



# Political Science

## College of Liberal Studies

The Political Science/Public Administration Department in the College of Liberal Studies at UW-La Crosse offers both Political Science and Public Administration major and minor degree programs. There is also an Honors Program and a Political Science/Public Administration Honor Society. These provide special recognition to those who excel.

The department stresses the value of extracurricular activities and seeks to provide special opportunities for political science students. We especially excel in providing internship opportunities whereby students can earn up to 12 credits while gaining on-the-job experience with government agencies, law firms, etc. Many of the internships pay a salary; all help students get jobs upon graduation, and some are international. In addition to internships, the department sponsors or participates in the Model United Nations and Mock Trial programs and in a number of tour and study abroad programs.

The department's strengths are in public administration, pre-law, international studies, and American government. The department provides internships, special opportunities, and career counseling in all of these areas. Many of the department's graduates are working for the Wisconsin state government and federal government, and graduates who are interested in law school or graduate school have been quite successful in being admitted and in graduating with advanced degrees.

### Undergraduate Programs

#### Major:

- Political Science\*
- Public Administration

#### Minor:

- Political Science\*
- Public Administration
- Criminal Justice

\*Teacher certification available

### Department Features

**Sample Courses:** The department offers courses in all areas of political science:

- American
- Comparative
- International Relations
- Political Philosophy
- Legal Studies
- Public Policy
- Public Administration
- Research Methods

The Political Science/Public Administration Association (PA) is an active student group hosting career nights, student/faculty get-togethers, and banquets. In addition, candidate forums during election years and survey research projects offer many student/faculty undergraduate research opportunities.

### Career Opportunities

#### Entry Level

- Assistant City Planner
- Assistant County Administrator
- Customs Inspector
- Government Relations Advocate
- High School Social Science Teacher (with teacher certification)
- International Organizations
- Legislative Assistant/Congressional Aide
- Lobbyist
- Non-governmental Organizations
- Paralegal Assistant
- Policy Analyst
- Political Party/Charity Organizer
- Political Pollster/Researcher
- Police Officer
- Public Information Specialist
- Recycling Coordinator
- Urban Planner

#### Further Education

- Graduate study in political science, public administration, international relations, city management, urban planning, policy studies, program evaluation research
- International Management
- Law School
- Police Academy

#### Long Term Career Development

- City Manager
- County Administrator
- Court Administrator
- Foreign Service
- Hospital Administrator (with Masters)
- International Business
- Lawyer (with law degree)
- News Commentator
- Political Scientist in Government Agencies (with advanced degree)
- Politician
- Positions in Government Agencies (federal, state, city)
- Social Services Administrator
- International Governmental Organizations
- International Non-governmental Organizations

## Occupational Outlook

Those undergraduate majors who do not teach or go on to law or graduate schools generally seek employment in an area of public service. A substantial number also become employed in business. The kinds of positions available defy exact classification or description.

Though not unlimited, there is a vast and changing variety of such positions: administrator, technician, researcher, analyst, and aide at all levels of government, federal, state, and local, and in programs ranging from budget analysis and criminal justice to public research, public policy analysis, and welfare administration. There are also a growing number of jobs in international organizations and in foreign offices of American companies and organizations.

Some less general observations may be made:

1) An undergraduate major who does not intend to undertake post-graduate work should pick up at least one specific "skill" i.e., accounting, mathematics, survey research, statistics, computer science, or a foreign language;

2) Within political science, students are encouraged to specialize in one of the department's concentrations—pre-law, public administration/public policy, comparative politics, international relations, or American government;

3) Students availing themselves of the internship program should do so with respect to the long-range career possibilities it opens up, not the immediate convenience or financial rewards it offers.

4) All students are encouraged to take advantage of the international education opportunities available at UW-L.

### Job Titles of Graduates

- Budget Analyst
- Campaign Director
- Foreign Service Officer
- High School Teacher
- Legislative Assistant
- Lobbyist
- Management Trainee
- Personnel Trainee
- Program Analyst
- Recycling Coordinator
- Sales Representative
- Survey Researcher

## Professional Associations

- American Political Science Association
- American Society for Public Administration
- Law & Society Association
- Midwest Association of Pre-Law Advisors
- Midwest Political Science Association
- National Academic Advising Association
- Society for Utopian Studies
- Southern Political Science Association
- Wisconsin Political Science Association

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