

POLITICAL SCIENCE

What can I do with a major in political science?

Political science majors should graduate with a solid understanding of political theories and systems, as well as strong critical thinking, analytical, and communication skills. Although a political science degree does not necessarily lead to any one career, these skills are excellent preparation for success in many fields. Political science is a popular major for students who plan to go on to law school. Political science majors may also go on to work in public policy, non-profits, government agencies, or in business. Of course, some political science majors will decide to work directly in politics, whether as lobbyists, advisors, campaign managers, fundraisers, or by running for office themselves.

Common concentrations within the political science undergraduate major include:

- American government
- Comparative politics
- International relations
- International security
- Law
- Public policy
- Political economy
- Political theory

At some universities, these may also be separate majors.

How can I prepare at Seattle Central for a major in political science?

Students planning to major in political science at a baccalaureate institution usually take courses in **political science, as well as general education requirements**, to prepare to transfer. Some universities may require coursework in **history, international relations, economics, statistics, calculus, or computer science**. Specific requirements can vary considerably depending on the transfer university, so it is strongly recommended that students work with an advisor at Seattle Central as well as advisors at the universities where they are considering transferring to ensure they take the appropriate classes to be prepared to enter the major when they transfer.

Students planning to major in political science should consider earning the Associate of Arts – DTA degree to prepare to transfer. Advisors can help students look at prerequisite requirements and choose the degree that will work best for them.

Consider an emphasis to your associate degree before you transfer, such as Global Studies, Global Health or Equity and Social Justice. This can enhance your resume, personal experience and be something you put into your personal statement. You may even already have completed it without knowing it! For questions on how to plan your emphasis, please contact your advisor.

Tips for Success as a Political Science Major

- Some political science undergraduate programs will require statistics; a few require calculus. If your math skills are weak or it has been some time since you took math, do not put off getting started! Depending on your placement scores, you may need to take math for several quarters before you are ready to start statistics or calculus.
- Check prerequisites, admission requirements, and GPA requirements at your intended transfer university early so you can be well-prepared to transfer.
- Most universities offer a political science major, but the concentrations they offer vary. If you want to study comparative politics or international security, for instance, make sure your intended transfer university offers that focus.
- Check both university *admission* and *graduation* requirements at your preferred transfer university as a guide to choosing your classes. Some universities, for example, may require a year of foreign language as a graduation requirement. It may be much easier (and cheaper!) to meet that requirement at Seattle Central rather than waiting until later.

Where can I earn a bachelor's degree in political science in Washington?

Many universities offer political science as an undergraduate major. You can use the College Navigator search engine found at <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/> to find political science programs in Washington State or around the country.

Next Steps:

- Research the universities you are interested in attending and the prerequisite classes they require for your major.
- Meet with an advisor to choose a transfer degree, discuss prerequisites, and plan what classes you need to take in the next quarter or two.
- Explore the professional organizations in your area of interest for more information about education and career options.