

Job Opportunities in Political Science

Political science graduates do well on the job market, with a degree that has the needed flexibility and skills for a rapidly and ever-changing economy. Below we have included key information and data from the **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Job Outlook Handbook**, focusing on some of the specific job opportunities for Political Science majors.

Average job growth in the United States is calculated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to be about 10 percent over 10 years. So the data below provide expected job growth in 2022—8 years from now. In some cases, job growth is well over 10 percent, and a few are under 10 percent. The key point is that overall political science emerges as an excellent major from an employability standpoint.

Political Scientist

- Political scientists study the origin, development, and operation of political systems. They research political ideas and analyze governments, policies, political trends, and related issues. Political Scientists are employed by private companies, and at all levels of government, including international relations.
- Overall expected growth, 2012-2022: 21 percent
 - Professional, scientific and technical services, 52%
 - Education, 30%
 - Interest groups, nonprofits, labor, business and other groups, 33%
 - Federal government, 4%
 - State and local government, 24%
 - Consulting, 52%
 - Social science research, 37%
- Entry level education: Bachelor's or Master's degree
- Median pay, 2012: \$102,000

Lawyer

- Lawyers advise and represent individuals, businesses, and government agencies on legal issues and disputes. Lawyers are employed by individuals, corporations, unions, and groups, at all levels of government, and may work internationally.
- Overall expected growth, 2012-2022: 10 percent
 - Professional, scientific and technical services, 41%
 - Interest groups, nonprofits, labor, business and other groups, 14%
 - Federal government, -4%
 - State and local government, 4%
 - Consulting, 40%
 - Social science research, 14%
 - Legal fields with average/above-average growth outlook:
 - Mining, natural gas, oil, 15%
 - Construction, 28%
 - Education, 15%

- Retail, 14%
- Software publishing, 25%
- Securities & commodities, 24%
- Data information services, 14%
- Insurance agencies, 19%
- Real estate, 12%
- Funds & trusts, 25%
- Health & social assistance, 28%
- Arts, entertainment, recreation, 12%
- Entry level education: J.D.
- Median pay, 2012: \$113,530

Lobbyist

- Lobbying work can be very broad. The Bureau of Labor Statistics categorizes lobbyists as Public Relations Specialists. However, many lobbyists can also be considered market research analysts, public relations managers, and market research managers.
- *Public relations specialists* create and maintain a favorable public image for the organization they represent. They design media releases to shape public perception of their organization and to increase awareness of its work and goals. In the field of Political Science, many public relations specialists work as lobbyists.
 - Overall expected growth, 2012-2022: 12 percent
 - Professional, scientific and technical services, 14%
 - Interest groups, nonprofits, labor, business and other groups, 15%
 - Federal government, -12%
 - State and local government, 5%
 - Consulting, 41%
 - Social science research, 14%
 - Public relations fields with average/above-average growth outlook:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining, natural gas, oil, 16% • Construction, 23% • Education, 17% • Retail, 9% • Software publishing, 25% • Securities & commodities, 24% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insurance agencies, 19% • Real estate, 12% • Funds & trusts, 26% • Health & social assistance, 25% • Arts, entertainment & recreation, 11%
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 - Entry level education: Bachelor's degree
 - Median pay, 2012: \$54,170
- *Market research analysts* study market conditions to examine potential sales of a product or service. They help companies understand what products people want, who will buy them, and at what price. In the field of Political Science, many market research analysts work for state, county, and local governments, or for lobbying firms.
 - Overall expected growth, 2012-2022: 32 percent
 - Professional, scientific and technical services, 51%

- Interest groups, nonprofits, labor, business and other groups, 32%
- Federal government, 2%
- State and local government, 20%
- Consulting, 62%
- Social science research, 32%
- Market research fields with average/above-average growth outlook:
 - Mining, natural gas, oil, 36%
 - Construction, 51%
 - Education, 36%
 - Retail, 28%
 - Software publishing, 43%
 - Securities & commodities, 44%
 - Insurance agencies & brokerages, 34%
 - Real estate, 29%
 - Funds & trusts, 43%
 - Health & social assistance, 52%
 - Arts, entertainment & recreation, 27%
- Entry level education: Bachelor's degree
- Median pay, 2012: \$60,300

Political and Group Campaigns

- *Fundraisers* organize events and campaigns to raise money and other donations for an organization. They may design promotional materials and increase awareness of an organization's work, goals, and financial needs. Many Political Scientists involved in fundraising works as campaign managers, lobbyists, and fundraisers for public institutions.
 - Overall expected growth, 2012-2022: 17 percent
 - Professional, scientific and technical services, 20%
 - Interest groups, nonprofits, labor, business and other groups, 15%
 - State and local government, 6%
 - Consulting, 41%
 - Social science research, 14%
 - Fundraising fields with average/above-average growth outlook:
 - Construction, 32%
 - Education, 17%
 - Retail, 14%
 - Health & social assistance, 30%
 - Arts, entertainment & recreation, 11%
 - Entry level education: Bachelor's degree
 - Median pay, 2012: \$50,680
- *Meeting, convention and event planners* coordinate all aspects of professional meetings and events. They choose meeting locations, arrange transportation, and coordinate other details.
 - Overall expected growth, 2012-2022: 27%
 - Professional, scientific, and technical services, 48%
 - Interest groups, nonprofits, labor, business and other groups, 37%
 - State and local government, 28%
 - Arts, entertainment, recreation, 36%
 - Health & social assistance, 57%
 - Education, 42%
 - Consulting, 69%

