At University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire, the political science degree offers students a broad base of skills and knowledge to prepare them for a wide variety of careers. Political science provides a liberal arts education that emphasizes skills in analysis, writing, speaking, and critical thinking. In addition, political science specifically focuses on public policy along with individual and group behavior by using scientific and humanistic methods from the local to the global levels. UW–Eau Claire offers comprehensive majors in political science with emphases in teaching, legal studies, and world politics, as well as standard majors and minors in liberal arts and teaching. The political science degree can prepare students for continuing education in graduate or law school.

**Typical interests and values of political science majors:**
- Participation in community activities
- Desire for recognition and to influence others
- Tendency to be ambitious and outgoing
- Interest in social issues
- Interest in the human condition
- Interest in government and law

**Knowledge and skills gained from studying political science:**

**Knowledge:**
Political science majors learn about and discuss political issues as they occur at any level, from local to global. They develop a wide range of perspectives on issues such as health care, justice, war, peace, and gender equality. In addition, students learn about the historical and cultural relevance of such issues.

**Skills:**
- Ability to analyze and evaluate problems
- Excellent written and verbal skills
- Critical thinking skills
- Ability to interpret social, economic, and political data
- Ability to conduct and explain scientific research
- Developing rapport
- Identifying resources
- Selling ideas or products
- Ability to negotiate and persuade
- Setting goals and meeting deadlines
- Representing others
- Gathering and analyzing information
- Setting and meeting deadlines

**Related student and professional organizations:**

**Student:**
- Model United Nations Club
- The Society of Politics
- Pre-Law Club
- College Democrats/Republicans/Independents
- Pi Sigma Alpha – Political Science Honor Society

**Professional:**
- American Political Science Association
- International Political Science Association
- Wisconsin Political Science Association
- Wisconsin Institute for Peace & Conflict Studies

**Career fields related to political science:**

**Potential Employers:**
A political science graduate’s combination of the skills associated with a liberal arts education and the specific knowledge of political issues makes them valuable in the workforce. Graduates of political science are able to work in a variety of environments such as government, business, journalism, education, political campaigns, and interest groups. They can also continue on to law school or graduate school in a variety of fields.

**Potential Job Titles:**
- Labor Relations Specialist
- Consumer Advocate
- Lobbyist
- Foreign Services Officer
- Chief of Staff
- Campaign Worker
- Teacher
- News Reporter
- County Treasurer
- Lawyer
Jobs You Might also Consider...
- Probation/Parole Officer
- Public Relations Specialist
- Urban/Regional Planner
- Market Research Analyst
- Import/Export Specialist

Sample entry level jobs held by UW-Eau Claire political science graduates:
- Veteran Service Representative, U.S. Government, St. Paul, MN
- Legislative Aide, State of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
- Teacher, Teach for America, Philadelphia, PA
- Principle Accounts Specialist, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

How can I learn more about political science?
Department
- Contact UW-Eau Claire’s Department of Political Science, Schneider Social Science 200A, 836-5744

Getting Started at Career Services:
- Meet with a career counselor
- Take interest inventory and self-assessment tests
- Utilize Blugold Career Success Network, a database of UW-Eau Claire alumni & friends available for informational interviewing
- Utilize Blugold CareerLink, an online job search database specifically for UWEC students and alum

Resources at Career Services:
Yellow Section-
- Sigi 3 handouts:
  - Writer/Author
  - Teacher, Social Studies
  - Political Scientist
  - International Trade Specialist
- Book sections:
  - History & Political Science
  - Non-Profit Careers

Orange Section-
- “The Internship Series: For the Common Good: Internships with Community and Social Service Agencies”
- “The Internship Series: The Human Rights Internship Book”
- “The Internships Series: Internships in International Affairs”
- Information on Americorps or the Peace Corps
- Computers: Internship Center Database and Blugold CareerLink

Green Section-
- Information on graduate schools as well as practice examination books

Blue Section-
- Government Section
- Multiple resources to help you create a resume and cover letter to attain a career in political science.

Opportunities to enhance skills in political science:
Internships
Internships are a way to gain hands-on experience in a position that you may be considering as a potential career. To find an internship in political science, visit Career Services (Schofield 230) and speak with a career associate. Contact your adviser or the Department of Political Science chair about enrolling in POLS 498 to receive academic credit for your internship.

Directed Studies or Independent Study Class
By participating in a directed studies or independent study class, students will be able to research an area that they find particularly interesting. Contact your adviser about enrolling in POLS 395, 399, or 499.

What you can do now:
- Volunteer to assist in the political campaign of a candidate you support.
- Become a teacher assistant for a professor in the political science department.
- Volunteer as a poll worker during election time.
- Become a leader in a student organization.