

MAP THE FUTURE POLITICAL SCIENCE

A Guide For
Optimizing Your Degree

This career map provides a general blueprint of how to navigate your under-graduate program. The map highlights quality experiences to supplement your coursework and identify academic milestones for years one through four.

Take advantage of the rich resources the university and Chattanooga community have to offer as you prepare for post-college years. During your time here, forge connections, participate in organizations and utilize exploratory learning options to gain real-world experiences outside of the classroom.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Our mission is to provide an environment for intellectual curiosity and a foundation for life-long learning, thinking, reflection and growth. We do this by: equipping students with transferable skills, encouraging cultural and intellectual diversity and advancing knowledge through research and creative activities.

Small classes, careful advising and personal attention make our commitment work for students majoring in the fine arts, the humanities, the sciences and behavioral sciences, and for students preparing for professional study through a liberal education.

YOUR POLITICAL SCIENCE DEGREE

As a political science major, you will hone the writing, communications, analytical and computer skills that are integral for a liberal arts education—preparing you to think critically and independently with tolerance for others and concerns for current affairs.

Today, students can reasonably expect to change jobs more than once and even to have more than one career. Majoring in political science qualifies and prepares you for a spectrum of careers in private for-profit and nonprofit organizations.

A background in political science provides valuable preparation for participating in community organizations, electoral politics, movements on behalf of specific policies and for seeking elective or administrative positions in government.

UTC's BS in Political Science offers specific degree concentrations:

American Politics

International and Comparative Studies

Politics

Public Law

Public Policy

Public Administration and Nonprofit Management

utc.edu/psps

SCHOLARSHIPS

Dr. Robert H. Swansbrough Endowed Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded to a junior or senior demonstrating successful academic performance and who needs scholarship assistance to complete their degree. Preference is given in subsequent years to the student already holding this scholarship.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING FOR HANDS-ON OPPORTUNITIES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Undergraduates recently explored these topics with original, student research:

“Framing Effects in a Competitive Environment: Black Lives Matter versus President Trump”

“Student Opinion and Effect of Tennessee Faculty Gun Law”

“Ethnocentrism and Disaster Relief Opinion”

“Political Interest, Involvement and Knowledge through a college career”

“The Effects of Education Inequality on Public Opinion”

“Regional Attitudes and Framing Effects: Attitudes on Moonshining in the South”

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Political Science students are routinely matched with internships in settings as diverse as:

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

City of Chattanooga: Mayor's Office, City Council, Office of Diversity, Office of Tourism
UT Institute for Public Service/Municipal Technical Advisory Service
Hamilton County Juvenile Court
Public Financial Management
Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority
Chattanooga Enterprise Center/Innovation District

NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT

Next Door Chattanooga
Girls Inc.
Erlanger Children's Hospital Foundation
American Heart Association
Center for Nonprofits
Chattanooga Food Bank
Hunter Museum of American Art
United Way's Center for Nonprofits
Causeway
Lula Lake Land Trust
Bethel Bible Village
Partnership for Families, Children and Adults

POLITICAL SCIENCE/PUBLIC POLICY

Local and national campaigns with Democratic and Republican parties
Tennessee Governor's Internship Program
Tennessee Legislative Internship Program
Curtis Collier Federal Court Ambassador Fellowship
Eichental Fellows Program
Sens. Bob Corker and Lamar Alexander's Chattanooga Offices
Metro Ideas Project

