

Students attain a strong background in Political Science through study of American Government and Policy, International Politics, and Law. Students explore the theoretical and philosophical underpinnings of local, regions, national, and international politics.

Political Science prepares students for a number of different career

opportunities, including, but not limited to international business, communications, law, government, research, and education.

There are two tracks within the major: American Government and Law or International/Comparative Politics.

## HOW TO USE THE ACTION PLAN

Use the Action Plan timeline to explore potential career paths and plan for success during and after your college experience. The Action Plan provides suggestions and a place to start the conversation with your advisor, but every person and every career journey is unique. Customize your own personal action plan using the **My Political Science Action Plan tool** (next page).

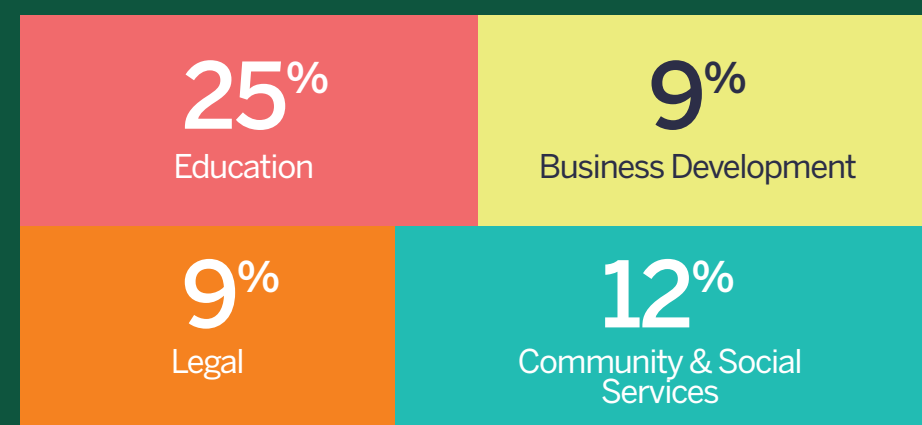
Maximize the time you have in college to prepare for your future. What do you want to do after you graduate with a multi-purpose Political Science degree?

The Action Plan helps you to come up with tentative goals (remember, it's ok if these change as you continue to learn more about yourself and the field!) so you can start working on short-term steps to help you reach those goals or shift directions. Remember, you do not have to do this all on your own, get the support you need from your department and from Student Support Services like **Career Services and Advising (CSA)**.

## EXAMPLES OF PAST INTERNSHIPS

- City Commissions of Fitchburg
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Mass in Motion Initiative in MetroWest
- Office of the Mayor of Fitchburg (including: Community Development, Economic Development, and Health Departments)
- Worcester Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center
- District Attorney's Office (Essex County)

## ALUMNI CAREER FIELDS



## WHY CONSIDER AN INTERNSHIP?

- Gain experience in potential career fields
- Discover areas of interest across various occupations
- Build your professional networks

Students in the Political Science major gain experience and skills through classroom simulations, debates, moot court hearings, internships, etc. These experiences bring the political process to life, and facilitate understanding of the discipline while building new skills.

Extra-curricular activities such as the Model United Nations competition, Moot Court competition, guest speakers, political forums, study abroad, and faculty-student research projects, complement the student's political science experiential classroom learning for many career opportunities.

## ALUMNI STORY MATTHEW MURPHY '20 AND SAMANTHA BEAUCHAMP '21

### Matthew's Internship: Massachusetts House of Representatives

The experience truly changed the course of my career, not just in the skills I learned or the connections that I made, but in the paths it revealed. I had the chance truly to see the positive impact that I could have, even as an intern and knew that I wanted to pursue a path in public service, for Fitchburg State provided me with the skills I needed. I had gained the needed insights into the public policy process and the intricacies that come with legislation, and now I am able to go out into the world with confidence.

### Samantha's Internship: Office of United States Congresswoman Lori Trahan

I interned remotely in United States Congresswoman Lori Trahan's D.C. office with the work never slowing down. I dedicated my time to constituent outreach by phone and email on Covid-19 concerns and attended nearly 40 briefings, all needing summaries sent to the Congresswomen. I assisted on research and data projects, I wrote memos and drafted form letters focused around racism in health care, opposition to the death penalty, and use of solitary confinement on voluntary populations. I am especially honored to have worked in the developing stages of Congresswoman Trahan's Name, Brand, and Likeness (NIL) Bill, H.R.850 - College Athlete Economic Freedom Act, which already gives college students around the nation rights over their own identity.



