

Politics

Transferable Skills

A liberal arts degree in general, reflects a comprehensive education emphasizing analytical skills, critical thinking and communication skills; abilities in high demand for all employers. Concentrating your studies in a major allows you to also gain specific transferable skills of interest to particular employers and industries.

Graduates with a major in Politics are attractive to employers due to their abilities in the following areas:

- Ability to conduct research
- Ability to read critically
- Ability to do statistical analysis
- Ability to think analytically
- Ability to take initiative and be self-starting
- Adaptability/flexibility
- Computer literacy
- Grasp of political processes at multiple levels
- Open mindedness
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Strong intercultural understanding
- Strong organizational skills
- Strong written & verbal communication skills
- Grasp of linkages among politics, economics, history and culture

Specific Knowledge Skills

- Understanding of the origin, development and operation of political institutions and processes
- Knowledge of the factors that influence and change public debates
- Ability to critically evaluate the arguments of others and to present arguments about political phenomena
- Understanding of the interrelationships of politics, and various dimensions of human experience including culture, environment, economics, and history
- Understanding policies and strategies by which competing interests and political institutions influence resource allocation
- Exploring and comparing diverse international viewpoints on social, cultural and political issues
- Familiarity with the policy-making process and the relevance of legislation

Information-Gathering and Communication Skills

- The skills required to identify and access a wide range of relevant information and resources
- The ability to compile and organize facts and information and to comprehend and apply new and/or unfamiliar information to different situations and settings
- Skills in preparing interesting, creative and informative presentations which target diverse audiences
- The ability to develop effective reports, presentations and materials using current technology
- Thinking, Planning and Organizational Skills
- The ability to learn, understand and interpret information and apply knowledge to new situation
- The ability to set priorities, meet deadlines and effectively plan/manage time, data and resources
- Problem-solving skills and the ability to make well-reasoned decisions, think creatively and search for, identify and consider all sides of an issue
- Skills to effectively analyze and interpret a wide range of information and data to discuss, support and/or reject ideas, opinions, reports, theories and proposals
- Teamwork and Management Skills
- Skills enabling you to work effectively as part of a team by identifying your role and contributing, through leading, teaching, motivating and/or encouraging others, to the success of the team
- An understanding of how to successfully identify, plan and contribute to the goals of a project
- The ability to oversee, supervise and/or contribute to a project from beginning to end including determining outcomes, planning details, making decisions, assigning roles and completing tasks

Range of Example Positions held by Politics Majors

Please note that some of these positions require an advanced degree. For more information and descriptions of these careers, visit [O*NET On-line](#).

- Activist, Advocate, /Organizer
- Administration, Corporate, Government, Non-Profit, etc.
- Archivist, Online Political Data
- Attorney
- Banking Analyst or Executive
- Budget Examiner or Analyst
- Broadcaster/Announcer
- Campaign/Elections Officer
- Career Counselor
- CIA Analyst or Agent
- City Housing Administrator
- City Planner
- Communications Director
- Community Agency Officer/Worker
- Congressional Office/Committee Staffer
- Consumer Advocate
- Coordinator of Federal of State Aid
- Corporate Adviser for Governmental Relations
- Corporate Analyst
- Corporate Economist
- Corporate Executive
- Corporate Manager
- Corporate Public Affairs Advisor
- Corporate Trainer
- Corporations Legislative Issues Manager
- Diplomat/Embassy Officer
- Editor, Online Political Journal
- Education Program Coordinator
- Event Planner
- Executive Assistant
- Federal Government Analyst
- Financial Consultant
- Foreign Service Officer
- Foundation President
- Fundraiser/Institutional Development Officer
- Free-lance writer
- High School Government Teacher
- Human Resources Professional
- Human Rights Worker
- Immigration Officer
- Information Manager
- Intelligence Officer
- International Aid or Relief Worker
- International Research Specialist
- Issues Analyst, Corporate Social Policy Div.
- Journalist
- Juvenile Justice Specialist
- Labor Organizer/Relations Specialist
- Law Enforcement
- Lawyer
- Legislative Analyst / Coordinator
- Librarian
- Lobbyist / Activist
- Management Analyst
- Market Researcher / Analyst
- Media Analyst / Researcher
- Mediator
- Plans and Review Officer, USIA
- Policy Analyst
- Political Correspondent / Commentator
- Pollster
- Public Affairs Research Analyst
- Public Opinion Analyst
- Public Relations Professional
- Publisher
- Research Analyst
- Sales Manager
- Speech Writer / Media Advisor
- State Legislator
- Strategic Planner
- Survey Analyst
- Systems Analyst
- Teacher
- Technical Writer
- University Administrator
- University Professor
- Urban Policy Planner
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Web Content Editor

For more career options and job descriptions, visit the following sites:

Career Cruising - www.careercruising.com

National Occupational Classification - www.hrsdc.gc.ca/noc

Potential Employers

- Community Service and other Non-Profits
- Consulting Firms
- Corporations
- Educational Institutions
- Embassies/Consulates
- Government-Local, State, Federal
- International Development Organizations
- Law Enforcement Agencies
- Lobbying Firms/Municipalities
- Marketing Research Firms
- Media Organizations
- Political Parties
- Polling Organizations
- Public Opinion Researchers
- Public Relations Organizations
- Research Firms
- Statistics Canada/Polling Organizations
- Think Tank

Professional Associations

Professional associations or organizations can be a great way to meet, learn from and network with professionals in your field of interest. Inexpensive student memberships are often available. These are only a sampling of professional associations. Be sure to search for others that may be applicable or helpful.

- [American Political Science Association](#)
- [Access to Justice Network](#)
- [Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management](#)
- [Canadian Policy Research Networks](#)
- [International Political Science Association](#)
- [National Council of Local Administrators](#)
- [The Council of State Governments](#)