

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR IN

POLITICAL SCIENCE

OVERVIEW OF MAJOR

At the undergraduate level Concordia University's Department of Political Science offers a BA Major in Political Science, a BA Honours in Political Science, a Minor in Political Science and a Minor in Human Rights Studies. At the graduate level, it offers a Doctor of/Doctorate in Philosophy (Political Science) and a Master of/Magisteriate in Arts Public Policy and Public Administration (MPPPA). For the latest information on programs, go to the Department's website at <http://politicalscience.concordia.ca>. Political Science offers a wide spectrum of career opportunities in both public and private sectors. Those with only a bachelor's degree commonly begin their careers in occupations less directly related to their major. Many pursue a master's or doctoral degree in order to increase their career options.

**EXAMPLES OF JOBS ACQUIRED BY
CONCORDIA GRADUATES**

The following job titles are representative of the types of entry-level positions for which Concordia University students are qualified upon graduation. Note that the numbers following each job title refer to Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC) code. For details on these titles go to <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/>.

- Administrative Assistant (1411)
- Advocacy Program Coordinator (4168, 4164)
- Assistant Consultant (4164)
- Communications Officer (5124)
- Contractual Researcher (4164, 4163)
- Editorial Assistant (1452)
- Educational Tour Guide (6441)
- Grant Writing Specialist (5121)
- Guide Interpreter (5125)
- Intelligence Analyst (0643)
- International Development Agency Intern (4163)
- Policy Analyst (4164, 4166)
- Policy Consultant (4164)
- Policy Intern (0412)
- Political Advisor
- Political Coordinator
- Program Planner (4164)
- Public Affairs Assistant (5124)
- Public Policy Analyst (4162)
- Public Relations Professional (5124)
- Youth International Program Intern (4163)

CELEBRATED POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJORS

Condoleezza Rice. Former United States Secretary of State

Aphrodite Salas. Concordia Alumnus. Senior Anchor, Global Quebec

Kim Campbell. Canadian. First Woman and 19th Prime Minister of Canada.

Guy Laforest. Canadian. Université Laval author of title, Will Quebec Secede?

Rand Dyck. Canadian. Author 8 textbooks, including the title, Canadian Politics

Herbert Alexander Simon. Father of Artificial Intelligence & Nobel Prize Winner

Arend d'Engremont Lijphart. World Renown & Leading Authority on Consociationalism

MORE JOB TITLES

Principle occupations undertaken by Political Science majors include lawyer, teacher, writer, editor, analyst, researcher and government manager/administrator. A large percent of others enter fields related to management and administration in the private sector. The titles below are not meant to be exhaustive but are representative of fields which political science majors pursue. Keep in mind that some occupations require further education (e.g., a higher degree, second degree, diploma). Note that the numbers following each job title refer to Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC) code. For details on these titles go to <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/>.

- Assistant Deputy Minister (0012)
- Cabinet Minister (0011)
- Campaign Manager (0611)
- Campaign Staffer (1122, 5124)
- City Counsellor (0011)
- City Manager/Administrator (0012)
- College Teacher (4131)
- Community Relations Director (0611)
- Deputy Clerk of the House of Commons (0414)
- Deputy Minister (0012)
- Development Director (0411, 0412, 0413, 0112)
- Diplomat (4168)
- Director of Public Policy (0412)
- Director of Volunteer Services (0314)
- Entrepreneur (0621)
- Environmental Policy Analyst (4161)
- Executive Assistant (1222)
- Foreign Correspondent (5123)
- Foreign Service Officer (4168)
- Government Intelligence Analyst (0643)
- Government Program Agent (0413, 4164)
- Health Policy Researcher (4165)
- House of Commons Officer (4168)
- International Development Agent (4164)
- International Relations Director (0414)
- International Trade Economist (4162)
- Journalist (5123)
- Labor Organizer (1121)
- Librarian (5111)
- Lobbyist (4164, 4163, 4161)
- Management Analyst (1122)
- Management Trainee (0621, 0122)
- Marketing Director (0611)
- Media Analyst
- Member of Parliament (0011)
- Ministerial Assistant (1222)
- Non-profit Manager (0114)
- Political Analyst (5123)
- Political Columnist (5123)
- Political Commentator (5123)
- Political Pollster (4164)
- Political Reporter (5123)
- Political Scientist (4169)
- Program Director (0411, 0412, 0413)
- Public Opinion Interviewer (1213)
- Public Recreation Director (0513)
- Regional Development Agent (4163)
- Reporter (5123)
- Retail Manager (0611)
- Senior Policy Advisor (4164)
- Strategic Planning and Policy Officer (4164)
- Survey Poll Analyst (0123)
- University Professor (4142)

POTENTIAL WORK SETTINGS

Political Science prepares students to work in a relatively broad array of work settings in both the public and private sectors. Those with a bachelor's degree generally work in the for-profit sector. Many graduates work for government bodies, educational institutions, social organizations and public affairs departments of private firms. To research specific employers who hire those in the field, there are many resources available in such locations as the Career Resource Centre, the Webster Library, Vanier Library and the Internet. Aircraft and Instrument

