**What is Political Science?**

Political science is an academic and research discipline that deals with the theory and practice of politics and the description and analysis of political systems and political behavior. A political scientist researches political ideas and analyzes governments, policies, political trends, and related issues. They may conduct polls and surveys, review Supreme Court decisions, or actions of legislative bodies, or analyze the content of media articles. Some do academic research, writing or teaching. Others work on applied problems for federal agencies such as the Department of State and Defense. A few are freelancers who prepare analyses for newspapers, radio and television distribution.

**LAMC Degrees & Certificates Offered:**

* **Associate of Arts for Transfer (AA-T)** in Political Science

**Areas of Interest**

* Public policy issues
* Keeping up with politics
* News and current events
* Developing theories
* Finding explanations or possible solutions to issues
* Learning about other fields like economy and history

**Skills**

* Communication
* Public speaking
* Cultural Competency
* Time management
* Analytical skills
* Problem solving
* Planning and development skills
* Critical thinking
* Research/quantitative skills

**Transfer Related Majors**

* **CSU Los Angeles:** Political Science, Political Science -Global Politics, Public Administration, or Pre-Legal Studies
* **CSU Bakersfield:** Political Science - Power & Justice, Pre-Law, and Global Politics
* **CSU Channel Islands:** Political Science
* **CSU Dominguez Hills:** Political Science
* **CSU Fullerton:** Political Science
* **CSU Northridge:** Political Science - Politics & Government, Law & Society, or Public Policy & Management
* **San Diego State:** Political Science
* **UC Berkeley:** Political Science
* **UC Merced:** Political Science
* **UC Davis:** Political Science
* **UC Los Angeles:** Political Science
* **UC Riverside:** Political Science
* **UC San Diego:** International Studies - Political Science

**Potential Job Titles**

* Policy analyst
* Lawyer
* Teacher
* Foreign service officer
* Political consultant
* Probation officer
* Politician
* Public service officer
* Lobbyist
* Political campaign staffer
* Political Scientists
* Public Relations Specialist
* Potential Employers
* Work Environment

**Potential Employers**

* Government agencies
* Non-profit
* organizations
* Colleges and
* universities
* Law firms
* Political campaigns
* Advertising firms
* Lobbying firms
* Non-governmental organizations

**Work Environment**

* Some may experience stress from the pressure of governmental deadlines
* Sedentary work in offices and at public meetings; involves sessions of hearing and talking for long time periods
* Work is varied, involves dealing with people and making major decisions

Earnings:

Earning can vary by occupation and experience. The following are average annual wages as of 2019 in California based on California Career Zone <https://www.cacareerzone.org/>

**Helpful Resources:**

· LAMC Career Center: www.lamission.edu/careercenter

· CSU Majors: degrees.calstate.edu

· UC Majors: admission.universityofcalifornia.edu

· Career Exploration: cacareerzone.org

For more detailed guidance on degrees, or career advice, you can contact the LAMC Career Center at careercenter@lamission.edu.