

MAJOR TO CAREER GUIDE

Political Science

College of Liberal Arts

Mission of the College of Liberal Arts

The College of Liberal Arts offers a rich variety of courses, majors and interdisciplinary programs in the humanities and the social sciences. Being well educated involves developing an array of intellectual skills, having the ability to use a variety of methodologies to understand our changing world, and having a broad base of diverse knowledge. Our courses and degree programs are designed to provide such a foundation and to create life-long learners who can adapt to the inevitably changing environments they will encounter.

Visit this site for more information:
<http://www.unlv.edu/liberalarts>

About the Political Science Major

The B.A. degree in Political Science at UNLV provides students with a strong foundation to pursue careers in many different fields, including public policy analysis, public services, teaching, research, and the legal profession. The department provides internship opportunities for undergraduate students in both the public and private sectors, as well as the opportunity to work with faculty on research projects and participate in national policy conferences. Graduates from the B.A. program have been admitted to highly selective graduate programs.

Organizations Hiring Political Science Majors

- Corporations of all sizes and industries
- Educational Institutions (e.g., Colleges & Universities)
- Federal, state and local governmental agencies
- Law firms
- Non-profit agencies

UNLV Academic Advising for Political Science Majors

Academic Advisors meet with students about their academic goals and assist in constructing a plan for graduation. Advisors can also help students understand how their experiences at UNLV can lead to a career in their desired field.

College of Liberal Arts Wilson Advising Center
Phone: 702-895-1997
Campus Location: WRI B131
<http://liberalarts.unlv.edu/WAC/>

Political Science Career Options

- Archivist
- Campaign Worker
- Chamber of Commerce /City Manager
- CIA/FBI Agent
- Consular Officer, Diplomat
- Correspondent
- Court Administrator
- Customs Inspector
- Demographer
- Educator
- Foreign Service Officer
- Geographer
- Government Worker
- Import-Export Officer
- Intelligence Officer
- Judge, Lawyer
- Labor Relations
- Legislative Advocate, Lobbyist
- Marine Policy Expert
- Military Officer
- News Reporter
- Paralegal Assistant
- Penologist/Parole Officer/Police Officer
- Probation Officer
- Political Consultant or Scientist
- Politician
- Professor
- Public Relations Representative
- Regional Planner
- Tax Assessor, Title Examiner
- Urban Planner

Honor Society in Political Science

Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, is the only honor society for college and university students of government in the U.S.

Pi Sigma Alpha:

http://liberalarts.unlv.edu/Political_Science/Links.htm

Phi Alpha Delta is the only Pre-Law, co-ed Fraternity on campus.

Phi Alpha Delta: <http://padprelawlv.webs.com>

Professional Association in Political Science

American Political Science Association:

www.apsanet.org

Graduate Programs in Political Science

The Political Science Department offers a general Master of Arts degree where students tailor their program with the assistance of the department's graduate coordinator. The Department also offers a Ph.D. with major concentrations in comparative politics and international relations and minor concentrations in American politics, comparative politics, international relations, and political theory.

www.liberalarts.unlv.edu/Political_Science/

Also visit the UNLV Graduate College website at:

<http://graduatecollege.unlv.edu>

Helpful Career Information

Employers rate candidate soft skills/qualities in order of importance

- 1 Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization
- 2 Ability to work in a team structure
- 3 Ability to make decisions and solve problems
- 4 Ability to plan, organize and prioritize work
- 5 Ability to obtain and process information
- 6 Ability to analyze quantitative data
- 7 Technical knowledge related to the job
- 8 Proficiency with computer software programs
- 9 Ability to create and/or edit written reports
- 10 Ability to sell or influence others

Source: Job Outlook 2013

Courtesy of the National Association of Colleges and Employers

Visit the Career Occupational Handbook to learn more about a specific occupation:

<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

The OCH covers hundreds of occupations and describes: What They Do, Work Environment, How to Become One, Pay, and more. Each profile also includes BLS employment projections for the 2010–20 decade.

Career Exploration/Planning

FOCUS 2: UNLV's computerized assessment that profiles your interests, abilities, and values and helps you find a career that's right for you.

<http://hire.unlv.edu/careerAssessment.html>

Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI): Assessment designed to identify how you are energized, how you take in information, how you make decisions, and how you approach life.

<http://hire.unlv.edu/careerAssessmentMBTI.html>

Strong Interest Inventory: Generates an in-depth assessment of your interests among a broad range of occupations, work and leisure activities, and educational subjects.

<http://hire.unlv.edu/careerAssessmentStrong.html>

UNLV Career Services

Career Services encourages ALL UNLV students to take advantage of their services, which include:

- Assistance with developing a career plan and choosing a major
- Career counseling and guidance on building a RESUME
- Preparing for an interview, assistance with job searching and networking.

Phone: 702-895-3495

Campus Location: SSC-A 2nd Floor

<http://hire.unlv.edu/>

MEDIAN SALARIES BY DISCIPLINE 2010-2012

Career	Salary Range	Median Salary
Archivist	\$24,480 - \$80,550	\$42,500
Legal Assistants/Paralegals	\$29,460 - \$74,870	\$46,580
Legislator	\$15,790 - \$84,320	\$19,260
Political Consultant/Scientist	\$48,720 - \$155,490	\$107,420
Public Relations Representative	\$49,720 - \$166,400	\$91,810
Urban & Regional Planner	\$40,410 - \$96,420	\$63,040

Salary range can depend on level of education

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition*, <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Internship Opportunities

UNLV CareerLink is a free, online recruiting system that helps students, alumni, and employers connect in a variety of ways.

Students can use CareerLink to search for: job and internship listings, on-campus recruiting interviews, employers information sessions, resume book database, and dates for career fairs.

<http://hire.unlv.edu/careerlink.html>

Political Science majors can also visit:

http://liberalarts.unlv.edu/Political_Science/Internships.htm

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