## CORE COMPETENCIES

**Global Perspectives and Multicultural Education:** Political Science courses incorporate multicultural, international and gender-equal emphasis in both tracks within the major: American Government and Law; International/Comparative Politics.

**Interdisciplinarity and Teamwork:** The curriculum embraces interdisciplinary approaches. Political Science supports coursework for the interdisciplinary International Studies, African American Studies, the Interdisciplinary Studies, and Peace Studies minors, as well as contributes to the Pre-Law Major. Faculty use interdisciplinary techniques in their courses, including materials from philosophy, history, criminal justice, sociology, anthropology, pre-law, and international studies.

**Written Communication and Reading Skills:** Students will work to develop mastery of the written word. Political Science courses stress reading and writing skills in all courses.

**Professional Training:** Political Science students courses aim for high intellectual standards and professional preparation, training students for a range of careers as teachers, researchers, lawyers, public administrators, policy experts, and government workers, as well as politics. Students also have the opportunity for directed research projects and local, regional, statewide, nationally, or internationally focused internships, including at the Washington Center.

**Digital Technology and Computer Literacy:** Computer literacy is incorporated across Political Science courses, and students are introduced to tools and technologies as they apply the area of study to the discipline.

# POLITICAL SCIENCE ACTION PLAN

Take a look at the suggested activities in the Action Plan below. You do not need to complete all these tasks, but it is a place to start generating ideas. Think about what you would like to work on now in order to feel well prepared to enter your career field or graduate school upon graduation. Use the blank My Action Plan tool with your advisor to come up with the action items that are priorities for you, revisit and revise this action plan each semester.

## FIRST YEAR

## SOPHOMORE YEAR

## JUNIOR YEAR

## FINAL YEAR

### ACHIEVE ACADEMIC MILESTONES

Take classes that interest and challenge you, particularly when selecting your Gen Ed classes and reflect on how they line up with future careers.

confirm major choice is right for you and consider meeting with an Academic and Career Advisor to discuss how your major connects to career opportunities.

Discuss academic internships with your advisor. Meet with and Academic and Career Advisor for support with applying and preparing for academic internship opportunities.

Go over remaining degree requirements with your advisor and apply for Graduation. Complete Gen Ed requirements and ensure you complete 120 credits needed to graduate.

### BUILD EXPERIENCE

Take a career strength/skills assessment . Consider a part-time job to build your experience. Activate your Handshake account.

Explore internship opportunities with The Washington Center. Apply to summer jobs/internships that will build relevant experience.

Pay attention and attend events with employers on campus/career fairs/opportunities to network within your department. Search and apply to internships in your career field.

Develop a list of potential employers and check for recruitment events/open positions throughout the year. Start preparations in the fall to apply for full time jobs in the spring (If you are graduating in December or August work with a CSA advisor to determine your job search timeline). Keep track of and follow up with job applications.

### JOIN THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Join university clubs and organizations in your interest area like the political science club, Moot Court or Model UN.

Continue involvement with clubs and organizations or consider joining new clubs if your interest areas have changed.

Seek out leadership positions in campus clubs/ activities. Explore Pi Sigma Alpha National Honor Society for Political Science majors.

Pay attention to campus events and attend/get involved with the ones that interest you. Take on more leadership roles within campus organizations and departments.

### EXPLORE CIVIC & GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Consider volunteering with local organizations.

Talk with your advisor about opportunities to study abroad.

If available take on leadership roles within local volunteer organizations.

Consider participating in a service organization or fellowship after graduation. Research and apply for international organization opportunities.

### PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Familiarize yourself with CSA workshops and services. Create a resume and have it approved by an advisor in CSA Center.

Talk to advisor about opportunities within your major for internships/experiential learning. Consider participating in alumni job shadowing or informational interviews with professionals in potential career fields. Begin to collect material for a professional portfolio (if applicable).

Attend a CSA workshop or one-on-one meeting to go over cover letters and interview prep. Update Handshake profile. Create LinkedIn account/other accounts on industry specific platforms. Consider graduate/professional schools and decide if it's right for you.

If applicable, take graduate school entrance exams and complete applications to graduate school.. Practice skills by doing at least 2 mock interviews and getting feedback. Finalize a professional portfolio (if applicable).