



Career Options in **POLITICAL COMMUNICATIONS**

As a new field of study, Political Communications is a combination of communication, journalism and political science. It incorporates political theory, analysis of political activity and media coverage, and a foray into international relations. A major in political communications requires a wide range of interests and talents. Political communication is the study of the flow of information through political processes: the study of who knows what, when, where and how; and of how people use their information to further political goals. Formally speaking, political communication is the systematic analysis of the creation, distribution, control, receipt, utilization, processing and effects of information as a political resource, whether by governments, organizations, or individuals. Individuals interested in majoring in political communication may go on to law school, graduate school, or right into the work place.

SAMPLE OCCUPATIONS AND SAMPLE WORK SETTINGS: Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of occupations related to this major. Specific requirements based on education level for each occupation may vary. For additional information and assistance, please speak with a Career Consultant.

Public Relations	Law	Corporate Communication
Political Consulting	Public Affairs	Public Opinion Research
Press Agent	Marketing	Lobbying
Community Relations	Foreign Relations	Advertising
Teaching	Elected Office	Media Relations
Speechwriting	Social Services	

RELATED MAJOR SKILLS & CHARACTERISTICS FOR POLITICAL COMMUNICATIONS MAJORS:

Observing people/data/things	Influencing/persuading	Informing/explaining
Applying persuasive skills	Mediating/negotiating	Synthesizing
Evaluating ideas and structures in communication events		Organizing
Problem solving	Gathering information and data	
Need to possess good speaking, writing and listening skills		

SAMPLE GW RESOURCES

GW CAREER CENTER RESOURCES: <http://gwired.gwu.edu/career>

GWork: <http://gwired.gwu.edu/career>

Career Search: <http://careerssearch.net>

Career Resource Room Books:

- Careers in Government
- Careers In International Affairs
- Careers in Law
- Great Jobs for Liberal Arts Majors
- Great Jobs for Political Science Majors

GW DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION: <http://www.smpa.gwu.edu>

Undergraduates: <http://www.gwu.edu/~elliott/academicprograms/ba/ia/index.html>

Graduates: <http://www.gwu.edu/~elliott/academicprograms/ma/ia/index.html>

SAMPLE WEBSITES:

Career Planning Resources:

Government and Political Science Resources http://www.educationindex.com/poli_sci/
Political Resources on the Net <http://www.politicalresources.net/>
Poly-Cy <http://pslab11.polsci.wvu.edu/PolyCy/>
Occupational Outlook Handbook <http://www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm>
What Color Is Your Parachute The Net Guide <http://www.jobhuntersbible.com>
Political Science: An Ideal Liberal Arts Major <http://www.polsci.wvu.edu/polsci/career/careers.html>

Job Search Resources:

A Call to Serve: http://www.ourpublicservice.org/info-url3739/info-url_list.htm?cat_id=43
USA Jobs- United States Office of Personnel Management <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>
America's Job Bank (Labor Department) <http://www.ajb.dni.us>
Federal Jobs <http://www.fedworld.gov/jobs/jobsearch.html>
MonsterTRAK <http://www.monstertrak.com>
Riley Guide: Employment Resources on the Internet <http://www.rileyguide.com>

Professional Organizations & Associations:

American Political Science Association <http://www.apsanet.org>
Society for Political Methodology <http://web.polmeth.ufl.edu/>
Presidency Research Group <http://www.ibiblio.org/lia/prgnet/>
Southern Political Science Association <http://www.spsa.net>
Peace Science Society (International) <http://pss.la.psu.edu/>
State & Regional Political Science Associations http://www.apsanet.org/section_443.cfm
American Society for Public Administration <http://www.aspanet.org/>
Pre-Law Student Services <http://www.ilrg.com/pre-law.html>

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