

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

16 credits must be at the 300 level or above

Option 2: Pre-Law

See Pre-Law Brochure

Option 3: International

16 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.)
PS404	Politics of East and Southeast Asia (4 cr.)
PS415	Politics of American Foreign Policy (4 cr.)
PS491	Internship in Public Policy or Law (2-12 cr.)

Option 4: Public Administration concentration

Required Public Administration Courses (16 cr.)

PS202	Seminar in Public Policy Analysis (4cr.)
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.)
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.)

Required Minor (20 cr.)

Detailed course descriptions can be found at 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 \$40,000 to \$80,000. Political Scientists should find a very competitive field with only a 5% 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

Political Science and Public Administration
Department
200A Gries Hall
906-227-2220
Fax: 906-227-2229
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.bls.gov

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



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY**

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

The Academic & Career Advisement Center
2021



What to do with
a major in...

Political Science

