



EXPERIENCE MAP

# Political Science



**FUTURE FULL  
OF PROMISE.**



University  
of Windsor

**POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE WITH FRENCH SPECIALIZATION**

**LAW AND POLITICS**

[EXPERIENCE.UWINDSOR.CA](http://EXPERIENCE.UWINDSOR.CA)

# Skills and Knowledge of Political Science Graduates

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### Political Science

Study power—who holds it, how it is exercised, how you can influence and gain access to power, and how our lives are influenced by politicians, bureaucrats, and other politically important institutions (including the courts, the Constitution, domestic and international organizations, etc.) and individuals. This program introduces you to political, economic, social and environmental issues in Canada and around the world.

### Political Science with French Specialization

This specialization will prepare you for a career in government and/or public services that require a good working knowledge of French and an understanding of Francophone culture.

### Law and Politics

This unique and challenging program offers you the chance to learn about Canadian and international legal processes, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and Constitutional law, ethics, legal reasoning and logic, and the art of argumentation. You will develop essential skills to prepare for law school and to be competitive for future articling positions and legal careers.

## FUNCTIONAL KNOWLEDGE

- Describe and explain major issues and phenomena of political science
- Research and investigate political issues, synthesize data and information from varying sources and present descriptive and empirical evidence to support a central thesis
- Confidently assert political ideas and arguments, and defend them with sound reason and logic
- Effectively communicate ideas, arguments and evidence through clear, concise and coherent written work
- Explain the rights and responsibilities associated with Canadian and global citizenship
- Propose and evaluate alternative policy solutions to contemporary societal problems

Degree Title / Program	Minimum Average	Admission Requirements
<b>POLITICAL SCIENCE</b>	70%	<b>ENG.</b> required.
<b>POLITICAL SCIENCE WITH FRENCH SPECIALIZATION</b>	75%	<b>ENG.</b> and <b>FRENCH</b> required and entry from French immersion program or French high school recommended.
<b>LAW AND POLITICS</b>	85%	<b>ENG.</b> required.



- Courses of study specific to each program
- Activities and experiences that complement coursework (Outstanding Scholars, peer mentoring, VIP)
- Activities falling outside of the scope of set curriculum (Part-time job, clubs, volunteering, athletics)

## Build your Skills and Experience

Your UWindsor experience is more than attending classes. It is a combination of academics, co-curricular activities, and extracurricular involvement. By making the most of all three elements of your university experience, you will maximize your opportunities to build your skills, broaden your personal network, and clarify your long term academic and career goals.


## Career Planning Guide

Intentional career planning will help you prepare for your next step after graduation. It is a fluid, dynamic, and continuous process, meaning you can move on or return to an earlier stage at any time. You can even work through simultaneous cycles, like one for your long-term dream job and another for a summer job.



# Explore Opportunities Using This Guide

Explore a selection of opportunities recommended for students in your program. This chart shows some of your many options – you don’t have to do everything on it or limit yourself to it. Engage in opportunities from each of the three categories to set yourself up for success:

- **Academics**
  - Your coursework
- **Experience**
  - Ways to get involved
- **Career**
  - Plan ahead for what’s next

## HIP High-Impact Practice (HIP)

A HIP is an enriching educational experience that can be life-changing and often includes learning outside of the classroom while encouraging meaningful interaction and collaboration, such as:

- Co-op, internship or field experiences
- Research with faculty
- Culminating senior experience
- Capstone courses
- Service-learning
- Learning communities
- Study abroad

