

Political Science (Course 17)
Major Guide
MIT School of Humanities, Arts & Social Science

This major guide provides a summary of some helpful resources on careers in the field of political science.

Skill Set

- Ability to work independently and in teams
- Assess policy
- Critical thinking
- Interpret data
- Logical reasoning
- Negotiation and conflict resolution skills
- Oral and written communication
- Organization
- Problem solving skills
- Public speaking and debate skills

Areas of Academic and Industry Expertise

Business Advertising	Community Organizing	Globalization	Journalism	Nonprofit Administration and Management	Political Philosophy
Business Sales	Education	Grassroots Organizing	Law Enforcement	Nonprofit Public Relations and Fund Raising	Public Administration
Campaign Management	Elected or Appointed Leadership	International Relations	Legislative, Executive, or Judicial Services	Peace Studies	Public Policy/Research Special Interest Advocacy
City or Town Management	Foreign Service/Policy	Intelligence/ Security Studies	News Programming and Production	Program Administration	Special Interest Advocacy

Careers of Course 17 Alumni

- Attorney, Private Practice
- Analyst, Berkeley Planning Associates
- Assistant Director, Rappaport Institute, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
- Assistant Professor of Government, Northwestern University
- Commercial Officer, United States Department of Commerce
- Counselor, Northland Preparatory Academy
- Dean, The George Washington University
- European Central Bank, Frankfurt, Germany
- Global Business Manager, Microsoft
- Head of Investment Analytics, TIAA-CREF
- Head, Political Affairs Group, Tokyo, Japan
- Law Clerk, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals
- Legislative Assistant, Virginia General Assembly
- Modeling and Simulation Specialist, Lockheed Martin
- Owner, The Well Red Coyote (bookstore)
- Physician, Pediatric Urology Associates
- President, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation
- Principal Consultant, Virtual Learning Systems
- Program Coordinator, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- Regional Director, United States Securities Exchange Commission
- Senior Director, Labor Economics, Major League Baseball
- Senior Research Associate, United States Institute of Peace
- Technical Support Analyst, Harvard Business School
- Technical Writer, UPromise.com
- Translator, Self-employed
- Vice President, Human Resources, AT&T Communications
- Vice President, Merrill Lynch & Company

To contact Course 17 alumni, visit the ICAN network at <http://web.mit.edu/alum/career/ican>.

Some Companies Hiring Course 17 Alumni

- AlphaDetail, Inc.
- Arden Asset Management, Inc.
- American Express Risk Management
- American Power Conversion
- Analysis Group, Inc.
- Booz Allen Hamilton
- Boston Consulting Group
- Boston Federal Reserve, Research Department
- Cambridge Energy Research Associates
- Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)
- Central Intelligence Agency
- DFI International
- Fairbank Center for East Asian Studies, Harvard University
- Government of Canada, Deputy Minister's Committee on Justice, Security & Human Rights
- IMF Economist Program

- Institute for Defense Analyses
- Joint Center for Operational Analysis, Joint Forces Command
- Joint Warfare Analysis Center
- Mitch Daniels for Governor Campaign Committee
- National Fund for Scientific Research
- National Security Agency
- Northwestern University, Center for International and Comparative Studies
- ProfitLogic
- Project Performance Corporation
- Rand Corporation, Project Air Force
- Right Media Inc.
- Salomon Smith Barney, Investment Banking Division
- State of Illinois
- Systems Planning and Analysis, Inc.
- Tessella, Inc.
- The Brookings Institute
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Navy
- Yale University

For more detailed information about what you can expect after graduation, visit the MIT Graduating Student Surveys at <http://web.mit.edu/career/www/infostats/graduation.html> or the MIT Department of Political Science at <http://web.mit.edu/polisci/index.html>.

General Career and Job Search Resources

Books

Careers and the Study of Political Science, 6th edition, edited by American Political Science Association

Great Jobs for Political Science Majors, written by Mark Rowh

Careers in Political Science, written by Joel F. Clark

What To Do with Your History or Political Science Major, written by the Princeton Review
Congressional Quarterly's Congressional Staff Directory

Smart Moves for Liberal Arts Grads: Finding a Path to your Perfect Career, written by Sheila Curran & Suzanna Greenwald

General Web sites

MIT Careers in Political Science resource: <http://web.mit.edu/polisci/undergrad/careers.html>

MIT Center for International Studies database for grants and fellowships:

<http://web.mit.edu/polisci/>

CNN Money article: Working Your Degree in Political Science (*for information for the political science majors after graduation*):

http://money.cnn.com/2000/09/08/career/q_degreetopoliticalscience/

Jobweb: Career Development and Job-Search Advice for New Graduates:

<http://www.jobweb.com/resources/profileresult.asp?crcode=29>

America's Career Info Net: <http://www.acinet.org>

Occupational Outlook Handbook: <http://www.bls.gov/oco>

Occupational Informational Network: <http://online.onetcenter.org>

MonsterTrak Major to Jobs Converter:

www.monstertrak.monster.com/resources/mtcc/resourceframe_index.html

Internships, Job Listings, and Alumni Networking

Student opportunities in the Federal government: www.studentjobs.gov

USA Jobs: The Federal Government's Official Jobs Site <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>

Non-Government/Non-Profit job sites: <http://www.unc.edu/depts/slavic/resources/non-governmentjobs.pdf>

Political Science Think Tank resources: <http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/psthink.html>

International Think Tanks and N.G.O.s: <http://www.worldpress.org/library/ngo.cfm>

IAP Externship Program: <http://alum.mit.edu/ccg/students/externships/index.html>

ICAN: <http://alum.mit.edu/cs/ican/index.html>

UROP: <http://web.mit.edu/urop/>

MonsterTRAK: <http://www.monstertrak.monster.com>

Salary Information

Salary.com <http://www.salary.com>

MIT Salary Survey <http://web.mit.edu/career/www/salary.html>

Professional Associations

American Political Science Association: www.apsanet.org

American Society for Public Administration: www.aspanet.org

Departmental Information

MIT Department of Political Science: <http://web.mit.edu/polisci/>

Next Steps

- Visit the MIT Careers Office (MITCO) 12-170:
 - Meet with a career counselor to discuss your interests and to review your resume and cover letters.
 - Consult the Undergraduate Career Development Timeline: <http://web.mit.edu/career/www/guide/timeline.pdf>
 - Read our Career Development Workbook for tips on self-assessment, resumes, cover letters, networking, and interviewing skills (*available in print in our office or on the bottom of our homepage: careers.mit.edu*)
- Meet with your academic advisor to discuss potential career paths in political science
- Network with current students and alumni who work in your area of interest
 - Consider informational interviews