“Political Science introduces students to the principal fields of inquiry in political science. This major provides a program of study for students considering careers in a variety of fields, including public service, law, community affairs, international relations and politics.”

Skills, Abilities and Objectives for Political Science Majors:
- Apply statistical methods to qualitative theories
- Address issues for a logical prospective
- Learn mediation and negation skills
- Research and project management skills
- Correlate theory and practice
- Develop critical listening and strong orator skills
- Create and evaluate financial reports and statements
- Conceptualize and implement projects
- Compute and apply data to qualitative arguments
- Examine reports and justify positions
- Grasp and assess components of complex problems
- Influence and persuade others
- Evaluate policies and generate solutions
- Develop strong researcher and program and system analysis
- Synthesize themes from complex issues

Transferring Skills to Careers:
The skills above prepare Political Science majors for a range of professional degrees and career options. The list below does not include all possible professional paths available to students who major in Political Science but gives a sample of careers graduates have chosen to pursue. The analytical and evaluation skills developed by Political Science majors are applicable to positions such as:

- Researcher
- Journalist/Editor/Writer
- Systems Analyst
- Attorney
- Public Relations Representative
- Psychologist
- Lobbyist
- Industrial Analyst
- Professor/Teacher
- Budget Analyst
- Curriculum Planner
- City Manager/Program Director
- Drama/Music/Art Critic
- News Analyst
- Consultant
- Regional/Urban Planner
- Economist
- Actuarial Assistant
- Advertising Executive
- Securities Analyst
- Higher Education Administrator
- Diplomat

Strategies for Professional Development:
- Explore minors such as: African Studies, Human Services, Dispute Resolution, Economics, Gender Studies, Human Rights, Psychology, Public Administration, Security Management and Writing.
- Look for internship/volunteer experiences with various financial and government agencies.
- Develop and emphasize your transferable skills such as:
  - Communication
  - Research
  - Leadership
  - Policy Analysis
- Conduct informational interviews with professionals in fields of interest.
- Get involved in student organizations such as the Debate Team, Law Society, and Model United Nations.
- Create a LinkedIn account to connect with individuals and organizations in fields of interest.
- Consider pursuing a master’s degree in a related career field.

Professional Associations/Organizations:
A professional association is an organization formed to promote and support the development, growth and work efforts of individuals in a particular career field. Membership benefits include networking, continuing education, mentoring programs, meetings/conferences and exclusive access to information regarding career opportunities.

There is often a fee for joining professional organizations; however, most associations offer discounts to students, including graduate school students, recent graduates, and young professionals. All or a portion of associations’ fees are tax deductible. To learn more about professional associations, see the National Trade and Professional Associations Directory, the American Society of Association Executives or the Encyclopedia of Associations: Volume I- National Organizations of the U.S. The latter publication is available in the Reference section of John Jay College’s Lloyd Sealy Library.

- Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management
  http://www.appam.org

- American League of Lobbyists
  http://www.alldc.org

- American Foreign Service Association
  http://www.afsa.org

- National Institute for Research Advancement

Additional Resources:
- O*NET - Government Service Executives
  http://online.onetcenter.org/link/summary/11-1011.01

- Partnership for Public Service - Federal Government Careers
  http://www.ourpublicservice.org/OPS/programs/caltoserve

- The Riley Guide - Jobs in Public Service & Administration

- Foreign Service Careers - U.S. Department of State
  http://www.careers.state.gov

- Making the Difference
  http://www.makingthedifference.org

For more information on this major please visit:
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