the study of political issues, conflict, and power

www.utsc.utoronto.ca/polisci

Specialist, Major, Minor

Career Options after
Political Science
and Public Law
Minor

What is Political Science?

Political Science is a Social Science that examines enduring issues of power and authority, citizenship and governance, justice and legitimacy, and patterns of conflict and co-operation that arise around these issues from ancient to modern times.

Political Science at UTSC is divided into the following areas of focus: Canadian Politics, Comparative Politics (Developing and Developed Countries), International Relations, Political Theory, and Public Policy. The department now also offers a minor in public law.

Skills of Political Science Grads

- Think clearly and critically
- Design and execute research project
- Write clearly
- Understand the context, institutions and processes of policy-making and implementation
- Understand concepts and criteria for policy evaluation
- Understand the context, institutions and processes of legal decision-making (public law minor)
- Influence and persuade diverse groups
- Present ideas and data clearly
- Research and develop persuasive arguments using facts
- Conceptualize and implement projects
- Synthesize themes from complex issues
- Understand and explain political theories and systems
- Understand and explain legal theories and systems (public law minor)
- Contribute intelligently to political affairs

Entry-Level Jobs for Bachelor Grads

Common employment destinations include:

- Policy Analyst/Advisor in Government
- Program Coordinator in Non-Profits
- Research Analyst in Think Tanks
- Legislative Aide/Assistant in Government
- Media Relations Specialist in NGOs
- Service Representative in Social and Community Services

The Career Directory: www.canadastop100.com/tcd

Graduate & Professional Studies

Popular further education opportunities include:

- Political Science – Master of Arts
- Policy (many varieties) – Master
- Public Administration/Service – Master or Post-Graduate Certificate
- Business Administration – Master
- Law – JD (Juris Doctor)
- Paralegal – Diploma
- Communications or Marketing – Post-Graduate Certificate
- Public Relations – Post-Grad Certificate
- Community Service Management – Post-Graduate Certificate

Use LinkedIn!

UTSC Political Science graduates are working in Education, Government and Business.

Attend our LinkedIn workshop to learn about the Find Alumni tool for networking!

Political Science Grads from UTSC have gone on to:

- Non-Profit (Senior Project Coordinator)
- Education (Community Engagement Manager)
Examples of Fields that ‘Fit’ the Skills of Political Science Grads

• Legal Services
• Media and Communication
• Research
• Sales
• Consulting
• Government (Federal, Provincial, Regional, City)
• Education
• Operations

Your 4-Year Career Exploration Action Plan

1. Do Your Research
The databases below provide you with details about job prospects, nature of work, educational requirements, working conditions, pay and related career paths:

Career Cruising: Log into cln.utoronto.ca, click on Resources, and click on Career Cruising to be logged in automatically

O*Net: online.onetcenter.org (U.S. site)

Attend our workshop Discover Your Skills and Career Options, meet with a Career Counsellor, and use our resources to get to know your skills, values, personality and interests:

www.utsc.utoronto.ca/aacc/get-know-yourself

Use the advice on our tip sheets for gathering info:

- Information Interviews
- Working On-Campus
- Internships
- Volunteering

2. Explore Career Options & Get Experience
Gain exposure to your options in the world of work and make connections while you’re a student via campus events and programs listed on cln.utoronto.ca and ccr.utoronto.ca:

- Extern Job Shadowing
- In the Field
- Explore It! (course-based)
- Partners in Leadership (4th year students)
- iLead, uLead, weLead (Dep’t of Student Life)
- Employer Information Sessions
- Career & Volunteer Fairs
- Departmental Student Association Events

Apply for Work Study jobs in CLN in Fall and Spring! You might also find work via www.scsu.ca/jobs.

Find networking opportunities, internship programs and entry-level jobs via websites like www.talentegg.ca and www.charityvillage.ca.

As an upper year student (14+ credits), attend UTSC’s Get Hired Conference and participate in Jobs for Grads.

As a graduate, explore internships and other trainee programs like www.careeredge.ca

3. Build Your Network
Explore Professional Associations and get involved: volunteer for their events and conferences, and get to know people in your industry of interest. These are your future mentors, supervisors and colleagues!

Political Science Student Association at UTSC - about.me/pssa.utsc
Canadian Political Science Association - www.cpsa-acsp.ca
Political Studies Association (UK) - www.psa-ac.uk
Follow onTwitter: @ONgov @joblinkca @jobs_ggc

Check out government programs such as PSR, FSWEP, OIP, and OLIP!

List of Canadian and International Think Tanks - www.hillwatch.com, which includes the following:

- Institute for Research on Public Policy - irpp.org
- Fraser Institute - www.fraserinstitute.org
- Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - www.policyalternatives.ca
- Institute of Public Administration of Canada - www.ipac.ca

Please note: This document is a starting point for your further research into career options in this field of study. For more information on this program and course requirements, please visit the departmental website at the top of the first page.