	First Year	Middle Years	Final Year
Academics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Take required courses including Introduction to Canadian Government and Politics with mentorship component, Introduction to International Relations, and Introduction to Comparative Politics</li><li>• Review degree course requirements</li><li>• Enrol in a variety of Political Science courses to determine your core interests</li><li>• Meet with an academic advisor</li><li>• Receive peer mentorship from <b>Political Science Help Centre</b></li><li>• Enrol in French language training classes I and II (French Specialization students)</li><li>• Enrol in Reasoning Skills class (Law and Politics students)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Take required courses and check in with academic advisor to make sure you are on the right path</li><li>• Take Introduction to Research Methods</li><li>• Explore research opportunities with professors <b>HIP</b></li><li>• Consider taking courses in accordance with <b>Certificate in Public Administration</b> or <b>Law and Politics</b></li><li>• Seek out courses that offer field experience <b>HIP</b></li><li>• Start taking courses required as pre-requisites for graduate/professional school</li><li>• Consider declaring a minor and/or specialization</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meet with an academic advisor to go over degree requirements</li><li>• Complete all required courses for your degree</li><li>• Apply to graduate through <b>MyUWindsor Portal</b></li><li>• Work with a faculty member on a research project or publication <b>HIP</b></li><li>• Complete required courses for <b>Public Administration</b> or <b>Law and Politics Certificate</b></li></ul>
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explore available Political Science internships or field placements <b>HIP</b></li><li>• Apply for a co-curricular experience such as <b>VIP</b> <b>HIP</b></li><li>• Volunteer with local government or a non-profit organization</li><li>• Investigate research opportunities as part of the <b>Outstanding Scholars</b> program <b>HIP</b></li><li>• Research student exchange opportunities for middle years, especially for French Specialization <b>HIP</b></li><li>• Join a club like the <b>Undergraduate Society for IR and Political Science, Model United Nations, UWSA, Mock Trial Association, or Pre-Law Society</b></li><li>• Participate in the <b>Bystander Initiative</b> workshop to gain skills that will help you be an effective and supportive ally to prevent sexual assault on campus</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Join the <b>Debate Team</b> and/or <b>Model United Nations</b> to compete in local and international competitions</li><li>• Participate in <b>UWill Discover</b> undergraduate research conference <b>HIP</b></li><li>• Attend a <b>Political Science Speaker Luncheon Series</b> presentation</li><li>• Apply for student exchange program <b>HIP</b></li><li>• Expand your skills by taking on a summer, part-time or volunteer position</li><li>• Consider running for office in the <b>Undergraduate Society for IR and Political Science</b> and/or as student representative on the <b>Departmental Council</b></li><li>• Consider applying to become a <b>Political Science Mentor</b> (in third or fourth year)</li><li>• Join a professional association in your field such as the <b>Canadian Political Science Students’ Association</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Run for office on the <b>Departmental Council</b> or <b>Undergraduate Society for IR and Political Science</b> or a <b>UWSA</b> executive position</li><li>• Conduct field research with faculty member <b>HIP</b></li><li>• Become a tutor for <b>Students Offering Support (SOS)</b> <b>HIP</b></li><li>• Join the <b>UWindsor Model NATO</b> or <b>Model United Nations</b></li><li>• Work with a local organization through a field placement course such as the <b>Public Service Management Internship Practicum</b> <b>HIP</b></li><li>• Consider applying to become a <b>Political Science Mentor</b> (in third or fourth year)</li></ul>
Career	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create a list of things that you enjoy, areas in which you excel, and your skills</li><li>• Meet with a career advisor in <b>Career Development and Experiential Learning (CDEL)</b> for help developing a plan for your future years</li><li>• Consider a career assessment workshop or appointment to help you identify possible career paths</li><li>• Get involved with a part-time job, volunteer opportunity, campus group, or research assistantship</li><li>• Attend <b>CDEL</b> workshops to learn how to find a summer or part-time job and write a resumé and cover letter</li><li>• Drop in to meet with one of <b>CDEL</b>’s peer advisors to get answers to your career and job search questions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research career fields and occupations with the help of a <b>CDEL</b> career advisor</li><li>• Explore opportunities and meet employers through job fairs and employer networking events</li><li>• Explore further educational opportunities by attending the <b>Graduate and Professional Schools Fair</b> and researching admission requirements for programs you are interested in</li><li>• Attend <b>CDEL’s Using Social Media to Leverage Your Career</b> workshop</li><li>• Create a <b>LinkedIn</b> profile and have it critiqued</li><li>• Take part in informational interviews and use sources like <b>LinkedIn</b> and <b>Ten Thousand Coffees</b> to meet people in your targeted profession</li><li>• Search job postings to learn what skills, knowledge, and credentials you will need for potential careers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If you are considering applying to graduate or professional school, be aware of early application deadlines</li><li>• Meet with <b>CDEL</b> to prepare application documents like a resumé, cover letter, CV, or personal statement for jobs and education programs you are applying to</li><li>• Attend an <b>Interview Skills Workshop</b> and <b>Job Search Tips Workshop</b></li><li>• Use <b>InterviewStream</b> to practice your interview skills online</li><li>• Set up an in-person mock interview with a career advisor for professional school or job applications</li><li>• Meet employers at the annual job fair in January</li><li>• Compose a portfolio of relevant academic and work experience</li></ul>



