WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN … POLITICAL SCIENCE

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:
“Political Science is the study of politics, power and government, including U.S. and foreign governments, as well as relationships among governments, their actions and policies. Political Science is useful for people seeking careers in law, business, government service, urban planning, education or journalism. It is also a vital part of a liberal arts education” (UNM Course Catalog, 2013).

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENT:
A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required. However, many employers also require graduate school. For example, they may require a master's degree, and some require a Ph.D., M.D., or J.D. (law degree). Consult O*Net for more information on the specific KSAs (Knowledge, Skill, Ability) that are required for this career.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO:
The UNM Political Science Program offers a Bachelor’s of Arts degree. The department offers three concentrations: international politics, pre-law, and public policy. Students are encouraged to gain related internships that correspond to their appropriate concentration area. The Department also offers M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in five substantive fields of study: American politics, comparative politics, international relations, methodology, and public policy. You can find further information on the UNM Political Science Department website.

INDUSTRIES & TARGET EMPLOYERS:
A variety of employers specifically recruit UNM students and alumni. Consult UNM’s Lobo Career Connection for a complete list of employers and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator at the UNM Office of Career Services for help with identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Government:
Public policy, Research, Regional and urban planning, City management, Intelligence (e.g., CIA), Foreign Service (e.g., Department of State), Law enforcement, Legislative, executive, or judicial services

Law:
Law firms, Corporations, Federal, state, and local government, Private practice, Colleges and Universities

Politics:
Elected or appointed leadership, Campaign management, Staff administration, Special interest advocacy

Nonprofit:
Administration, Management, Public Relations, Fundraising, Nonprofit organizations, Foundations, Professional associations

Business:
Sales, Human Resources, Management, Advertising, Public Relations

Journalism:
Editing, Reporting, Sales, Newspapers, Internet, Wire services, Magazine, Corporations, Political parties and action committees

Broadcasting:
News programming, Production, TV stations, Radio stations, Independent syndications

Education:
Public schools and Private schools, Colleges and universities

SUGGESTED STRATEGIES:
- Consider specializing your skill set through a double major or minor in another area.
- Complete internship or gain related experience in federal, state, or local governmental agency. Acquire foreign language skills for overseas work. Develop skill with computers, statistics, and data analysis. Consider a graduate degree in political science or public administration for advancement.
- Gain professional experience in your area of interest through involvement in international internships, student employment, Co-ops, and/or volunteer opportunities.
- Research firms with international interests.
- Check out the Center for Study of Voting, Elections and Democracy
• Shadow professionals in your field of interest to gain a better understanding of their occupation and to build relationships with professional mentors.
• Seek leadership roles on campus and in professional organizations. Develop a network of contacts through experience and informational interviewing.
• Build your network and get involved on campus through student organizations and campus events. Find more organizations and events at the Student Activities Center website.
• Attend career-related campus events such as career fairs, company information sessions, and or career workshops.
• Students who are interested in graduate school should maintain a high undergraduate GPA and develop relationships with faculty and community leaders.
• Job leads can be found on your department’s website, list-serv, newsletters, and list of internships.
• Consider working in multiple departments throughout campus to gain experience in areas you are interested in through work study or student employment.
• Focus on developing “transferable skills” such as computer competency, written/verbal communication, and project management.
• Seek leadership opportunities on campus. Some positions may require an advanced degree.
• Obtain experience with a campus newspaper or media.
• Research government internship program and think about interning with a government agency to get a foot in the door, as well as building your resume.
• Make sure to research organizations’ values, so it could be congruent with yours. Knowledge about organizations is critical, because it shows to employers that you’ve done your research and committed to work for them.
• Find out which companies do business with the countries in which your language of study is spoken.
• Volunteer with Peace Corps, Teach for America, Americorps, or VISTA to gain experience.

INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:
National Assoc. of Schools of Public Affairs & Administration http://www.naspaa.org/
American Political Science Association http://www.apsanet.org/
Federal Job Digest http://www.jobsfed.com
American Enterprising Institute for Public Policy http://www.aei.org/
Federal Job Search http://www.federaljobsearch.com/
Government Jobs http://www.governmentjobs.com/
FBI Jobs http://www.fbijobs.gov
U.S. Department of State http://www.state.gov/
New Mexico Resources http://civicpolicy.com/
Center for Civic Policy http://www.commoncause.org
New Mexico Common Cause http://www.sos.state.nm.us/Voter_Information/County_Clerk_Information.aspx
New Mexico County Clerks
New Mexico Democratic Party http://www.nmdemocrats.net/
League of Women Voters of New Mexico http://www.lwvnm.org/
New Mexico Republican Party http://gopnm.org/
Secretary of State http://www.sos.state.nm.us/

OTHER INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:
http://online.onetcenter.org http://www.bls.gov/oco/

REFERENCE
University of New Mexico, Political Science Department (2013). Retrieved from http://polisci.unm.edu/