- Social science research, 38%
- Entry level education: Bachelor's degree
- Median pay, 2012: \$45,810

Public Administration

- Many of our graduates move on to work for local, county, regional, state, federal or international governing units. These Public Administrators are listed by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in several ways. Here, we provide listings for Urban and Regional Planners, Human Resource Managers, and Budget Analysts.
- *Urban and regional planners* develop plans and programs for the use of land. Their plans help create communities, accommodate population growth, and revitalize physical facilities in towns, cities, counties, and metropolitan areas.
 - Overall expected growth, 2012-2022: 10 percent
 - Professional, scientific and technical services, 27%
 - Interest groups, nonprofits, labor, business and other groups, 17%
 - Federal government, -12%
 - State and local government, 6%
 - Consulting, 41%
 - Entry level education: Master's degree
 - Median pay, 2012: \$65,230
- *Human resources managers* plan, direct, and coordinate the administrative functions of an organization. They oversee the recruiting, interviewing, and hiring of new staff; consult with top executives on strategic planning; and serve as a link between an organization's management and its employees. In Political Science, many human resource managers work for public or government institutions and interest groups.
 - Overall expected growth, 2012-2022: 13 percent
 - Professional, scientific and technical services, 27%
 - Interest groups, nonprofits, labor, business and other groups, 12%
 - Federal government, -12%
 - State and local government, 5%
 - Consulting, 41%
 - Social science research, 14%
 - Human resource fields with average/above average growth outlook:
 - Health & social assistance, 25%
 - Arts, entertainment, recreation, 12%
 - Education, 12%
 - Real estate, 14%
 - Construction, 26%
 - Mining, oil, natural gas, 12%
 - Entry level education: Bachelor's degree
 - Median pay, 2012: \$99,720
- *Budget analysts* help public and private institutions organize their finances. They prepare budget reports and monitor institutional spending. In Political Science, many budget

analysts work for state, county, and local governments, public institutions, and interest groups.

- Overall expected growth, 2012-2022: 6 percent
 - Professional, scientific and technical services, 27%
 - Interest groups, nonprofits, labor, business and other groups, 16%
 - Federal government, -3%
 - State and local government, 9%
 - Consulting, 41%
 - Social science research, 14%
 - Human resource fields with average/above average growth outlook:
 - Health & social assistance, 23%
 - Arts, entertainment, recreation, 13%
 - Education, 11%
 - Mining, oil, natural gas, 18%
- Entry level education: Bachelor's degree
- Median pay, 2012: \$69,280

Non-Profits and Community Leadership

- Social and community service managers coordinate and supervise social service programs and community organizations. They direct and lead staff who provide social services to the public. Many Political Scientists work for non-profit organizations and interest groups.
- Overall expected growth, 2012-2022: 21 percent
 - Professional, scientific and technical services, 23%
 - Interest groups, nonprofits, labor, business and other groups, 14%
 - Federal government, 4%
 - State and local government, 5%
 - Consulting, 40%
 - Social science research, 14%
 - Non-profit fields with average/above-average growth outlook:
 - Education, 15%
 - Health & social assistance, 31%
 - Arts, entertainment & recreation, 14%
- Entry level education: Bachelor's degree
- Median pay, 2012: \$59,970

Education

- High school teacher:
 - Overall expected growth, 2012-2022: 6 percent
 - Entry level education: Bachelor's degree
 - Median pay, 2012: \$55,050
- Middle school teacher:
 - Overall expected growth, 2012-2022: 12%
 - Entry level education: Bachelor's degree
 - Median pay, 2012: \$53,430
- Political Science College Instructor/Faculty
 - Overall expected growth, 2012-2022: 15%

- Entry level education: Master's or Ph.D.
- Median pay, 2012: \$68,970

Law enforcement

- Police & Detectives
 - Overall expected growth, 2012-2022: 5 percent
 - Number of jobs, 2012: 780,000
 - Entry level education: Bachelor's degree for some positions
 - Median pay, 2012: \$56,980
- Private detectives & investigators
 - Overall expected growth, 2012-2022: 11%
 - Entry level education: Bachelor's degree for some positions
 - Median pay, 2012: \$45,740

Journalists

- Even though there is expected decline in reporting jobs, some fields have expected growth:
 - Overall expected growth, 2012-2022: -13%
 - Areas with average/above-average growth:
 - Interest groups, nonprofits, labor, business and other groups, 17%
 - Education, 14%
 - Information technology, 14%
 - Entry level education: Bachelor's degree
 - Median pay, 2012: \$37,090

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014-15 Edition*, Political Scientists, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/> (visited July 30, 2014).