



## **GUIDE TO MAJORS AT STERN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN: POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Choosing a major can be stressful, but it is important to understand that you can pursue almost any career regardless of which major you choose. While there are some exceptions, most entry-level positions simply require general transferable skills—those that can be learned in one setting and applied in another. Relevant experience through internships and activities is generally more important to employers than a major. It is best to choose an area that you find interesting and where you have the ability to do well.

### **What is the Political Science Major?**

Political science majors study the dynamics of how people are governed, by whom, and for what purposes. Its thematic problem is the conflict of interests that motivates struggles for governmental power. It analyzes political behavior, public policy making and adjudication, international relations, organization, and law. It seeks to establish guidelines for a more equitable and peaceful public order, nationally and internationally. As a field of study, its scope stretches from American politics to global institutions and relations.

Yeshiva University offers a broad range of courses in American politics and international relations. Students learn the skills of political analysis, organization and management, policy making, and political negotiation. Political science at Stern College is divided into four major subfields: American politics, comparative politics, international relations and political theory. Each is dedicated to placing current issues and debates into their broader political and historical context. In addition, the major provides students with the flexibility to incorporate relevant interdisciplinary studies in economics, history and sociology.

### **What can I do with a Major in Political Science?**

A major in political science prepares one for many career options that focus on research, writing, analytical, organizational or oral communication skills. . In addition to academia, many political science majors choose careers in government, law, politics, nonprofit, business, journalism, broadcasting, and education. Some potential career titles include:

#### Politics/Government

- Campaign Manager
- Corrections Officer
- Elected Public Official
- Foreign Service Officer
- Intelligence Agent
- Legislative Aide
- Public Opinion Analyst
- Public Policy Analyst

- Research Assistant
- Staff Assistant

#### Public Interest /Social Change

- Activity Planner
- Canvass Coordinator
- Development Director
- Direct Mail Specialist
- Event Coordinator

- Fundraiser
- Issues Specialist
- Peace Corps Volunteer
- Publications Director
- Strategist

- Human Resources Manager
- Management Consultant
- Public Affairs Officer
- Regulatory Analyst
- Sales Manager

#### Communications

- Broadcaster
- Circulation Manager
- Editorial Assistant
- Journalist
- News Analyst
- News Production/News Programming Manager
- Press Agent
- Public Affairs Reporter
- Public Relations Associate
- Web Designer

#### Graduate Study Required

- College/University Professor
- Economic Development Specialist
- International Relations Specialist
- Labor Relations Specialist
- Lawyer
- Legal Investigator
- Lobbyist
- Mediator
- Multinational Marketing Analyst
- Non Profit/Public Administrator
- Physician
- Public Health Administrator
- Regional/Urban Planner
- Systems Analyst

#### Business/Industry

- Advertising Account Manager
- Customer Service Representative

### **Skills and Abilities**

The political science major develops the ability to critically and creatively analyze and evaluate diverse issues, situations, or problems. Systematic thinking, adaptability, excellent communication skills and the ability to speak authoritatively are also valued. The skills developed in writing essays and research reports, evaluating the arguments of others and representing one's point of view in classroom discussion lead to careers requiring clear thinking, well documented analysis, and forceful expression. Here is a sample of representational skills and abilities:

#### Research Methods

- Collecting data
- Developing research designs and models
- Programming and systems analysis
- Utilizing survey research methods
- Comparing/contrasting ideas and information

- Synthesizing themes from complex issues

#### Planning and Development

- Making projections
- Organizing people/ideas
- Logistical thinking
- Conceptualizing/implementing projects
- Decision making

#### Communication

- Presenting ideas and data clearly
- Influencing/persuading people and groups
- Mediating/negotiating conflicts
- Public speaking
- Listening critically

#### Analysis

- Interpreting issues/data
- Understanding complex problems
- Offering different perspectives