

POLITICAL SCIENCE- Career Resource Guide

Potential Career Options

Below is a sample of related career options; for some, additional experience and/or further education may be helpful or required.

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| Academic Research and Teaching | Political science research appears in a variety of journals, textbooks, and academic books. Research conducted by political scientists throughout the discipline (including race and ethnic studies, bioethics, electoral reform, environmental policy, political economy, gender studies, conflict resolution, and disability studies) contributes to wider public discussions and policy development. Political scientists often present their research findings at academic conferences like the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting and a variety of other meetings in the profession. |
| Business and Finance | Undergraduate political science training offers a good preparation for careers or graduate programs in business. Undergraduate courses in political economy and development can be useful preparation for working in business development, financial consulting, or public finance. Students that have focused on international relations may find opportunities in international business or trade. |
| Journalism and Media | Typically political science courses place heavy emphasis on developing fluid and clear writing and speaking skills, which are beneficial for positions in print or broadcast journalism, publishing, social media, communications, and public relations. |
| Non-Governmental Agencies and Non-Profits | Careers in public service can include non-profits, foundations, or non-governmental organizations. These organizations operate at the local, national, and international policy level, working on virtually all issue areas around the globe. The missions of these organizations range from local neighborhood housing to state environmental policy to global human rights. Non-profits, foundations, and non-governmental organizations offer opportunities for political science graduates at all degree levels. |
| Public Administration and International Affairs | Undergraduate studies in any area of political science can be useful for a career in public administration. Knowledge of the political process, strong writing skills, and familiarity with research methods are all useful preparation for these careers. While many careers in public service require only a bachelor's degree, graduate programs in public administration, public policy, and international affairs provide specialized training for positions in a variety of government and public service careers. |

Career Information Resources

Vault is a comprehensive career resource that includes industry and profession overviews; rankings and profiles for employers and internship programs; a job and internship database; career articles, blogs and videos; sample resumes, cover letters and interview questions, and over 100 career guides. A selection of the Vault Guides is listed below.

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| Career Launcher: | Vault Career Guide to: | Vault Guide to... |
| Education | U.S. Military Careers | Education |
| Law | | Government Agency Careers |
| Law Enforcement and Public Safety | | Law |
| | | Litigation Law Careers |

Note: Refer to the CPDC website for a link to Vault as well as the CPDC Tip Sheets and Handshake job postings.

Associations/Societies

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| American Historical Association ** | www.historians.org |
| American Political Science Association ** | www.apsanet.org |
| American Psychological Association * | www.apa.org |
| American Sociological Association ** | www.asanet.org |
| International Association for Political Science Students | www.iapss.org |
| International City/County Management Association (ICMA) | www.icma.org |
| International Political Science Association | www.ipsa.org |
| Northeastern Political Science Association | www.northeasternpsa.com |
| Pennsylvania Political Science Association | http://community.lhup.edu/sberard/ppsa |

* Contains employment listings

** Contains employment listings for members

Career & Employment Websites

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| Bureau of State Employment (PA) | www.employment.pa.gov |
| Commonwealth of Pennsylvania | www.state.pa.us |
| Human Services Career Network | www.hscareers.com |
| Idealist.org- Action Without Borders | www.idealist.org |
| National League of Cities | https://www.nlc.org/about-nlc/career-center |
| Nonprofit Career Network | www.nonprofitcareer.com |
| Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH) | www.bls.gov/ooh |
| – Search specific job titles | |
| Pennsylvania CareerLink | www.cwds.state.pa.us |
| Pennsylvania State Civil Service Commission | www.scsc.state.pa.us |
| The Social Service Job Site | www.socialservice.com |
| USAJOBS – U.S. Office of Personnel Management (federal) | www.usajobs.gov |

Note: A helpful list of general job search websites is available on the Internet Tip Sheet at www.rmu.edu/cpdc.

Selected RMU Activities & Organizations

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| Big Brothers/Big Sisters | Political Science Club |
| Campus Ministry Association | Pre-Law Society |
| Carpe Mundum (international organization) | Psychology Club |
| College Democrats | Residence Hall Association |
| College Republicans | RMU Radio |
| Colonial Ambassadors | RMU Sentry Media |
| Community Advisors | RMU-TV |
| First Year Student Mentors | S.A.F.E. – Student Alliance for Equality |
| Interfraternity Council (fraternities) | Society of Collegiate Journalists |
| Office of Engaged Learning and Community Involvement | Student Government Association |
| PA State Education Association – Student Chapter | Student Program Board |
| Panhellenic Council (sororities) | The Patriot (yearbook) |