- Canadian Relief Agencies
- Community Service Agencies
- Consular Offices
- Consulting Firms
- Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS)
- Federal Government Bodies
- Financial Institutions
- Human Rights Organizations
- Insurance Companies
- Interest Groups
- International Organizations
- Investment Companies
- Labor Unions
- Law Enforcement Agencies
- Libraries
- Military
- Municipal Government
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- Newspapers/ Magazines
- Non Governmental Organizations
- Non-profit Organizations
- Parliament Hill
- Pharmaceuticals
- Political Parties
- Politics
- Polling Organizations
- Private Consulting Firms
- Provincial Government Bodies
- Publishers
- Radio Stations
- Research Institutes
- Television Stations

- United Nations
- Universities & Colleges
- World Bank

SKILLS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The skills developed during the course of your studies in political science are highly sought after by employers; they include critical thinking, problem solving, research, communication, organization, analytical thinking and the ability to catch on quickly. They also include the ability to work with statistics, computers and data analysis. In addition, students will find the following skills, interests, values and other characteristics valuable for succeeding in the field.

- Ability to Influence Others
- Ability to Interpret Social, Economic and Political Data
- Ability to Work Independently
- Competitiveness
- Coordination Abilities
- Creative Analysis of Issues
- Decision Making
- Focus on Details
- Intellectual Skills
- Interpersonal Skills
- Leadership Skills
- Negotiation Skills
- Objectivity
- Perseverance
- Public Interaction Abilities
- Read Critically
- Responsibility
- Self-motivated
- Sensitivity to Community Needs
- Speaking Skills
- Teamwork
- Time Management Ability
- Understanding of Community Needs
- Value Social Service
- Writing Skills

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION AND OTHER LINKS

Making wise career decisions requires exploring your field. A multitude of Internet sites and other resources will help you do this to the best of your ability. Professional association sites, in particular, are very useful for their career descriptions and job hunting tips. Moreover, these authoritative sites frequently provide links to Internet sites which announce job openings and list potential employers. A few recommended sites are included below.

CANADIAN

Canadian Civil Liberties Association

<http://www.ccla.org>

For those interested in issues related to fundamental civil liberties and human rights, provides extensive links to similar organizations which might offer internships and other means of learning more about human rights careers.

Canadian Political Science Association

<http://www.cpsa-acsp.ca/>

Click on Careers to learn about careers in political science, investigate career postings and learn about internships.

Canadian Politics on the Web

<http://www.nelson.com/common/polisci/canpol.html>

Provides good links to Interest Groups, Political Parties and much more. Try also Canadian Foreign Policy and National Defense for links to sites dealing with international affairs and national defense.

Fonction Publique du Québec

<http://www.tresor.gouv.qc.ca/>

Offers details on applying for public service jobs with the Quebec government. Click on Emplois au gouvernement under Liens Rapides.

Jurist Canada - The Legal Education Network

<http://jurist.law.utoronto.ca/index.htm>

Click on Studying Law for a list of links to Canadian Law Schools, information on law school rankings, Canadian Law School News and Canadian Law School Admission.

Société Québécoise de science politique

<http://www.sqsp.uqam.ca>

Promotes research and teaching. Investigate under À Propos , the Colloque de la recherche étudiante to see whether you might be interested in participating in this research program to enhance your job hunting portfolio.

INTERNATIONAL

American Political Science Association

<http://www.apsanet.org/>

A leading professional association in the field. Provides opportunities for student members to serve the Association, search job openings, network with potential employers, find funding and enhance their resumes.

American Association of Political Consultants

<http://www.theaapc.org/>

Click Resources for links to related organizations.

American Society for Public Administration

<http://www.aspanet.org/public/>

Provides a national conference, networking opportunities, continuing education and help for students seeking jobs. Try searching job openings here.

International Political Science Association

<http://www.ipsa.org>

Aims to promote collaboration among scholars worldwide.

CREATE YOUR AMAZING CAREER – CAREER RESOURCE CENTRE TITLES

For those who need more help with their career and educational planning, the Career Resource Centre (CRC) offers books, pamphlets, DVDs and recommended Internet sites. It is located in the Hall Building, H-440, at 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West. The following titles are just a few of the titles available in the CRC.

- Ambassador Assignments: Canadian Diplomats Reflect on Our
- Place in the World
- Big Guide to Living and Working Overseas
- Careers and the Study of Political Science
- Careers for Patriotic Types & Others Who Want to Serve Their Country
- Careers for Political Scientists /Les Possibilités de carrière des politologues
- Careers in Government Panel Discussion - DVD
- Careers in Political Science Panel Discussion – DVD
- Careers in International Affairs
- Folles de la politique! Les filles et les carrières
- Great Jobs for Political Science Majors
- Jobs That Matter: Find a Stable, Fulfilling Career in Public Service
- Mediation Career Guide

CON'T. – CREATE YOUR AMAZING CAREER CAREER RESROUCE CENTRE TITLES

- Notes from Canada's Young Activists: A Generation Stands Up for Change
- NGO and International Careers Panel Discussion
- Opportunities in Government Careers
- Québec – La Fonction Publique (Métiers en direct)
- So You Want to Be a Lawyer, Eh?
- So You Want to Be a Politician
- Transitioning to the Nonprofit Sector
- 24 Hours With 24 Lawyers