Potential Careers

NMU’s Political Science Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

Occupations
- Administration in Health or Business
- Campaign Manager
- CIA Agent
- City Manager
- FBI Agent
- Foreign Service
- Government Treasury Officer
- Intelligence Specialist
- Journalist
- Labor Relations Specialist
- Media
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Politician
- Public & International Affairs
- Public Policy Analyst
- Public Policy Maker
- Research Analyst
- Sales/Marketing Representative
- State or Federal Executive Branch Agency
- Underwriter

Additional Resources and Info

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
www.nmu.edu/acac

Department of Political Science
208 Cohodas
906-227-2019
www.nmu.edu/politicalscience

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
Career Services
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:
Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

Model United Nations
nmumun@gmail.com

Internet Resource Links:
www.careers.org
www.careerresource.net

For Career Information with National Organizations:
www.aspanet.org American Political Science Association

Current as of Fall 2015
Provided by:

Academic & Career Advisement Center
**Political Science**

If you're intrigued by the study of law, government, public policy, or public administration, a degree in political science may align with your interests.

If you are interested in state and local government, you would benefit from taking courses in state and local government, public policy, and public administration. Additional courses in state and local finance, budgeting, and intergovernmental relations are recommended to anyone planning to enter this field.

Opportunities for political science majors exist outside of the government fields as well. For example, there are growing international employment opportunities for persons trained in political science because so many social and economic issues require political intervention, in the form of public policies. If you major in political science, you should include some course work in comparative politics, international relations, political development, and interest group politics. The study of a foreign language is also important and could prove essential to career advancement.

**Skills and Competencies**

Like most liberal arts majors, the study of political science will give you the opportunity to master an array of various skills and competencies. Your writing and speaking skills are developed and honed through essays, papers, and oral presentations. Reading is also stressed in courses, and students are expected to be able to interpret, analyze, and evaluate texts. Critical thinking skills are developed, and students learn to formulate new ideas, problem solve, and reason logically.

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**Course Work**

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with liberal studies and graduation requirements.

**Core (18 credits)**
- PS 105 American Government (4 cr.)
- PS 203 Comparative Governments and Politics (4 cr.)
- PS 206 International Relations (4 cr.)
- PS 208 Modern Political Thought (4 cr.)
- PS 490 Senior Seminar (2 cr.)

**Concentrations**

**Option 1: General (20 credits)**
- Political Science Electives
  - 16 credits must be at the 300 level or above

**Option 2: Pre-Law (20 credits)**
- PS 215 Introduction to Law (4 cr.)
- PS 331 Judicial Process (4 cr.)
- PS 332 Administrative Law (4 cr.) or
  - PS 430 American Constitutional Law (4 cr.) or
  - PS 431 Civil Rights and Liberties (4 cr.)
- Additional Political Science courses from bulletin list (8 cr.)

**Option 3: International (20 cr.)**
- 16 credits must be at the 300 level or above
- PS 101 Introduction to Political Science (4 cr.)
- PS 207 Ancient and Medieval Political Thought (4 cr.)
- PS 295 Special Topics in Political Science (1-4 cr.)
- PS 299 Model U.N. (2 cr.)
- PS 312 War and Peace in the 21st Century (4 cr.)
- PS 315 Politics and Film (4 cr.)
- PS 321 Politics in Islamic Nations (4 cr.)
- PS 340 International Organizations (4 cr.)
- PS 402 Political Economy (4 cr.)
- PS 404 Politics of East and Southeast Asia (4 cr.)
- PS 415 Politics of American Foreign Policy (4 cr.)
- PS 491 Internship in Public Policy or Law (2-12 cr.)

**Required Minor (20 cr.)**

Detailed course descriptions can be found at www.nmu.edu/bulletin.

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**Career Development**

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship is a way to develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

**Additional Considerations**

You can gain excellent experience in governmental fields by finding an internship related to your interests. Foreign language experience is required for some of these positions, and would be helpful for others.

A business minor may be helpful, and relevant experience would be beneficial. Some of the positions listed may require education beyond the bachelor's degree.

Remember to take any necessary exams early, it can take six weeks for results to be sent to the schools to which you applied. Foreign language competency, sometimes in two languages, is required in many graduate programs.

**Job Outlook**

Starting salaries are contingent upon geographic location and the individual applicants work experience and initiative, and usually range from $40,000 to $80,000. Political Scientists should find a very competitive field with only a 5% increase in jobs.