer (U.S. Department Of State)  
Research Associate (GfK)  
Targeting Analyst (CIA's Directorate of Intelligence)  
Planning and Policy Analyst (TAPS Public Transit)  
Policy Analyst and Staff Writer (Alliance for Natural Health)  
Advocacy Associate (Feeding America)  
Political and Research Analyst (New York Hotel and Motel Trades Council, AFL-CIO)  
Program Associate, Savings & Financial Security (Corporation for Enterprise Development)  
Legal Advocate (Part of the Solution, POTS)  
All-Source Analyst/Socio-Cultural Analysts (Strategic Systems Technology, Inc)

### **2. POLITICAL SCIENCE / SOCIAL SCIENCE degree is required/preferred but the job's primary responsibilities aren't directly related to Political Science (Entry-Level)**

Research Assistant/Analyst, Center for Universal Education (Brookings)  
Associate Analyst (Moody's)  
Communications & Outreach Associate (Rescue Social Change Group)  
Advocacy & Outreach Manager (Potomac Conservancy)  
Statistician (U.S. Government – Many)  
Threat Analyst (National Security Agency)  
Social Science Specialist (Department Of Veterans Affairs)  
Survivor Outreach Services Specialist (Department of the Army)  
Employee Assistance Program Coordinator (U.S. Government)  
Production Assistant - Book TV (C-SPAN)  
Market Evaluation Researcher (Hanover Research)  
Delegation Specialist (Partnership HealthPlan of California)  
Survey Research Assistant (23andMe)

### **3. "Career Trajectory" positions (Pol Sci jobs you might apply for one to several years after you graduate)**

Administrative Investigator (Department of Defense)  
Public Affairs Area Manager (Consumers Energy)  
Writer - CNN.com - On Air Presentations (TimeWarner)  
Government Affairs & Environment Specialist (Dart Container)  
Public Affairs Specialist (Association of American Medical Colleges)  
Communications Project Manager (Sound Transit)  
Policy Associate (Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance)  
Ocean Planning Outreach Manager (The Conservation Law Foundation)  
Labor Economist II (AFSCME)  
Specialist, State Compliance (American Specialty Health, Inc)  
Complaint Investigator (City of Oakland)  
Research Analyst (IMPAQ International)

**4. Political Science *isn't required or preferred* but your other transferable skills make you highly qualified (Entry-Level):**

Research Associate (Environmental Law Institute),  
Knowledge Assistant (Children's Law Center)  
Partner Support Coordinator (Kiva Microfunds)  
Financial Advisor (ING Financial Partners)  
Outreach Coordinator (MedBridge Education)  
Marketing Coordinator (Yext)  
Account Coordinator, Employee Benefits (MCM)  
Asst Organizing Director (Work for Progress)  
Junior Project Manager (HealthPath Education)  
Immigration Assistant/Receptionist (Law Firm)  
Executive Team Leader (Target)  
Marketing Assistant (University Enterprises)  
Associate Account Strategist, SMB Sales  
University Graduate (Google)  
Service Coordinator (Choice Program)  
Internet Marketing Specialist (Chair 10 Marketing)  
Investigative Advocate (Disability Rights Washington)  
City Year - Corps Member (City Year Seattle/King County)  
Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator (EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases)  
Patient Services Representative (Seattle Reproductive Medicine)  
Recruitment & Admissions Assistant (Fund for American Studies)  
Assistant Community Outreach Coordinator (Next Step Living)  
*More:* Project Manager, Social Media Campaign Developer, Policy and Advocacy Specialist, FBI/CIA Agent

**5. Real job titles that real UW Political Science majors have secured**

Special Projects/Communications Coordinator	National Account Manager
Recruiter / Recruiting Manager	Senior Analyst
Online Marketing Manager	Congressional Campaign Manager
Senior Marketing Communications Manager	Regional Vice President
Policy Analyst	Patient Service Specialist
Executive Director	Operations Manager
Senior Project Manager	Media Relations Coordinator
Digital Projects Designer	Senior Editor
Writer/Editor	Data Analyst
Legislative Aide	Freelance Reporter
Security Specialist	Human Resources Generalist
Program Manager	Senior Technical Writer
Management Consultant/Senior Consultant	

***These represent just a few examples. The Career Center can help you find positions that meet your goals!***