CAREER POSSIBILITIES

Advocate/Organizer
Government Relations Manager
Public Interest Advocate
Ambassador
Grassroots Organizer
Public Policy Analyst
Association/Nonprofit Manager or Staffer
Human Resources Specialist
Public Relations
Banking/Political Risk Manager
Human Rights Officer
Researcher
Budget Analyst
Import Export Manager
Social Services Advocate
Campaign Worker
Information Technology Officer
State/Local Government
CIA Agent
Intelligence Specialist or Analyst
Strategic Planning
City Housing Administrator
International Business Analyst
Trade Policy Analyst
City Planner/Manager
International Research Specialist
University Administrator
Civilian Consultant for the Department of Defense
Juvenile Justice Specialist
Urban Policy Planner
Community Relations Director
Labor Relations Specialist
White House Advisor
Congressional Committee Staff Member
Legal Investigator
Congressional Research Service
Legislative Director/Analyst
Lobbyist
Corporate Legislative Issues
Manager
Media Specialist
Corporate Planning/Public Affairs Manager
Mediator
Corporate Social Policy
Nonprofit Employee
County Commission or City Council Member
Interest Group Public Policy Analyst
County Economic Development Officer
Paralegal
County Treasurer
Parole/Probation Officer
Development Director
Peace Corps Worker
Education Policy Analyst
Police Officer/Administrator
Educator/Teacher
Peace Corps Worker
Environmental Policy Analyst
Policy Analyst/Development/Researcher
FBI Agent
Political Action Committee
Federal or State Agency Employee
Political Consultant
Financial Services
Political Correspondent
Foreign Affairs Specialist
Political Director
Foreign Service Officer/United Nations Diplomat
Politician
Foundation Employer
Pollster
Fundraiser
Professor
General Accounting Officer/Evaluator
Public Affairs Specialist

**SUCCESS TRACK: POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC SERVICE
DEGREE: BS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	PROF. DEVELOP.
EXPLORATION	Explore your interests and identify your strengths with resources available through University Career Services. Complete PSPS 1000 to learn more about the major.	Attend department functions. Talk with at least two faculty members about the program, your career plans and potential graduate/law school options. Explore scholarships, internships and study abroad options.	Attend department functions, including Sweet Research. Talk with at least two faculty members about the PSPS program and post-graduation plans. If interested in law, join the Pre-Law Club.	Attend PSPS functions, including Sweet Research. Talk with at least two faculty members about your career plans, including graduate or law school. If interested in law, join the Pre-Law Club.	American Political Science Association: Explore its website to learn more about career options.
ACADEMIC MILESTONES	Complete PSPS 1010, 1020 or 1030. Work with your academic advisor to pinpoint other interesting general education courses.	Complete 2000 level PSPS courses, General Education courses including statistics, first year of Foreign Language and advanced writing. Declare a minor.	Complete Research Methods course and begin upper-division electives. Begin General Education requirements. Begin minor.	Complete Senior Capstone Experience and remaining upper-division major courses. Complete your minor. Apply to graduate before Fall Break. Complete Senior Exit Exam.	American Society for Public Administrators: Explore its website to learn more about career options.
CONNECTIONS	Meet regularly with your advisor in the Center for Advisement. Stay connected with the department via social media and UTC Learn portal. Join the Political Science Club.	Meet with your department advisor at least twice. Get involved with a student organization, consider joining Pi Sigma Alpha, our honorary society.	Contact your advisor and faculty about possible undergraduate research, departmental honors project, study abroad and senior internship opportunities. Consider our alumni network.	If you have an internship, network with the internship organization and identify possible career paths post-graduation. Reach out to alumni with careers similar to your interest.	National Council of Nonprofits: Explore its website to learn more about career options.
READINESS	Visit University Career Services to learn about resources and services. Identify four skills employers seek and begin cultivating them now. Engage in student organizations.	Discuss internship opportunities with your internship coordinator. Discuss undergraduate research opportunities and study abroad possibilities with your advisor. Prepare your résumé.	Apply for internships and refine job interview skills. Consider proposing an honors thesis. Learn more about career options in PPS 3010. Prepare to take the GRE or LSAT. Update résumé.	Take the GRE for graduate school or the LSAT for law school. Secure 3-4 letters of recommendation from faculty who know you well. Update your résumé and prepare a professional LinkedIn profile.	Law School Admissions Council: Explore its website to learn more about the process of applying to law school.
ACHIEVEMENT	Complete 30 credit hours. Meet with advisor at least twice. Have your second year mapped out and a general plan for years three and four.	Complete 60 credit hours and choose your minor. Have a strong relationship with your advisor. Have your third year mapped out and a general plan for year four.	Complete 90 credit hours (at least 15 hours of courses at the 3000-4000 level in your major and minor). Confirm graduation requirements will be met by the end of fourth year.	Complete 120 credit hours. Attend commencement and the PSPS reception. Join the Alumni Association and the department's LinkedIn page.	ETS/Graduate Record Exam: Explore its website to learn more about graduate school and your options in preparing for the GRE.