Political Science Career Outlook 2014–2015

Political Science Programs Available at Bemidji State University:
Major: Political Science (B.A.)
Field of Emphasis: Social Studies: Political Science
Minors: Political Science, Applied Public Policy
Pre-Law: (Listed under the Pre-Professional programs)
Department Website: http://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/departments/political_science

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS:
Political science is the study of political systems and how they function. It has its origins in the fourth century B.C., when Aristotle set out to classify governments. Today it encompasses four major focus areas: International Politics, including the behavior of countries, trade regimes, and theories of war; American Politics, including political parties, interest groups, and legislative, judicial, and executive powers; Comparative Politics, including the nature of democracy and comparison of parliamentary and other political systems; and Political Theory, including philosophical considerations such as what constitutes a good society. Students of political science gain an understanding of the political nature of the contemporary world, from simple acts such as choosing products as consumers to the complexity of global politics in the information age. As governments and the private sectors of society become more intermingled, political scientists become more valued for their understanding of how both systems work and for their reasoning and analytical skills. Majors in political science are prepared for entry level positions in a variety of fields and for graduate study. Advanced degrees in political science offer the applied skills often necessary for professional advancement.

Note: Good writing and computer skills are essential to political scientists. Students are encouraged to develop their writing skills by taking ENGL 2152 Argument and Exposition, and their computer skills by taking CS 1107 Introduction to Computers.

EMPLOYMENT AREAS:
The "Occupational Outlook Handbook" reports that sociologists and political scientists held about 9,200 jobs in 2012, of which 2,600 were held by sociologists and 6,600 were held by political scientists. Many of the sociologists work as researchers and administrators for various employers, including governments, educational institutions, social assistance agencies, and research and development firms. Most political scientists—about 53 percent—work for the federal government. Others work for think tanks, nonprofit organizations, colleges and universities, political lobbying groups, and labor organizations. Openings for these positions tend to be quite competitive, and most candidates hold advanced degrees.

PROJECTED DEMAND FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJORS IN MINNESOTA:
According to iSeek.org, opportunities will be best for those with a master's or doctoral (Ph.D.) degree. However, competition for teaching jobs in colleges and universities will be strong. Job openings may be available for political science teachers at the high school level. Median wages for an entry level political scientist position is $17.95.

PROJECTED DEMAND FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJORS NATIONWIDE:
Focus™ reports that the nationwide demand for political scientists is expected to grow faster than average through 2022 due to the growing importance of public policy and research, with people established in their career generally earning between $69,630 and $133,540 per year. These jobs typically require an advanced degree. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, the salaries offered to beginning political scientists with a bachelor's degree averaged $42,000 annually in January 2013.
PLACEMENT INFORMATION FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE GRADUATES:
Of the Bemidji State University 2012-2013 Political Science graduates (B.A.), 80% reported obtaining employment within one year of graduation. This does not include students who were not seeking employment, furthering their education, unavailable, or had unknown status.

LIST OF EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE REPORTED HIRING BSU POLITICAL SCIENCE GRADUATES: (This list only includes employment within one year of graduation.)

A.F.S. Malaysia
ACLU-MN
Al Fran Asset Management
Bemidji State University
Carlson+Senate
Concordia Language Villages
Department of Veteran Affairs
DFL Party
First Investors Corporation
First National Bank of Bemidji
Headwaters Regional Development Commission
ITT Technical Institute
JayTech, Inc.
Lakeland Public Television
Marion School District
Minnesota Community & Technical College
MN Senate
Montana Public Defenders Office
National Assoc. of Secretaries of State
New Folk Records
Northland Juvenile Detention Center
Northwest Technical College-Bemidji
Orion Financial Group
Political Campaigns
Receivables Control Corporation
REM
Sanford Health
St. Louis Park School District
Stony Creek Dairy
Tri-County News
U.S. Bank
Wells Fargo

Project Development & Gov’t Relations
Community Coordinator
Jr. Research Analyst
Tech Support
Campaign Manager
Distribution Center Aide
Claims Assistant
Campaign Field Director
Registered Representative
Customer Service Representative
Development Specialist
Registrar
Sales/Service Associate
News & Sports Reporter
Paraprofessional
Student Senate Advisor
Committee Administrator
Legal Secretary
Meeting Planner
College Booking Agent
Case Management
Admissions Director
Administrative Assistant
Campaign Staff
Commercial Collections Representative
Program Coordinator
Registration Assistant
Substitute Teacher
Marketing and Account Manager
News Writer
Fraud Specialist
Personal Banker

Malaysia
Bemidji, MN
Laguna Beach, CA
Bemidji, MN
Bemidji, MN
Bemidji, MN
St. Paul, MN
Annandale, MN
Bloomington, MN
Bemidji, MN
Bemidji, MN
Eden Prairie, MN
Minneapolis, MN
Brainerd, MN
Marion, SD
Minneapolis, MN
Duluth, MN
Miles City, MT
Washington, DC
Savage, MN
Grand Rapids, MN
Bemidji, MN
Bemidji, MN
Unspecified, MN
Minneapolis, MN
Bemidji, MN
Bemidji, MN
St. Louis Park, MN
Melrose, MN
Kimball, MN
Fargo, ND
Bemidji, MN

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WHERE BSU POLITICAL SCIENCE GRADUATES HAVE GONE TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION:

Ashford University, Clinton, IA
Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN
Drake University, Des Moines, IA
Hamline University, St. Paul, MN
Iowa State University, Ames, IA
Kansas State University, Salina, KS
Minnesota State University, Mankato, MN
Minnesota State University, Moorhead, MN
New School University, New York, NY
Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

University Of British Columbia, Canada, FC
University of Colorado, Boulder, CO
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND
University of Saint Thomas, St. Paul, MN
University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD
Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan
William Mitchell College of Law, St. Paul, MN
Winona State University, Winona, MN
Note 1: Some of the above job/career titles require advanced degrees or specialized training.

Note 2: Degrees alone do not get students jobs. Internships, summer jobs, volunteer work, part-time jobs, work-study positions, and active participation in student organizations on campus are all ways to become more competitive in a tight job market.

Note 3: Personal Competencies: it is also recommended that individuals be competent in a variety of communication methods, and computer skills are a must.

Bibliography:
FOCUS II, Career Dimensions Incorporated, Manchester, NH (2015)

For more information, please contact the Career Services Office in Sattgast 207 or call us at 218-755-2038 or toll free at 800-657-3726.

For more job listings please visit:
http://www.bemidjistate.edu/students/services/career/job_search/jobs/