

# 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.

## Course Work

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

### Core

PS105	American Government (4 cr.)
PS203	Comparative Governments and Politics (4 cr.)
PS206	International Relations (4 cr.)
PS208	Modern Political Thought (4 cr.)
PS490	Senior Seminar (2 cr.)

### Concentrations (20 cr.)

#### Option 1: General

Political Science Electives

*12 credits must be at the 300 level or above*

#### Option 2: Pre-Law

Required Law Courses

PS215	Introduction to Law (4 cr.)
PS331	Judicial Process (4 cr.)

Choose 8 credits Political Science

#### Option 3: International

*12 credits must be at the 300 level or above*

PS101	Introduction to Political Science (4 cr.)
PS207	Ancient and Medieval Political Thought (4 cr.)
PS295	Special Topics in Political Science (1-4 cr.)
PS299	Model U.N. (2 cr.)
PS312	War and Peace in the 21st Century (4 cr.)
PS315	Politics and Film (4 cr.)
PS321	Politics in Islamic Nations (4 cr.)
PS340	International Organizations (4 cr.)
PS402	Political Economy (4 cr.)
PS403	International Political Economy (4 cr.)
PS404	Politics of East and Southeast Asia (4 cr.)
PS415	Politics of American Foreign Policy (4 cr.)
PS416	Genocide (4 cr.)
PS417	International Law and Human Rights (4 cr.)
PS491	Internship in Public Policy or Law (2-12 cr.)

#### Option 4: Public Administration concentration

Required Public Administration Courses (16 cr.)

PS302	Methods of Public Policy Analysis (4cr.)
PS307	Principles of Public Administration (4 cr.)
PS309	State and Local Government [PERS] (4 cr.)

Choose one course from the following: (4 cr.)

PS200	Introduction to Nonprofit Management (4 cr.)
PS202	Seminar in Public Policy Analysis (4 cr.)
PS341	Social Welfare Policy (4 cr.)
PS402	Political Economy (4 cr.)
PS424	Public Budget Management (4 cr.)
PS428	HRM in Public and Nonprofit Organizations (4 cr.)

PS461	Politics of Healthcare Policy (4 cr.)
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### Required Minor (20 cr.)

Detailed course descriptions can be found at [www.nmu.edu/bulletin](http://www.nmu.edu/bulletin).

## 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 \$60,000 to \$1300,000. Political Scientists should find a very competitive field with only a 9% increase in jobs.

# Potential Careers

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

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 Information

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

Political Science and Public Administration  
Department  
200A Gries Hall  
906-227-2019  
Fax: 906-227-2229  
[www.nmu.edu/politicalscience](http://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](http://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](http://www.nmu.edu/cse)

Model United Nations  
[nmumun@gmail.com](mailto:nmumun@gmail.com)

Internet Resource Links:  
[www.careers.org](http://www.careers.org)  
[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

For Career Information with National Organizations:  
[www.aspanet.org](http://www.aspanet.org) American Political Science Association



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY**

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

The Academic & Career Advisement Center  
2022



What to do with  
a major in...

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