



GUIDE TO MAJORS AT YESHIVA COLLEGE: 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 involves the systematic study of the public affairs or *politics* of the state. Political Scientists study all factors instrumental and influential in the acquisition and exercise of power for the purposes of public control or governance on the local, national and international level. In a globalizing world emphasizing organizational skill, socio-political knowledge and communications, political scientists find a wide array of career options and opportunities. The Department strongly encourages students to pursue summer internships which afford them the opportunity to apply what they have learned in the classroom and which help them to define their career ambitions.

The Yeshiva College Department of Political Science seeks to help equip students with the knowledge, research and analytical skills necessary to live and to work in a competitive and fast changing global world. The major is designed to give the student a breadth of knowledge of the discipline while affording him the opportunity to gain specialized knowledge through an area of concentration of his choice. Four categories make up the required 34 credits for the major: (1) 4 introductory courses covering the four fields of Political Science: Introduction to American Politics (Pol 1101), Fundamentals of Political Science (Pol 1501), Introduction to International Relations (Pol 1301) and Great Political Thinkers (Pol 1401) or 12 credits; (2) four courses in a chosen area of concentration or 12 credits; (3) three elective courses within the Department or 9 credits; and (4) a written Senior Project (Pol 4580) for 1 credit

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

- Advertising Account Manager
- Customer Service Representative
- 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

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

- Understanding complex problems
- Offering different perspectives
- 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