Careers in political science are becoming increasingly competitive as large numbers of qualified candidates compete for a limited number of available positions. Political scientists study the origin, development and operation of political systems, and can research/analyze governments, policies, political trends, relations between countries and other related issues. Their work generally falls into one or more of the following categories: national politics, comparative politics, international relations or political theory. They are heavily employed by the federal government, but can also work within private firms or for state governments. These positions require at least a Master’s Degree or PhD in political science, public administration, government & politics or related fields.

Sample Job Titles
- Geopolitical Analyst
- Policy Analyst
- Political Consultant
- Region Analyst (e.g. Middle East Analyst, Europe Analyst etc)
- Research Assistant/Associate
- Research Fellow

Ways to Get Involved
- Search for internships on Careers4Terps with non-profit, private and public sector organizations. Political campaigns (such as those for Maryland Governor) also post positions from time to time on the site.

- Make the most of networking opportunities in the area. Start with the events calendar on the Career Center’s website, which lists upcoming career fairs, networking nights and meetups at UMD. Keep an eye on the Events page of USA jobs - not only does this list federal government events, but it also lists sessions where you can obtain guidance as to writing a federal resume. You can also check out the Government Affairs Industry Network events page for a list of panels/discussions.

- Make sure you check out the career fairs listed on sites such as BestHire Career Fairs and Eventbrite.

FACTS & STATS

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts a 2% decline in political scientist roles between 2014 and 2024.

Median Wages:

- General Political Science $99,730
- State, Local & Private educational services fields $48,880
- Federal Government $120,510
- All occupations $36,200
What can you do in POLITICAL SCIENCE?

RESUME & SKILLS NEEDED

Resume
Private sector employers accept applications on a rolling basis, with no formal recruiting period for these roles. State and federal government positions are rare, and so candidates should regularly check relevant career sites such as USA jobs or state government careers pages. The process can be very competitive.

For all applications, be prepared to discuss your motivation for applying, what you are looking for and be able to articulate your skills and values.

Skills
• Master’s Degree or PhD in political science, public administration, government & politics or related fields
• Analytical; critical thinking skills
• Decision-making skills
• Strong interpersonal skills
• Persuasive communication skills

Experience
Most internships for private employers are paid, particularly if the internship is with a large firm. In the state and local government sector, internships are not always paid. For all sectors, there are a mix of full and part-time internships available.

Given that graduate school is required for many roles, it is important to note that there are strict deadlines for applying to MA/MS/PhD programs.

ON CAMPUS RESOURCES
• Career Services, School of Public Policy
• Maryland Discourse
• Model United Nations

OTHER RESOURCES
• American Political Science Association
• Government Affairs Industry Network
• National Capital Area Political Science Association

WHERE ARE ALUMS?

BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

CLASP
policy solutions that work for low-income people

Congressional Research Service

Endowment for Middle East Truth

Maryland General Assembly