# Political Science

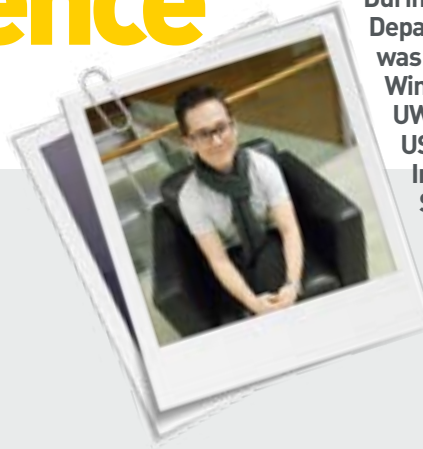
## Life After Graduation

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Number of Political  
Science Graduates  
(2017)

95.7%

Employment rate of graduates  
2 years following degree  
completion *(OUGS Social Sciences, 2014)*



During his four years studying in the Department of Political Science, Trevor was heavily involved in the campus and Windsor community. He served as a UWSA councillor and as president of USIRPS, the Undergraduate Society for International Relations and Political Science, in 2014-15. Trevor was also a member of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee and the Transit Windsor Board of Directors.

*Trevor Fairlie - BA (Honours) in  
Political Science [2015]*



## COMMON INDUSTRIES FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE GRADUATES

- **Academia**
- **Business:** analysis, research, corporate communications
- **Education:** public schools, vocational/corporate training
- **Government services**
- **Journalism:** political correspondence and analysis
- **Law and legal services**
- **Law enforcement**
- **Politics:** political office, campaign management, polling and research, speechwriting
- **Public policy think tanks and consulting:** public/private sectors

## CAREER TRACKS\*

Administrator	Development officer	Legal consultant	Professor
Border services official	Human resources manager	Local government official	Public official
Business advisor	Immigration agent	Marketing manager	Public relations officer
Community organizer	Journalist	Media analyst	Reporter
Court monitor	Law enforcement officer	Policy analyst	Research co-ordinator
Development analyst	Lawyer	Political aide	Teacher

\* Additional education and/or training required for some of the above careers.

## CAREER-READINESS COMPETENCIES



### Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

Using strategic and creative thinking to make decisions and evaluate solutions



### Teamwork and Collaboration

Working as a productive member of a group and collaborating with others to achieve set goals



### Professionalism and Work Ethic

Demonstrating personal management practices and a high level of integrity and ethical behaviour



### Communication

Appropriate and effective articulation of ideas and information to a range of audiences



## Campus Resources

- Research scholarships and bursaries through the **Student Awards and Financial Aid Office**
- Visit **Leddy Library** and the **Writing Support Desk** for help with academic assignments
- Explore mentorship opportunities through the **Connecting4Success (C4S)** and **Bounce Back** programs
- Improve study skills through the **Skills to Enhance Personal Success (STEPS)** program
- Get advice and support about your academic status by making an appointment with **Academic Advising**
- Seek out assistance with academic accommodation from **Student Accessibility Services**
- Discover ways to get involved on campus through the **Student Success and Leadership Centre**
- Look into the **Ignite: Work Study** program for on-campus employment opportunities
- Apply to **VIP** to get involved in a community service learning experience
- Get assistance developing your career plan and job search skills from **Career Development and Experiential Learning**
- Consult with the **EPICentre** if you are interested in starting your own business
- Broaden your cultural awareness through the **International Student Centre** and **Student Exchange Office**
- Find support for Indigenous learners and broaden your understanding of Indigenous culture by visiting **Turtle Island**
- Tend to your health and wellness with support from **Student Health Services** and **Lancer Recreation**
- Receive confidential mental health counselling delivered by trained professionals at the **Student Counselling Centre**
- Seek personal support or learn more about sexual violence education through the **Sexual Misconduct Response and Prevention Office**

### Student Recruitment

Phone: 519-973-7014  
Toll-Free: 1-800-864-2860  
Email: [info@uwindsor.ca](mailto:info@uwindsor.ca)

### Department of Political Science

Phone: 519-253-3000, Ext. 2348  
Email: [polsci@uwindsor.ca](mailto:polsci@uwindsor.ca)

### Career Development and Experiential Learning

Phone: 519-253-3000, Ext. 3895  
Email: [careerservices@uwindsor.ca](mailto:careerservices@uwindsor.ca)  
[experience.uwindsor.ca](http://experience.uwindsor.ca)



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